



Prospect

July/August 2007

Price when sold £1



This year the Fair King and Queen come from Barnes Primary School. They are Joel Stallion and Francesca Kynan-Holmes.

Welcome to the Fair!

It's almost here! A year of planning and action by (mostly) volunteer members of the BCA will come to a head in the next few days. Hundreds of trestles will be delivered to the Fair site on Barnes Green, along with a giant carousel (pray that the ground is not muddy for this), the electricals, the sound, and all the paraphernalia which upwards of 12,000 people will enjoy on The Day.

"It's amazing", say many of those visitors – and it is! Enough busy people, mums with small children, high-powered businessmen and women, plus grannies who have seen it all before, find time to give a day of fundraising on a grand scale for the BCA and local good causes.

PLEASE COME AND MAKE IT ALL WORTHWHILE.

Help for Barnes Fair Site Manager?

Would you be interested in helping the Barnes Fair Site Manager? His varied and vital role includes marking out the stalls with a team of volunteers, keeping an eye on safety issues and being able to answer any question relating to "what happens where?" on Fair Day – and that's just for starters!

If you are interested in becoming involved in this way, please ring Liz COLLISON on 8563 2288.



FRIEND & FALCKE are the principal sponsors of Barnes Fair

A more general call for volunteers

There is always a lot of work (and lots of fun) for volunteers on Fair Day (and a fair amount before and afterwards). If you can spare some time, only an hour would be valuable but more if you can manage it, please contact Lizzie CARRIGAN on 8286 4779 as soon as possible.

Lost children

In the June edition of Prospect we said that there will be a room for lost children in the Barnes Green Centre.

Please note that if you find a lost child, or have lost one, you should report this to the Police (there will be a team of them on the site). The 'Lost Children' base will be situated on the triangle of grass near to the horse trough in Station Road.



THINK GREEN at the Parade

The MEGA City electric car: zero emissions – and zero road tax, zero CPZ permit, zero congestion charge!

**B
C
A**



matters...

Executive Matters	p2
'Taster' Cruise in September	p2
More About the Fair	pp2,5 & 6
Le Pecq	p7

Summer closure ...

Please remember that Rose House is closed as usual from **Friday July 20th and reopens on Monday 3rd September**

...September Prospect

While the office is closed, please note also that no contributions for our September issue can be received or passed on. What this means is that if you want to submit an ad, or an item of news or comment for September, you must get copy to Julia by **July 10th!**

Your pictures of the Fair

Prospect always welcomes digital photos we can publish of any aspect of Barnes. At this time, we would be all the more happy if you could send us photos of the Fair, **particularly those that go with its 'Think Green' theme.**

The editorial team will take Fair pictures too, and we plan a double-page spread of people enjoying themselves to be printed in the next issue (September). So please keep those photos coming in.

Since Rose House will be closed from Friday, 20th July until Monday, 3rd September it would be safest if you email our designer, Anne Cotgreave direct at skinnycat@blueyonder.co.uk

And remember: **Think Green!**

News from the Executive

The first meeting of the new BCA Executive was held on 7th June, at Rose House. David Stott as the new Chairman, and Isobel Woolf, one of our two Vice-chairmen, proposed an in-house research study into the BCA's charitable activities.

- It was agreed that the current office computer system, which is unreliable, should be subject to a root and branch review.
- An excess of large carp in the pond is affecting biodiversity and Russell, the Common Keeper, is looking to remedy this by introducing pond cages, filled with pond weed, as 'sub-aquatic refugia'. (For more on this, see page 3)
- We welcomed the proposed visit of an official delegation from Beijing, their purpose being to study the BCA's organisation and the work it carries out in the community. The date of this visit may be in July, but at present is not known for sure.
- Finally, the BCA has received a most generous legacy of £5,000 from a late Barnes resident, Mr. Patrick O'Regan, for which we are extremely grateful. We will be discussing with his family the best use to make of this. (For more about Paddy O'Regan, see page 5.)

October Jumble Sale

Hilary, our Jumble Queen, says "if you're indulging in a late Spring Clean or just turning out in the course of the Summer, please remember the **BCA JUMBLE SALE on Friday, 5th October (evening) and Saturday 6th October.**"

Details of phone numbers for collection of your offerings will be given in our September edition.

Remember, many local charities and good causes benefit from the profit made by this sale.

Fancy a cruise?

