



# Prospect

February 2009

Price when sold £1

## Retail Champion for Barnes

The BCA has appointed Mrs Sue Nichol as the Retail Champion for Barnes. The area for which she will have responsibility extends from North Barnes, through Church Road, Station Road, and the High Street to White Hart Lane. Her remit is to gain an understanding of the major issues facing all Barnes traders, to develop and maintain contacts with the local community (local councillors, planners, etc) and to work with traders to fight for their interests, whether to do with business rates, rents, parking, planning or indeed any other matter than concerns them. She will also work to publicise the attraction of village shopping to residents and non-residents alike and, in general, act as the voice of the Barnes traders. Matched funding for her work in this essential community service will be provided by the BCA and the Council. *Prospect* caught up with Sue to find out a little about her.

Sue is Barnes born-and-bred and her mother, brother and daughter also live locally. "The only time when I haven't lived in Barnes



was when I couldn't afford to! Having been here for over forty years, I love our village atmosphere and am honoured to be invited to

champion the traders who contribute so much to its unique character", she commented. She taught Geography in several local schools and has just retired after twenty years at St Paul's. Her background in Geography means that she is also concerned about the environment and hopes that her new position will enable her to promote innovations in local retailing, whilst retaining the 'village' feel of Barnes. When asked whether she had any retail experience, Sue told me that as a student she had worked in one of the local chemist shops. She added with a smile "All women like shopping and I'm no exception!"

In future issues *Prospect* hopes to bring news of how Sue is getting on despite the growing economic problems. In the meantime we wish her 'Good Luck' in her new challenge. *Gill Spillane*

*Editor's note: It's not just shops that are threatened here; turn to page 3 for sad news about local employers, Olympic Studios and the Stag Brewery.*

## Hammersmith 'Low Level' Bus Station

### Any progress?

*In the Autumn, David Stott, Isobel Woolf and Sue Boyd met with Richard Shirley of Transport for London (TfL) and put to him, firmly but fairly, the deep dissatisfaction of Barnes people about the outdoor, 'interim', bus station. The meeting was pleasant on both sides; Mr Shirley said he had got the message loud and clear and that TfL was doing all it could to rectify things where possible.*

*He also agreed to write up the issue for Prospect. and this is what he has written:*

### Why we made the changes

The upstairs bus station at Hammersmith is not big enough. It was designed in 1992, when bus use had been in decline since the 1950s. It is unlikely that anyone then could have foreseen the major growth in bus frequencies and passengers of the last eight years.

At the start of 1992, the number of buses at peak times across Hammersmith Bridge was 22 per hour, off-peak 13 per hour. It is now 43 per hour all day. This is almost a doubling of peak frequency, and represents a shorter waiting time for passengers, a very good thing, but it also means more space is needed for standing buses, and to allow for buses on several routes stopping at once. Meanwhile, there was never room anywhere for routes 266, 267 and H91 in the bus station. These had to stop short in Hammersmith Grove, so made a poor interchange.

As well as being too small, the upper bus station does not meet current disability legislation, as the width of pavement outside the windows is not enough for bus wheelchair ramps to be properly used. So we have to widen the pavements – a further squeeze on space. We will be doing this shortly.

All of which is why we opened a temporary extension.

### Can we make any further changes?

We originally planned to extend the upper bus station to accommodate all buses at the same level, but the cost means it could only be done as part of a major property development, which is unlikely in the current economic climate. Instead we are looking to make some improvements suggested by passengers.

- In the passage from the shopping centre to the lower bus station, an anti-slip surface has been laid on the section that slopes most;
- We are still looking into a handrail to help unsteady walkers in this passage (which incidentally is owned by the shopping centre). We thought the rail should be in the centre, to allow for both left- and right-hand use, but the shopping centre has plans for stalls there. The rail will be on one of the walls instead;
- Signage – we'll be making improvements in signage;
- We are looking at placing a 'Countdown' sign in the lower level bus station, just outside the

inter-connecting passage. This could assist passengers by showing which bus is due to leave first for Barnes;

- We are assessing whether it would be practical to concentrate the Hammersmith Bridge buses at fewer, closer stops in the lower bus station. At present, the busiest routes, such as the 209, are put closest to the shopping centre, and the least busy are the furthest away.

*Richard Shirley works for TfL Surface Transport Stakeholder Engagement in Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Hounslow, Hillingdon, Kingston and Richmond.*

# BCA



## matters...

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## Environment Group Report

The items below are among some of those we discussed on a very cold night in early January:

**Dukes Meadows Golf Club** An application was made to Hounslow Council for permission to resurface and floodlight nine tennis courts on this riverside site. The floodlights and the tennis courts are already in use, under a bubble, which lights our riverside, particularly in Mortlake. This floodlighting is illegal. I have since learned that the application has been withdrawn. We will now have to wait and see if a new application is submitted. If the floodlight bubble were less intrusive, as is surely possible these days, we would not object. But to light the meadows and riverside, making it look like an industrial park, is really unnecessary.