Following the BCA tour to Austria in May, our next trip is a four-day 'taster' cruise in September to Northern France and the Channel Islands. There are still a few places available. If you are on your own and hesitant in taking the plunge, remember our motto: you are not among strangers but friends you have yet to meet. Many firm friendships have resulted from these BCA trips, so don't hesitate.

Ring Ann Hollinghead on 0800 300 666, quoting code Barnes Community Association.
Rita Robinson

The Village Nursery School is saying goodbye to two members of its staff – Ann-Marie Duvivier after 20 years and Venos Voshorie after 15 years. If you have a child care qualification and would like to join our friendly team, please call Ann on 07740 473 915



Barnes Fair 2007

Saturday 14th July 9.30am–5.30pm

FRIEND & FALCKE: our principal sponsors for the eighth year

Programmes

By the time this edition of *Prospect* reaches you, you should have received a copy of the Fair Programme.

If you haven't received yours, please call in at Rose House (70 High St) or pick one up on the day. There will be plenty on the Fair site.

Please note in our Fair programme, we would like to thank (pages 10 and 14) CHARLES BANKS & REA for sponsorship of the post of Common Keeper.

Hungry?

Several local restaurants have stalls at the Fair. Consult your programme to find them.



The Brown Dog

THE BROWN DOG* plan to serve fabulous barbecued seafood, burgers and hot dogs (*not brown, we hope – Ed*) at the steps of Barnes Pond. This arrangement was made after the Programme went to print. **DON'T MISS THEM**
*Bar and Dining Room, 28 Cross Street, Barnes.

Don't forget to visit **the BOOK STALL**. It will have a huge range of books for everyone – including the children – a chance to get your holiday reading for a fraction of what you would usually pay.

Loos, toilets... whatever

We asked people who man the Information Stand at the Fair what is the question that is most frequently asked. The answer was "where are the loos, toilets, johns, wcs, lavatories?"... It's amazing how many euphemisms there are!

Incidentally, these are all mobile and will include disabled loos and changing facilities for babies. You will find them at the back of ASK restaurant and near the OSO. If in doubt, head for the Station Road side of the site.

Farewell to Gaymer

One sad note: 'Gaymer' the shire horse who, for many years, appeared in the Grand Parade at Barnes Fair, died recently.

He was named after the cider company which first employed him 25 years ago. After a spell working in forestry, he came to the Royal Parks in 1993 and continued to be based there working on grass cutting, bracken rolling, timber extraction and general estate work. In semi-retirement, he spent four months helping to remove the mountain of flowers left in memory of Princess Diana.

His steady personality made him a favourite at local shows and fêtes, and he was intelligent enough to know how to "work the crowds".

On a happier note, Gaymer the Company has given the Parks authorities some of its apple trees, and some cider, so that old friends of Gaymer the horse can plant a small orchard and raise a glass in celebration of his long life in Richmond Park.



Gaymer (on right) working at an event

Calling all kids!

Fill in your junior passports

Children who go to any of the sessions of the Bookbinder and who make their own passports, will be encouraged to travel round the Fair to discover the stalls (named on a list given to them there) where they can get a special stamp put into these passports. This includes the Information Stand.

Think green on the towpath

Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea

In the last few years, the Towpath has been steadily and sensitively upgraded, under the leadership of the Thames Strategy Kew to Chelsea (TSKC). **Trenton Oldfield** is the coordinator of this partnership and he has helped local groups and individuals to access funds and to achieve a more 'cared for' look without risking inappropriate 'smartness'. The results of working together like this can be seen in the improvements to the Lonsdale Road Open Space, locally known as Small Profits Dock.

Trenton manages to pull in what he calls "the Corporates". Recently 120 staff from Time Warner worked with him on the towpath.

Between Mortlake and Putney, 23 riverside seats have now been installed, some of them specifically acknowledging the TSKC. Personally, I raised my eyebrows a bit when I saw the three seats between Barnes Bridge and the White Hart: the Terrace is so busy, so noisy. But it is astonishing how quiet life is once the horrible concrete flood wall shields one from the traffic.

The concrete flood defences were put up in the mid-seventies. Even if they are essential, they are hideous. We could have done with the TSKC at that time!

Katie Gent



Trenton organised a team of 120 from Time Warner to help clear up the Towpath

Think green: Barnes Common – Reed-bed Consultation

The May issue of Prospect reported that the Friends of Barnes Common (FOBC) and Richmond Council had obtained approval from the Environment Agency to create a reed-bed of about 400 square metres on the Common near to Beverley Brook, and that FOBC would conduct a consultation with households overlooking relevant parts of the Common.

All the comments received, positive and negative, have been forwarded to the Council, which is responsible by law for management of the Common, and local Councillors are now considering the matter with the relevant Council officers.

Among the issues raised are the following:

- *Is reed-bed appropriate?* Historically the Common had more wetland than in recent decades and the reed-bed will thus not only help restore old habitat, but will enhance the important wildlife corridor between

Richmond Park and the Thames/Wetlands.

- *Why is it this size?* 400m² is sufficient to encourage many relevant species, but will not alter the character of the neutral grass meadow, which is 25 times larger.
- *It destroys existing habitat:* The project will replace species-poor neutral grassland with a richer wetland habitat and also create more acid soil for grassland.
- *Why upgrade the path?* In light of comments received, FOBC is now advocating it be left as a 'desire line' path and monitored to see what happens.
- *Will it cause a mosquito plague?* The reed-bed will only be flooded in winter and will be dry 'reed fen' in summer, when mosquito breeding occurs.
- *How can you be sure there will not be unintended consequences?* The Council and FOBC have taken expert advice from

Natural England, Environment Agency and various Regional and Local habitat and species specialists.

- *We like the Common as it is – why not leave it alone?* FOBC agrees the Common should not be overly manicured, but it has to be managed to stay like it is. Left to nature it would within three or four decades become an impenetrable woodland, and many species, some endangered, would disappear.

The members of FOBC considered all these issues at their AGM in May and resolved to continue FOBC's full support for the proposal.

Further information: **Mike Hildesley, Chairman, Friends of Barnes Common, (FOBC)** on 020 8876 0321 or via info@barnescommon.org.uk
Mike Hildesley

Think green: new life for the pondwater

THE PROBLEM When Barnes Pond was restored five years ago the water system was set up to be natural, unpolluted and kept at an appropriate level. Combined with appropriate plants in and around the pond, and with natural colonisation by many tiny forms of wildlife, this was to be the basis of a 'sustainable' ecosystem. We did not stock the pond with fish but we knew birds would bring fish eggs in on their feet. The plants and invertebrates duly established themselves in the water, in turn attracting more wildlife. The ducks and geese could actually find food in the water as well as accepting extra food from local people.

Now we are in danger of a Wet Desert. There are still a few plants in the pond, but the

pond weed is disappearing. Larvae of all kinds will find the pond water a more hostile environment. What has happened? Too many carp: they root around in the soil at the bottom of the pond and detach all the pond weed; they also eat the smaller wildlife.

We are pleased that the birds have chosen to be with us. The carp, though, are not here by accident and not here by our choice. Their numbers (more than 25) are such that almost certainly would-be anglers have introduced them. (For the record, angling is against the local bylaws.)

THE SOLUTION, WE HOPE Draining the pond would be only a temporary answer: carp could be reintroduced. So the best idea seems to be to protect replacement aquatic plants by

putting them in an (underwater, fine mesh) cage. Within this cage, the plants can improve the water quality, offer shelter to tiny forms of wildlife, and would not be uprooted.

The **London Wetlands Centre** has been experiencing similar problems, partly due to too many birds rooting around at the bottom! Numbers of fish are also a problem, but at least they have no carp. We will be working with them to try out these 'cages', probably in the autumn or later. Watch this space.

Charles Bank & Rae are co-sponsors of the post of our Common Keeper, along with **Richmond Council** and of course the **BCA**.

Katie Gent

Acid grassland: what's in a name?

After the AGM of the Friends of Barnes Common, Dr Nigel Reeve, Community Ecologist, Royal Parks, gave a very interesting talk, suggesting much of what is told below.

Richmond has half of all London's acid grassland and, if we exclude the Royal Parks, Barnes Common has one of the most important areas. Meanwhile, Richmond Park has international importance for its larger areas of Acid Grassland.

Do you feel proud when you read this? Or do you – dare one say it – feel rather underwhelmed? Part of the problem is that the word 'acid' has some negative connotations, and grass is just grass, isn't it? Actually, no.

Lowland acid grassland is similar to upland moors and can be found on sandy and gravel soils. It is much rarer because it has been recognised as excellent building land. The important thing is that the soil is acidic¹ and has few nutrients. Small, fine grasses,

small wildflowers and invertebrates can cope with these conditions; but once any land is fertilised, stronger grasses and flowers will always crowd out the fine plants.