**CPZ consultation** We hope that members have looked at the new proposals and have made their comments to the Council. From our group's point of view, the consultation incorporates most points that we asked the Council for, right at the onset of CPZs.

**Harrodian School** A new proposal for building a large multi-sports Hall looks very similar to the last application. The Group feels that this application is very ambitious and is

really overdevelopment on Metropolitan Open Land (MOL). It is placed very close to Windermere Court flats in Lonsdale Road. The majority of residents in what we call 'the Meres' are against the proposal, particularly as all parking would be in Lonsdale Road and none on site. It is also worrying that the proposal is to use this Hall 365 days a year.

**Former Goods Yard** A new application has been submitted. It seems very similar to the last application. We think, along with FoBC, that there are too many flats and the buildings are too high. We have written to say this and also that all land that is to be returned to the Common should become Common land and not just given to the Council.

**Barnes Vision** There is to be a Task Force Meeting at the end of January. It is hoped to find a design for the pavilion which is within the budget that Barnes Vision hope to be able to put in place. It is hoped that they can start work soon, as the idea is to get improvements to the playing fields ready as soon as possible.

**Sustainable Communities Act** We have written to the Council, asking them to keep this new Government legislation in mind, as it should be useful to communities like ours.

*Susan Boyd, Chairman*

## Barn Elms

*A statement from Cllr Liz Jaeger*

Further to the item by Patricia Newton in November *Prospect*, I would like to add a few words on behalf of Richmond Council. I'm very pleased, of course, that Barnes Vision and the Council are working constructively, with Barnes Eagles also, to maximise the chances of success for the non-commercial approach we are all now pursuing.

To recap, last September, in line with the wishes of users and local residents, we took the decision not to go ahead with a part land-sale to fund pitch and pavilion improvements, but instead to pursue the grant-funding option advocated by Barnes Vision.

With that September decision, the Council and Barnes Vision formed an effective working group to progress the planning of the scheme and its funding. There has been considerable work on revised site layouts, incorporating the 5.5 acres previously earmarked for sale. The additional capacity this gives not only allows more flexibility with the layouts; it has also helped with the retention of the running track.

Cleaning and repairs to the all-weather track are planned for this Spring, using £30,000 earmarked earlier by the Council. Running groups, local schools, and individual users can look forward to a cleaned and repaired track, which will be there for the run-up to 2012 and beyond.

Finally, to allay concerns: there will be no additional floodlighting, and there is no requirement from any quarter that the angling lake would need to be given over to grass pitches in future.

*Councillor Jaeger is Cabinet Member for Youth, Culture and Leisure at Richmond Council*

## Jumble Sale Party

This will be held at 8pm on 12th February at Rose House. We would love to see all our helpers at this get together. If you think anybody has slipped through the net and should be invited then please bring them along. Also, any potential new helpers would be warmly welcomed.

*Hilary McGough*

## Swap Shop cancelled

The proposed swap shop and sale that was scheduled for Thursday 19th February has had to be cancelled. Please accept our sincere apologies. We hope to do this later in the year and will let you know.

*Julia Bebington*

## Membership renewal

Although the December/January issue of *Prospect*, which included the membership renewal form, was distributed to every household in Barnes, we understand that some copies were not received. If anyone has not got a renewal form, please contact Julia on 8878 2359, fax 8878 6101 or email [bca@barnesvillage.org.uk](mailto:bca@barnesvillage.org.uk)

## Christmas Day Lunch

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event so successful. A traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served to nearly sixty people at the Barnes Green Day Centre on Christmas Day this year. Everyone said the meal was truly delicious and the day was very enjoyable.

A special thank you must go to Shelagh Taggart, our new chef, and to Dorothy Paignton who organises the front of house.

## On the look out for local bands



If you play in a Barnes rock band, jazz group or any other kind of musical ensemble – and fancy entertaining visitors to Barnes Fair, then do get in touch. We're looking for new acts to play on the Bandstand through the day and if you reckon you can play and walk at the same time, then we'd love you to join the Parade too. For more information email Charlotte on [csharpeneal@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:csharpeneal@yahoo.co.uk), or call on 0208 563 2288.



Following a successful year of visits to and from Le Pecq, it is time for a get-together of all BCA

members interested in this link, to explore ways of extending the *entente cordiale* between our

two towns. We have not set a date yet for a meeting, but it is likely to be around mid March. Further information will be given in the next issue of *Prospect*. In addition, that information will be sent to those who have declared a new or continuing interest in the link and included an e-mail address when completing their new BCA membership forms.