What this means in our area is that we have to look more closely at the beauty of many different types of fine grass and delicate flowers. The closer you look, the more rewarded you will be. But beauty, subjective or not, is only part of the story. In nature, the important thing about the flora and the fauna here is the great variety of species to be found.

Acid Grassland on Barnes Common has wonderful biodiversity. Because of the variety of different fine grasses and wildflowers, a great range of invertebrates can find good places to live. Barnes Common is home to several creatures that are on the endangered list. And because there is a huge range of insects, there is good eating, i.e. for the birds.

DO's and DON'Ts for Acid Grassland

- Please don't put garden waste anywhere on the Common. You may think that this is a

helpful thing to do, but it actually enriches the soil to a point where 'rank' grasses take over from the fine.

- Again, please don't try to 'improve' things by planting bulbs, flowers, bushes or trees, which would, in fact, unbalance the current ecosystem.
- Dog poo is very rich in nutrients. Clearing up after your pet will help preserve the habitat and reduce the population of brown rats.

Are you still uncertain about Acid Grassland? Well, bear in mind that when this special habitat is unmanaged, the result all too soon will be impenetrable woodland, as can be seen in the relatively unmanaged Ham and Sheen Commons. And meanwhile 'rank' grasses are hardly what we want.

Katie Gent, with help from Mike Hildesley

¹ Acid soils have pH less than 6.5. However, many heathland and acid grassland species prefer pH below 5.5



Think green: bats, birds and kids

This summer many people will no doubt be enjoying the long evenings in their garden. This is the

perfect time for some wildlife watching. You might well catch sight of moths swooping around (at this time of year the Hawk moth is out) or even the odd bat.

Bats For those of you who are interested in learning more about bats then a bat walk at the Wetland Centre is the perfect opportunity. The evening starts with an expert talk, followed by an exploration of the reserve, complete with bat detectors which pick up the calls of bats and can differentiate the species. The most common species to spot on a walk are Noctules and Pipistrelles, but in all there are ten species of bat at the Centre, which benefit from the wetlands as

excellent feeding ground. The evening costs only £10 per person and is a really magical experience.

Night-time safaris for Children Children over eight are welcome on the bat walks with their parents, but if they want to come on their own adventure then the Centre runs night-time safaris especially for children ages 8-14. They do pond dipping by torchlight, go on a mini bat walk and enjoy this magical time on the reserve when most visitors have left and it is just the wildlife. **Parents** can also enjoy some quiet time and benefit from an evening out knowing that their children are being entertained. The safaris run on Wednesday 15th, Saturday 25th and Thursday 30th August from 6.30-10.30pm and cost is £25 per child.

Sand Martin Bank You may have seen Sand Martins fly over on their way to the Wetland Centre. These birds spend most of the day in flight, resting on overhead wires and other suitable perches. Sand Martins are often confused with House Martins (they are from the same Hirundine family, which also includes Swallows) and it can be difficult to tell the difference, but the Sand Martin is the smallest in the family. Look out for its fast, agile movement with sudden changes in direction and listen out for its harsh, twittering call.

The London Wetland Centre has created a special Sand Martin bank, which is a safe haven for these birds to nest (see picture). Special chambers make it possible to see inside the nests as the birds fly in and out to feed their young. Tours of the Sand Martin Bank, led by the Centre's Reserve Warden John Gowland, will take place in July and August at days to suit the birds! Watch the website www.wwt.org.uk or ring 0208 409 4400.



Sand Martins flock to their nests in the sandbank at the London Wetland Centre. (Photo by Chris Algar)

Lowther's Carbon Challenge

Lowther Primary School is taking part in a Schools Carbon Challenge, which involves children taking home a Home Energy Checklist and then trying to reduce their carbon emissions. An assembly and a workshop were given by Andrew from 'Creative Environment Networks', which is a 'not for profit' organisation promoting sustainability in schools across the London boroughs. The results showed that the children were very aware of global warming issues, its causes and effects. A quiz based on the 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' formula called 'Energy Extraordinaire' was very well received by the class.

An energy audit was also carried out in the school to assess its carbon footprint. (Can we learn the findings of this audit? – Ed)



THINK GREEN on Barnes Green

The Honda Civic Hybrid will be on show at the Fair: low emissions, low road tax, low CPZ permit and zero congestion charge!

Paddy's bequest

Patrick O'Regan (always known as 'Paddy' or 'Pat'), who lived in Barnes for over 50 years, died on 2nd December last year at the age of 82. He eloped from his native Ireland with his future wife, Marie, in 1952 and settled in Barnes soon afterwards. The couple had three sons, Denis, David and Declan. When Marie died in 1978, he took over and brought up his young family alone. Each of his sons went on to pursue his own career and all still live nearby. The youngest son, Declan, entered Medical School and is now finishing a PhD at Hammersmith Hospital.



Paddy relaxing in retirement.

Paddy was a postman at Barnes Sorting Office for many years and was a familiar figure to those on his delivery round. He was also a DIY expert, including installing his own central heating system. He was a 'down to earth' man who will be greatly missed by his family and his friends and neighbours in Stanton Road. He leaves his three sons, four grandchildren and his brother, Fr David.

Paddy loved Barnes – the Fair, late-night shopping, *Prospect*, and in later years, just sitting by the pond watching the world go by.

He left a bequest for £5,000 to the BCA, to help maintain the unique character of the place he so loved. We are immensely grateful to this quiet man and will be meeting his sons to discuss the best way of remembering Paddy.

Sally Holloway

Daniel's walk for Mimi

A Barnes schoolboy is walking the walk in support of Ovarian Cancer Action

Every journey starts with a first step and for every step from that moment on, there is a story waiting to be told. In September Daniel, a Barnes schoolboy, will undertake a sponsored walk in support of the charity Ovarian Cancer Action. Daniel very sadly lost his grandmother Mimi to ovarian cancer. The charity is dedicated to funding research into, and raising awareness of, a little known cancer that afflicts 7,000 women every year. The survival rate for the disease is very low – something the charity is working hard to remedy.

The walk itself has been dubbed 'Daniel's Walk 4 Mimi' but it is no ordinary walk. Excitingly, it is a trek over 85 miles along Hadrian's Wall in the north, and it will take Daniel, just 9 years old, a week to complete. It is a journey that would be daunting for most adults let alone a child, but Daniel is working on his fitness over the summer ready for the big day.

If you would like to support Daniel and the work of Ovarian Cancer Action you can make a donation online by visiting www.ovarian.org.uk or you can send cheques direct to the charity (contact details on the web). Please leave your messages of support on www.danielwalk4mimi.com where you can also follow Daniel's progress.

I'm sure all the residents of Barnes will join the BCA in wishing Daniel good luck – Ed.

School art exhibition

July is a busy month, not least with preparations for, and enjoyment of, Barnes Fair on 14th July. But do make time on **Friday 6th or Saturday 7th** to visit the exhibition of the work from pupils of **Barnes Primary School** at the **OSO**. This exhibition, which will feature a wide variety of artwork in different media, will be open all day on both days with a special gala evening on the Friday. Everyone is welcome and there is no entrance charge.



St Mary's Church an Oasis on Barnes Fair Day Saturday 14th July 2007

10.30 – 12.00 Fair-trade coffee along with complimentary homemade cakes
12.00 onwards Lunch in the churchyard along with entertainment for all the family

The best view in Barnes from the church tower

Activities for the children including
Rhyme Time and Story-time sessions
Afternoon tea and cakes

St Mary's will also be on Barnes Green selling homemade cakes, nearly new bikes and wonderful leather goods from Uganda

Come along to support us!

We need volunteers.

Should you wish to bake a cake for the sale or help out in some other way, please contact 07881 810 627



FiSH at Barnes Fair Saturday 14th July

Come and visit the FiSH stall

by the main door to Barnes Green Centre

*Plants, handmade flowerpots, home made provisions, gardening advice, gardening related items (old tools, books etc.)
costume and fashion jewellery*

We welcome advance contributions of any of the above to sell on the day. Items can be brought to the FiSH office at Barnes Green Centre any morning up to (and on) the day from 9-12 Mondays - Fridays.

Any offers of help with the stall on the day gratefully received if you or a friend can spare the time.

Please call the FiSH office on 8876 3335

Creative arts at Lowther

"It was like a holiday travelling from the Caribbean, across the USA and on to the various countries of Europe" was Head Teacher Pat Henchie's description of the recent Creative Arts Week, led by the Art Co-ordinator of the School, Wendy Wriglesworth.