*Mike Spillane*

**A PILL BOX** was found in Suffolk Road Recreation Ground before Christmas. Please contact the BCA office 8878 2359.

## Sad year end for local enterprises

Christmas this year has been overshadowed by reports of the impending loss of two noted enterprises in our area. Olympic Studios, the iconic Stones and Beatles recording venue, is set to close due to financial problems. If this were not bad enough, the news is that the Stag Lane Brewery in Mortlake, where beer has been brewed for some 500 years, is due to close in 2010.

### **Olympic Studios**

In mid-December, we heard through *Music Week* that EMI will close Olympic Studios because it is not profitable. EMI has since confirmed the accuracy of this report. The company has started a consultation process with all of Olympic's eleven staff – acknowledged to be “highly professional and dedicated” – and a source says “we are very sorry to be doing this”.

EMI will now have just one studio asset – Abbey Road in London. The source is quoted as adding, “EMI remains committed to Abbey Road Studios and we are working through a long-term plan to develop that business”.

**You may like to add to the laments expressed by their subscribers at the following *Music Week* website – go to [www.musicweek.com](http://www.musicweek.com) and enter ‘Olympic’ in the search box on the home page.**

In next month's edition, *Prospect* expects to publish the thoughts and experiences of local musicians whose work was recorded in Olympic Studios.

### **Mortlake Brewery**

The report of brewery closure says that Anheuser-Busch InBev, the world's largest brewer, will close its newly-acquired London Stag brewery in 2010, with the potential loss of 182 jobs.

Two months ago, the Belgium-based group acquired our brewery at Mortlake as part of its take-over of Anheuser-Busch (AB) for \$52 billion (£35.8 billion) and it wants savings of at

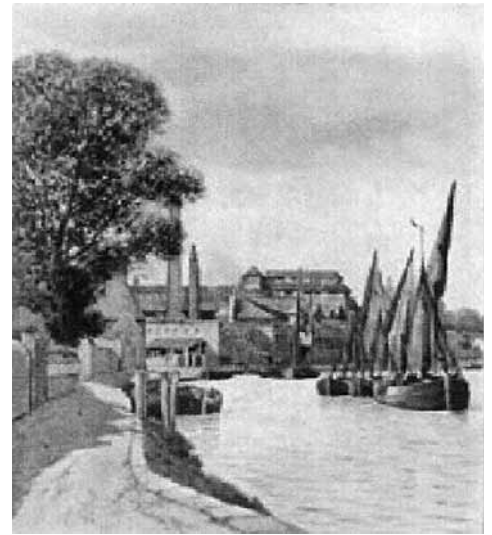
least \$1.5 billion by 2011 to help pay for what was the world's largest ever cash take-over.

AB occupied the Mortlake plant from 1995, concentrating on making Budweiser. Before that, the best-remembered operators were probably Watneys, with their Red Barrel.

MP Susan Kramer said she is to seek an “urgent meeting” with the brewery, adding: “I am extremely disappointed and I am finding out if there is any way to keep the site open and prevent these job losses. The brewer is part of our industrial heritage and it will be a sad day for the area if it closes.” Customers at the nearby Ship Inn speculated that the ten-acre site might well end up as a housing development. (*But this would be against Council policy. Ed*)

In future editions of *Prospect*, the Environment Group will keep us informed about this story.

We are grateful to Barnes and Mortlake History Society for the illustrations. The story of Mortlake Brewery is told in their book –



*Historic brewing and the river*

*Hand in Hand: Watney's Mortlake World*, compiled by Murray Hedgcock. The book is available through the BMHS web site: [www.barnes-history.org.uk](http://www.barnes-history.org.uk)  
William Mortimer



*Modern brewing and the road*

## Barnes Fair and Barnes history

A reminder that this year's Barnes Fair will have as its theme “Historic Barnes”. So we at *Prospect* plan to continue our “Did you know?” series to help your imagination.

The following story comes from a much fuller and more scholarly record in *Barnes: A Meander in Time* by Mary Grimwade, published by the Barnes and Mortlake History Society in 2005.

The Vestry was the local authority of its day and from its records we learn of an on-off campaign to buy a fire engine for the Parish. In 1867 the matter was raised “but as no rate could at present be made available”,

it was rejected. Then in 1868, it was taken up again and costed: a fire engine would cost £112 and an engine house would be £300; with essential extras, the capital outlay would come to £572.

The idea of such a sum was not popular, but there was another reason why the scheme was controversial, namely the proposed site for the engine house. The Vestry had called in a land surveyor from the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's, the then Lords of the Manor of Barnes, and the site chosen was on the triangular piece of land opposite the Sun Inn.