During that time, even the youngest children learned about the countries their fellow pupils had come from, playing the music, learning the traditional dances and songs from African to American, Irish to Spanish – and more. They made musical instruments from yoghurt pots and dried peas, learned to fashion wild animals out of papier mâché and some were taught to paint by local artists. Later the children learned about buying and preparing Caribbean favourites such as rice 'n peas, banana bread, akai and fresh plantains.

On the final day, the whole school entertained parents with international music and dances, and they put on an exhibition of work showing how much they had learned.



Three young Lowther enthusiasts with a giraffe made during their arts week

We welcome articles from all local schools – Ed.

Lowther's Children's Centre: pricey but priceless

For quite a number of years, Lowther School in Stillingfleet Road has been aiming to rebuild the outbuildings on its site, while at the same time offering better facilities to all the community. More recently, it was announced that Government money could help finance the building of a 'Children's Centre'. Encouraged by Richmond Council, the school prepared a planning application, only to be told at the last minute that there was to be no Government money for the time being. It was a bitter blow.

A few weeks later, the Council announced that it would make up the shortfall, earmarking over half a million pounds for Lowther. Now Tears turned into tears of joy.

So what is a Children's Centre and how will it work in Lowther's case? **Pat Henchie, Headteacher, reports...**

The Children's Centre will be at the hub of the North Barnes community, just as the school has been at the heart of the Castelnau estate since it opened in 1929. At the core of the Children's Centre will be Nursery and Reception classes, but there will be additional rooms for a number of different services. For example, the **Primary Care Trust (PCT)** hopes to offer –

- professional space to run ante-natal classes
- Health Visitor clinics
- confidential parenting advice surgeries

- classes for families to learn together
- a speech and language service

Job Centre Plus wants to have a dedicated phone line, as well as regular visits for an adviser. The **Metropolitan Police** are hoping to base the Barnes Safer Neighbourhood Team at the Centre. And the new building will provide room to have better facilities for 'wrap-around' childcare, from **Breakfast Club** to **After School Club**. These services can be aimed particularly, but not solely, at families who are 'hard to access'.

Lowther will continue to be a hub for children and families for years to come.



Youth Groups at the Fair

Young dancers, musicians and actors from across Barnes and Richmond are coming out to play at Barnes Fair. Here's a sneaky peek at what's in store...

TMT School of Dance and Performing Arts

Who are they?

A merry band of 7-18 year old musicians from Barnes and Teddington.

When can I see them?

1.15-1.45 at Barnes Fair.

Sneak Preview:

This talented group of ballet, tap and jazz dancers promise to get everyone bobbing to hits from musicals such as *Fosse*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Chicago*.

Find yourself inspired?

If you happen to be aged between 2½ and 102, you're in luck! The TMT School of Dance and Performing Arts has groups of all ages rehearsing and performing in venues across

Richmond and Twickenham, including the OSO in Barnes. Visit www.tmtltd.org.uk for more information.

The Richmond Music Trust Youth Jazz Ensemble

Who are they?

A bunch of 9-16 year olds from Richmond Borough schools, led by Roger Perrin.

Sneak Preview:

The ensemble will be playing jazz standards and soul classics – songs to get feet tapping that everybody's bound to know.

Find yourself inspired?

Watch out for the ensemble playing at the Twickenham festival and other local fêtes over the summer. To get involved in ensembles, groups or to find out about tuition, phone 8744 3994.

BYT Experimental Theatre Group

Who are they?

A collective of clowns!

When can I see them?

Between 3-5 at the Barnes Fair.

Sneak Preview:

Well this is a tricky performance to predict since, as their leader Ed Cottrell explains, "ninety-nine percent of our work is improvisation!" However, turn up and you may find a group of players clowning about, playing the fool... maybe even dressed up as clowns.

Find yourself inspired?

Join the group at the Castelnau Youth Centre. Contact Ed Cottrell for more details on 7622 5908.

Rachel Rickard Straus



Monsieur Hulot comes to Barnes

The scene could have come from a film starring a former resident of Le Pecq, Jacques Tati. The Waterloo train was expected on Platform 2, but as it came into view, it was announced that it would be coming into Platform 1, not an unusual occurrence but an irritating one if you have suitcases to carry. Up the steps, over the bridge and down the other side we all dashed, only to arrive as the doors closed (after a stop of only a few seconds). The train departed leaving well over thirty angry passengers on the platform and then, to add insult to injury, stopped at a red light within sight of the station. We trooped back up the stairs, but fearing another platform change most people waited on the bridge, heads just visible above the parapet. Anyway, the next train arrived on time and off we went.