The decision was shortly rescinded. What an escape for us! And what an escape for Mrs. Ratcliff of Rose House (our Rose House) who “donated a fire escape [*sic*] to the Parish as a mark of gratitude for not siting the Engine House at the Sun Inn.”

*Katie Gent*

*Note:* If you want to know more of anything and everything of Historic Barnes, go to the website of the Barnes and Mortlake History Society [www.barnes-history.org.uk](http://www.barnes-history.org.uk) for a list of all their publications

## Carol Service in Barnes raises £6500 for local charity

A local family charity is saying thank you to the Barnes community after one of its volunteers raised £6500 from a Christmas Carol Service. Pat Macdonald-Brown, from Barnes, organised the event at St Mary's Church in Church Road on 4th December and it was supported by over three hundred local people, including the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames and several famous names from TV and theatre.

After the Reverend Ross Collins had welcomed the congregation, there were readings from actors Peter Bowles, Moray Watson and Hilary Whitehall, who is also a Home-Start volunteer. The Harrodian School Choir started off the singing with a beautiful solo of *Once in Royal David's City* and Susan Kramer MP, who is the Patron of Home-Start Richmond, made an appeal for donations to the charity. Further Bible readings followed from presenter Anneka Rice, lyricist Sir Tim Rice and Home-Start

Richmond Co-ordinator, Nicki Strong.

Organiser Pat said, "I have been a volunteer with Home-Start Richmond for over five years and I know what a fantastic job they do in supporting families in Barnes and the rest of our borough. I wanted to raise money to train more volunteers as there is a waiting list of parents who are experiencing complex difficulties. For many of them, having a Home-Start volunteer to help them could make all the difference to their lives".

Martina Philips, Scheme Manager at Home-Start Richmond said, "We are so grateful to Pat for all the hard work she has put into selling tickets for the event and organising all the details. It has really been a magical evening and we are delighted that so many people could attend".

If you would like to know more about Home-Start Richmond, contact Martina on 020 8487 8500 or email [info@homestart-richmond.org.uk](mailto:info@homestart-richmond.org.uk).



David Bentley, Head of Music, the Harrodian School, Martina Philips, Scheme Manager, Home-Start Richmond, Moray Watson, Actor and Reader at the Carol Service, Anneka Rice, TV presenter and Reader at the Carol Service, Hilary Whitehall, Actor and Reader at the Carol Service, Peter Bowles, Actor and Reader at the Carol Service, Cllr Helen Lee-Parsons, Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Susan Kramer MP and Patron of Home-Start Richmond, with three members of The Harrodian School Choir

## What is Home-Start?

Home-Start is a national charity with local branches that trains volunteers to visit families with children aged under-5 who are struggling to cope.

Home-Start Richmond was set up in 1995 and last year helped 120 local families, including 240 children. It has 60 home-visiting volunteers who spend a few hours a week helping parents with children under 5 years old. The volunteers visit parents at home and use their own

parenting experience to support other mothers and fathers and give them practical and emotional help.

### Contacts:

Martina Philips, Scheme Manager 020 8487 8500, [martina@homestart-richmond.org.uk](mailto:martina@homestart-richmond.org.uk)  
Angie Ahmed, Marketing & Fundraising, 07798 812496, [angie@homestart-richmond.org.uk](mailto:angie@homestart-richmond.org.uk)

## Readers' letters

Dear Editor

I'm sure this had already occurred to you, but it would be really good if *Prospect* could honour the fact that amid the economic downturn a number of enterprising local shops have been refurbished. The Cheese Shop has a relatively new owner in the delightful Jill, the short-lived Italian deli is now a café-flower shop run by the equally delightful Kerry. And most recent of all, Malcolm's Two Peas in a Pod is re-opening twice the size and ever more splendid.

So Barnes lives!

Yours sincerely,  
Edwin Mullins

Dear Editor

The Furniture Scheme is an organization supported by the Barnes Workhouse Fund. It takes in unwanted second hand furniture in good condition. Families on low incomes are able to choose from the Scheme's furniture stock at a very small cost to themselves or, more often, at no cost, via a grant made by the Barnes Workhouse Fund or other organization. Many Barnes families benefit from the Furniture Scheme, some having been able to furnish a whole house.

It will be good timing if people are considering changing their furniture in the New Year sales. The Furniture Scheme would be pleased to collect the furniture that is being replaced.