This was the final morning of the latest visit to Barnes by a group of walkers from Le Pecq who were going to explore Docklands. Earlier, there had been a walk from Barnes to Richmond via Richmond Park, and another in the beautiful countryside around Polesden Lacey. Golf was also on offer one day for those who prefer to spoil their walks by chasing a small white ball, but a good time was had by all. A successful 'pot-luck' supper, ending with traditional French and English songs, was held at Rose House, but perhaps the highlight of the



Nicole and John on a Thames Clipper speed past the Tower of London

visit was the wonderful concert at St Mary's Church by Lyra, four superb singers from St Petersburg.

Last-minute reminder If you would like to join in when the Alpicois come to Barnes Fair, particularly if you are able to offer hospitality, please contact Mike Spillane, mhspillane@hotmail.com. Remember also to visit the Salon des Arts, 12th-14th July, at the OSO Arts Centre, which will include works by artists from Le Pecq.

Gill Spillane

Better Barn Elms playing fields

Richmond Council has been consulting about the needs and hopes of all users of Barn Elms; in the light of these, it has been working on a new layout for the sports fields. The aim has been to agree a set of facilities which Barn Elms must provide in the future.

Soon, the Council will very probably agree to offer to sports and leisure operators the chance to propose a limited 'enabling development', for sports or related uses, on land which is on and beside the car park, making enough money to cover the costs of the improvements wanted. The **Environment Group of the BCA** is among those discussing with the Council what is wanted and what would be seen as 'too much' on the site.

Barnes Sports Club has put it on record that they do *not* want to act as developer, though they hope to co-operate with the Council. Many Barnes people would like to have good local facilities for local people; it is hoped this more realistic scheme will achieve this.

INTERESTED?

The Council Cabinet is due to firm up a specification in principle on **3rd September**; the report of the officers' recommendation will be on www.richmond.gov.uk at the very end of August. In a later edition of *Prospect* senior Council officer Eve Risbridger will give a fuller picture of what may emerge on Barn Elms.

BCA mid-May Journey to Austria

On 8th May, we boarded the coach that would take us from Barnes into the heart of Austria. The crossing from Dover was smooth as was the journey through France, Belgium and into Germany. We had an excellent driver who countered the difficulties of occasional very heavy traffic and rain with great skill and brought us in late afternoon to the 4* Bellevue Hotel at Boppard. This was extremely comfortable, with excellent food, and looked out upon the river Rhine. We continued our journey early the next morning; towards the end of the afternoon we suddenly glimpsed, through a clearing sky, mountains with snow caps, and a welcome sign towards Salzburg. An hour or so later, we arrived at our destination, the 4* Hotel Möhrenwirt in the village of Fuschl-am-See. The village was surrounded by country, full of wonderful lakes and mountains.

During the following days some visited Salzburg, a short bus journey away, and others at one point took the coach to Berchtesgaden where, from the Eagle's Nest, the view on a particularly fine day was spectacular. This was one which Hitler no doubt had looked upon as his personal domain. But there was no such unpleasant association from another height

which could be enjoyed if we took a cable car to the highest base on the Zwölfern Horn at Gilan. Here, a towering cliff-face from which, on the side of the ascent, could be seen all the glorious country between the lakes Fuschl and Wolfgang; from the other side of the crest, a panorama of mountain peaks, twenty-one in all, shining in Alpine splendour. (*I think he is saying he liked the views! – Ed*)

On the day we visited Salzburg we went to the Mozart house. At the door we were given handsets which directed us from room to room while playing appropriate music. In one large room a short film of the composer's life was playing, and a host of interested – yes, interested – schoolchildren came clambering in to watch it.

On our return journey we visited Saint-Flora, the former residence of King Albert I of



Lovely Fuschl am See in Austria, visited by the BCA Group

the Belgians where now a little shopping was encouraged.

The whole enjoyable trip was organised with her usual skill by Rita Robinson who had arranged for freshly made coffee to be available on the journey. The proceeds from the sale of this go to Macmillan Cancer Support. On this occasion the sum raised was £132.01.