Thank you and best regards

Miranda Ibbetson

Clerk to Trustees

Barnes Workhouse Fund

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

Editor's note: More details of this scheme on page 12

## Something new!

**Light Lunch with musical entertainment at St Michael's, Barnes, Community Centre**

next to St Michael's Church, entrance from Elm Bank Gardens or Charles Street

Hosted by FiSH 'n' Chats volunteers on the first Friday of the month

**6th March**

**with Heather Williams (pianist) and Kerry Sampson (singer)**

**12.30pm – 1.30pm**

Donations to FiSH for the lunch welcome

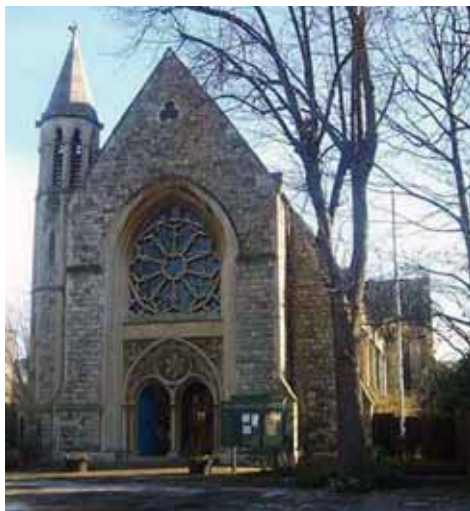
Please ring the Busline 8876 3765 for help with transport

## Holy Trinity Church Appeal: £46,540 needed

Shortly before Christmas, Holy Trinity Church, at the north end of Castelnau, launched its Appeal. Work on the Church will require a total of £90,500, of which about half has been raised so far.

Problems for the 140-year-old building have included a leaking roof, damp in the walls, and a tree growing in the belltower. As that work is completed, it then becomes necessary to make good the interior, electrics and decoration. The aim is to offer a welcoming space for parishioners, community partners and any individuals who feel 'drawn in' for any reason.

For a year now, on Tuesday evenings, there has been 'Space to Be', which can offer spiritual space or social space, with complementary therapies, ready listeners for those who need to talk, and a chance for kids to wind down too. On Tuesday mornings in term time, from 9.30 to 11.30, there is now a Parent and Toddler Group and on Thursday mornings in term time, from 10.00



to 12 noon, there is an over-fifties Coffee Morning. On a less-structured but 'multi-agency' basis, Vicar Jean Boulton-Reynolds,

seeks to network with the Castelnau Community Centre (CCC), the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Lowther School, St Paul's, local traders... all to build up a diverse but warm-hearted community, informed by self-respect.

I put it to Jean that there could emerge a network of well-intentioned organisations all reinventing the wheel and maybe treading on each others' toes while trying to help. She acknowledged that this could have been a risk, but pointed out the care taken to avoid this. And once the new Children's Centre is complete at Lowther School, later this year we hope, activities will be coordinated by The North Barnes Children's Centre Partnership Board.

For information on the Parent and Toddler Group and on the over-fifties Coffee Morning, please ring Lilian Richmond on 020 8274 0315.

For Jean herself, ring 020 8748 5744

Katie Gent

## Volunteers needed for the PSU

**Patrons:** Lord Woolf of Barnes, Baroness Butler-Sloss, Lord Philips, Lord Neuberger and Sir Mark Potter

The Personal Support Unit (PSU) at both The Royal Courts of Justice on the Strand and Wandsworth County Court supports unrepresented people attending the Court.

If you are a practical and calm person with a common sense approach and can spare at least two days per month to volunteer at either Court then this could be the opportunity for you to make a difference, improve and develop new skills, make friends and get a real insight into the legal process.

You will need to be someone who can deal with people on all levels, who has initiative and the ability to empathise with people going through a difficult time. You do not need any formal qualifications, but life experience and the ability to read and write English are essential.

They provide training and lunch and travel expenses. In return we ask for commitment and enthusiasm. Please contact [wandsworth@thepsu.co.uk](mailto:wandsworth@thepsu.co.uk) or call the Personal Support Unit on 020 7947 7701.

## Kitson Kids

Kitson Kids, run by Lisa Burke, would like to express gratitude to all the local shops in Barnes that very kindly donated gifts for the tombola held at the Christmas Party. £120 was raised and has gone to the NSPCC Charity (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children). The Christmas Party was great fun with Penny Poppins performing – well done to all of those who won prizes and vouchers!

(Kitson Kids Tuesdays 10-11.30am tel: 07951 247 976).



CASTELNAU  
COMMUNITY  
CENTRE

**The Castelnau Centre Project (registered charity 1061637) is seeking a Building Manager to oversee the upkeep, security and maintenance of the Castelnau Community Centre.**

### **BUILDING MANAGER** **£20,000 – £22,000 pro rata**

CCP is looking for an experienced individual to manage the Castelnau Community Centre building. You must have good DIY skills and a competent understanding of services and regulations relating to a public building. The right person will be punctual, computer literate, have good attention to detail and be reliable when working on their own. Ideally you will live close to the Centre and have your own transport.

#### **The post is 30 hours a week**

Based at Castelnau Community Centre, Stillingfleet Road, Barnes, London, SW13.

**Closing date: Wednesday 11 February 2009**

**Interviews: Early March 2009 (tbc)**

For further information or to request an application pack please contact: Marie Ellis, Project Manager, Castelnau Centre Project, 7 Stillingfleet Road, Barnes, SW13 9AQ, 020 8741 0909 or email [marieellis@castelnaucentreproject.co.uk](mailto:marieellis@castelnaucentreproject.co.uk)

## Blithe Spirit



*Blithe Spirit* is probably Noel Coward's best loved and most famous play and it is coming to the OSO Theatre at the end of February in the first production of 2009 from Barnes Charity Players.

The play revolves around Charles Condomine, a successful novelist wishing to learn about the occult for a novel he is writing, and he arranges for an eccentric medium and

also a hit on Broadway and became a film starring Rex Harrison in 1945. A musical version, *High Spirits*, was directed by Coward in the '60s and there have been numerous adaptations and successful theatrical revivals of the play. Noel Coward even played Charles Condomine himself in a 1956 American version of this quintessential Coward comedy of manners. A Broadway

clairvoyant, Madame Arcati, to hold a séance at his house. At the séance, she inadvertently summons up Charles's first wife, Elvira, who has been dead for seven years. Elvira then embarks on a campaign to disrupt Charles' marriage to his second wife, Ruth.

The play was first produced in the West End in 1941, directed by Noel Coward, where it broke box office records and ran for nearly two thousand performances. It was

revival is due to open the same week as this BCP production at the OSO.

The Barnes Charity Players production is at the OSO Theatre, beside Barnes Pond, from Tuesday 24th to Saturday 28th February, 2009 at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available at the OSO Box Office – £8 for Tuesday and Wednesday, £10 for the rest of the week.

This spirited comedy features Richard Warren as Charles, Sophie Mardon Taylor as Elvira, Caroline Kildare Morgan as Ruth and Jane Sherwin as Madame Arcati. Other members of the cast are John Mounsey, Marie Bushell and Florence Murray and it is directed by Deirdre O'Kelly.

**NOTE:** The BCP's production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is coming to Kitson Hall June 9th – 13th 2009.

Auditions take place in February 2009. If you are interested in joining the Barnes Charity Players either backstage or onstage and auditioning for this magical production please contact the director, [susanconte@lodgeintheforest.co.uk](mailto:susanconte@lodgeintheforest.co.uk), or BCP secretary [Phyllis.okelly@googlemail.com](mailto:Phyllis.okelly@googlemail.com). We will also be casting young fairies and boy elves so do contact us if your child can dance and would like to take part.



Barnes Literary Society

### James Barr *Setting the Desert on Fire*

The Middle East is rarely out of the headlines and much of the current conflict stems from the history of the region. British historian, James Barr, has an in depth knowledge of this troubled area, and through the story of TE Lawrence and Britain's secret war in Arabia, he traces the origins of today's Middle Eastern hostilities. His book, *Setting the Desert on Fire*, explores an intriguing landscape of shifting alliances and eccentric characters.

In his research for historical sources James has crossed the hostile deserts of the Middle East, and *Setting the Desert on Fire* re-creates the revolt as the international drama it really was. A colourful cast of Arab sheiks, British and French soldiers, spies, and diplomats come together in this gripping narrative of political strategy, guerrilla warfare, and imperial greed. He is currently writing a sequel – provisionally entitled *A Line in the Sand*, which covers the 1918-48 period in which Britain and France unsuccessfully tried to divide and rule the Middle East between them. For an insight into current issues in the Middle East *Setting the Desert on Fire* should be a fascinating evening. For further information see <http://desertonfire.blogspot.com>.

This event will be held on Wednesday 11th February in 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.

On Monday 23rd February 2009 there will be a guided visit for BLS members to the National Art Library [www.vam.ac.uk/nal](http://www.vam.ac.uk/nal). Booking is essential.

## Beat the Recession Jumbo Jumble Sale



### St Mary Barnes Scout Group

will hold their Annual Jumbo Jumble Sale in Kitson Hall on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st February 2009.

Admission is £5 on Friday evening, 7-9pm, and £1 on Saturday, 10am-2pm.

As always, there will be incredible recession-beating bargains for gifts or personal use in Daisy's Den of Delights and superb clothing offers in the Good As New section.

They will be delighted to receive items to sell (no large furniture). Please ring one of the following numbers to arrange collection: 8741 7772, 8876 1168 or 8241 8434.

All proceeds from this major fund raising event go towards running the Scout Group, and enable them to provide local children with interesting and fun training, particularly in outdoor activities. The Scout Group could not do this without their friends and supporters at the BCA and they look forward to meeting up again.

They hope you will support them by donating items, helping to sell, or by visiting to buy some useful and exciting items from the vast array of bargains on offer.

Mike Dixon  
Chair, St. Mary Barnes Scout Group Executive

## Lonsdale Road and St Paul's treescape

On hearing of a plan to remove and replace the trees from the Lonsdale Road side of St Paul's grounds, *Prospect* contacted Tony Kirkham for some detail. Tony is the Head of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and has been involved with the tree management and landscape development plan at St Paul's for many years now. The plan has been developed with some of his input and recommendations.

He advises that the trees along Lonsdale Road are Swedish whitebeams, *Sorbus aria*, which are susceptible to honey fungus *Armillaria mellea*. Over the past ten years the disease has been gradually working its way along this line of trees, killing some and weakening others, leaving noticeable gaps in the row. Unfortunately stressed trees are more vulnerable to the fungus, which eventually kills them. He notes that almost all gardens nearby have the disease, so it is not a new thing for local residents to fear!

This row of trees has been prioritised in

St Paul's masterplan as a major part of the treescape that requires immediate succession planting.

In order to produce a permanent planting that fits the surrounding landscape, the school, with the assistance of a reputable landscape architect, has selected a shade tree (a long-lived tree that makes a significant specimen) that will make an impact on the line and will tolerate honey fungus. They have selected *Tilia tomentosa* 'petiolaris', the weeping silver lime.

The planting spaces for the limes will be identified by the architect and only the whitebeams that are in the way will be removed in order that the new permanent trees can be established. Once the new trees are established, the remaining whitebeams will be removed.

It is hoped that the new plantings will be a great, long term asset to the future treescape of Lonsdale Road for both residents and others passing through.

Mary Evans



A weeping silver lime in Kew Gardens

## It's better to re-use

### Richmond Council provides a Community RePaint and Scrapstore service

Hannah Shephard, Waste Awareness Officer with the Council writes:

Rather than throwing your unwanted paint and arts and crafts materials into a landfill site, these can be taken for re-use to the Townmead Road Reuse and Recycling Centre, Mortlake Road, otherwise known as the Dump.

To collect any used artwork materials, local groups, schools and residents are invited to collect from the stores at the Central Depot, Langhorn Drive, Twickenham TW2 7SG.

An appointment is essential. Please book by calling 08456 122 660.



## Shop locally

Love it or hate it, Valentine's Day requires some effort unless you want a week of sulking from the spouse. The local convenience store may not be your first thought for wine, but when you pop into One-Stop, 10-12 Barnes High Street, for your paper and milk, cast a quick eye over the wine fridge. The following bottles are more than acceptable.

### Codorniu Vintage Cava Brut, 2006, £10.29.

From one of two big Cava houses, the sparkling wine of Barcelona delivers consistent Spanish character. Far better quality than many a mediocre Champagne. The traditional method of production gives a nutty, citrus nose, floral and biscuit palate with a soft, dry finish. Perfect with snacks or a starter of Parma ham.

### Jacobs Creek Sparkling Rose, NV, £9.49.

Chardonnay and Pinot Noir make this bottle-fermented rosé another reliable choice. Once a joke, this Australian brand has improved hugely in recent years. Strawberry nose, ripe, berry-fruit palate with a dry, crisp finish. Enough body and flavour for simple fish dishes, especially salmon.

### Montana Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, 2007, £8.25.

If your beloved prefers still wine, this New Zealand classic never fails to please. The brand that started the "Savvy" revolution all those years ago. Cut grass, gooseberries,

elderflower, cat's pee – it's still a top seller. Great with quiche or pasta carbonara.

### Martini Asti, NV, £6.99.

This hugely popular (in Italy) sparkler is an excellent match for a simple pudding of ice-cream and fruit. Muscat nose, light, frothy and sweet on the palate with an off-dry, clean finish. The low alcohol won't send you to sleep (and be further in disgrace). Not many people know Asti is a DOCG wine region (the highest Italian quality rating), so give it a try and be in with the retro in-crowd!

Grab some chocolates, a bunch of flowers, and you should be off the hook!

Next time we are off to White Hart Lane to see how the local traders are weathering the retail storm.

Vino Loco

Prices and stockists correct at time of press. Vintages may change. Please drink responsibly. [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk). Any comments to [thethirstybird@gmail.com](mailto:thethirstybird@gmail.com)



## More history for Barnes



Sir Richard Phillips

Following the success of two special talks at Barnes in 2008, the Barnes and Mortlake History Society plans to continue its focus on Barnes alongside its regular meetings at the Sheen Lane Centre.

The Methodist Hall will again be the setting, at 2.30pm on Saturday, February 7th, for a talk by Mike Smith on, *Sir Richard Phillips's A Morning Walk From London to Kew*. This provides a fascinating view of Barnes and Mortlake as seen through the eyes of an eccentric but observant traveller in 1816.

The monthly lecture at Sheen on Thursday, February 19th (8pm) will delve further back into local history as Mark Lankester of The Friends of Richmond Park tells the story of *The Princess and The Brewer – Their Duel for Richmond Park*. This tells how the park, long restricted only to the 'top people', was finally opened up to everyone in 1758, thanks to the efforts of the Richmond brewer, John Lewis, who won a protracted court battle against the Ranger of Richmond Park, Princess Amelia.

Visitors are welcome to both talks, on payment of £2.

## Calendar boys and girls support local shops

There is still the chance to buy a (mildly cheeky) calendar, *Richmond Hero*, put together in support of local shops. Some of the brave but modest men and women pictured have well-known Barnes shops. Choosing a favourite would be invidious... but see for yourself. The calendar costs £8.99 from [www.richmondhero.co.uk](http://www.richmondhero.co.uk). The website also explains the local discount scheme run by participating shops, well worth a look.



Fabrice, owner of Spoonful in Castelnau, pictured with his son at the North Barnes Late Night Shopping Evening

## Icy beauty



Global warming notwithstanding, along with the rest of the country Barnes has recently had its share of icy conditions. Below zero temperatures produce beauty and hazard in equal measure...

### Keep off the ice

For the first time in the memory of the office staff we have had to prepare notices around the pond telling people to keep off the ice.

Julia

**Note:** Barnes pond is two metres deep, shelving rapidly from the edge.

## FiSH Tuesday Talks



**Barnes Green Centre**  
at 11.00am

Coffee from 10.30am, Talk 11.00am (40 mins)

- 3rd February** Ruth Holmes: *The art of batik*
- 10th February** Peter Woolhouse: *The Royal National Lifeboat Institution*
- 17th February** Leslie Spatt: *Byzantium and the exhibition at the Royal Academy*
- 24th February** Debbie Smith & Anna Groves: *Sensory Services Team – practical support for sight and hearing loss*
- 3rd March** Anna Meadmore: *The White Lodge Royal Ballet School Museum and Resource Centre*



## Winter at the London Wetland Centre

Recent highlights during the cold winter months include three

Bitterns, Short-eared Owls, Tawny Owls, Jack Snipe, Water Pipit, Rock Pipit, Firecrest and Woodlark. The ducks have been enjoying the new flooded grazing marsh; ducks spotted

feeding there include Teal, Shoveler and Wigeon and increasing numbers are expected in February. Keep an eye out for Bearded Tit, which can be found, and occasionally seen(!), in the reed bed.

The three Demoiselle Cranes have settled in nicely to their new home in the East Asia exhibit. The cranes arrived in November

from Martin Mere and are now used to their new surroundings, including the noisy aeroplanes overhead! The Centre expects to welcome several Common Cranes from Slimbridge mid-year, so watch this space for more information on their arrival.

It's all about children during the February half term. Join in on some wonderful and wacky activities and learn about the wetland birds on the reserve. Once again the Animal Magic Weekend will be held in the Centre courtyard on 14th and 15th February. Miller's Ark Animals will bring some friendly farmyard animals to the centre from 12noon-4pm both days and will entertain children with popular demonstrations, including piglet bathtime, pony grooming and rabbit and guinea pig handling. Adults will also enjoy the weekend, with the UK Wolf Conservation Trust giving a talk about the work they do to preserve this interesting species. This FREE talk will be held at 2pm – don't miss out!

Bird enthusiasts will enjoy the several talks and courses that are coming up at the Centre. For more information on any future event at the Centre please see the website [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk) or call 020 8409 4400



...but surely cranes are safer on the ice than people!

Nicole Snowden

## Unexpected visitors

We may have lost our house sparrows and continue to mourn the sadly depleted numbers of songbirds, but a *Prospect* reader was very excited to spot a pair of Blackcaps visiting her garden feeder during the recent cold snap.



A female blackcap showing a reddish 'cap'

At first glance the male was mistaken for a tit but then positive identification was made and backed up by seeing his mate, a small greyish/brown bird (as many of them are) but with a distinctive reddish flush to her head.



The male has the black cap which give the species its name

According to the RSPB, most Blackcaps migrate in September or October but a small percentage stay in Britain, frequenting parks and gardens. So it is important to keep our bird tables and feeders well stocked the whole year round – and who knows who will visit next.



Vishal Patel of Natsons, the newsagents in Church Road, normally seen in crisply tailored attire, cuts a sartorial dash at a recent family wedding