Brian Spink

St Paul's School – the next 25 years



St.Paul's: an artist's impression of the proposed Lonsdale Road frontage

Following the public exhibition held at St Paul's School almost exactly a year ago, the school has recently submitted an (outline) planning application to Richmond Council (07/1760/OUT). This encompasses plans for the phased replacement of roughly 75% of its current buildings, over a period of approximately 25 years.

In response to the feedback received from last year's exhibition, several changes have been made to the original scheme, including the treatment of the Lonsdale Road entrance.

Plans and details are available through www.richmond.gov.uk/search_planning_applications_online.htm or at the Castelnau Library or at Civic Centre, 44, York St, Twickenham, TW1

3BZ. Because this application arouses some strong feelings, the normal three-week limit on responses has been extended indefinitely.

Meanwhile, St. Paul's hopes to make a start on the scheme in 2009, the year the school celebrates its 500th anniversary.

Chiswick Pier Trust Happy Birthday Party On The Pier! Sunday 15th July

Enjoy a great day out on the river, including a free boat trip, and help Chiswick Pier celebrate its 10th birthday. Ten years ago, Hounslow Council handed over the waterfront facilities to a charity run by local people, the Chiswick Pier Trust, and now the Pier and the Pier House have become a thriving centre for river-related activities and fun.

Party on the Pier is an annual event and this year will be bigger and better than ever! The day kicks off at 10.30am with river dipping on the foreshore at Chiswick Eyot – find out what lives in those murky waters and don't forget your wellies. If you prefer being on the water, come along at 11am to the Pier for a canoeing taster session. From midday onwards, there are stalls, barbecue, Fullers' bar, refreshments, Tombola and lots of children's activities, all accompanied by that ever popular band, Shenanigans. Free 'round the bay' boat trips aboard a Henley launch are part of this year's party bag, as are workshops from Albert and Friends' Circus School. A grand welcome will be given to the Mayor of Hounslow, who will arrive at 2pm aboard the Harbour Master's launch to cut the birthday cake.

For more information on activities and how to get to the Pier, phone 020 8742 2713 or go to www.chiswickpiertrust.org.uk.

Note

Chiswick Pier and Pier House are managed by the Chiswick Pier Trust, a registered charity dedicated to putting Londoners in touch with the River Thames. It is staffed mainly by volunteers.

The waterfront was built as a result of a joint effort between local people and Hounslow Council. The council granted a lease to the Chiswick Pier Trust, a charity set up to run the facilities, and in the summer of 1997, the Pier and Pier House were officially opened. These facilities spawned many public uses including a thriving canoe club, a Sea Cadets unit offering local youngsters the chance to learn river skills, one of the UK's busiest RNLI stations plus a river education centre run by the Thames Explorer Trust and visited by over 6,000 people, young and old, during the last year. Residential boats moored at the Pier offer an interesting collection of historic hulls and the visitors' pontoon provides a welcome stopping place for cruising boats (a rare facility on the London River.) It's also an excellent location for the public to watch river events such as the Boat Race and Great River Race, and to enjoy river-related talks and activities organised by the Trust.

St Michael's Community Centre



The new Community Centre of St Michael's was officially opened by Charles Hazlewood, former organist at the church and now television and radio broadcaster. 150 guests were welcomed by Fr Paul Holland to celebrate the opening.

**Come to
Castelnau Community Centre
Stillingfleet Road
Thursday 5 July 2007
4.30 – 7.00pm**

Games, activities and refreshments
And at **6.00pm** attend our
first public Annual General Meeting
followed by refreshments for all
ALL WELCOME



No village shopping? This is what many fear

Real democracy comes to White Hart Lane

David Rossiter reports:

The fight to prevent Sainsbury's 'ripping the heart out of White Hart Lane', as we see it, has moved into a new phase¹.

At the end of May, the White Hart Lane Action Group (WHAG) publicly announced a local referendum of residents, to find out just how welcome or unwelcome such a store would be. The referendum organised by the impartial Electoral Reform Society (ERS) and paid for by the WHAG fighting fund, is believed to be the first of its kind: the first time a contentious local issue such as this has been put to a vote of residents.

Whilst, sadly, it is not legally binding on Sainsbury's, it is our belief that a resounding NO Vote will send a powerful message which the media will be quick to pick up on; a message Sainsbury's would be very ill-advised to ignore.

Ballot papers went out to some 7,340 people in the area surrounding the site of the proposed store, and the result was due to be known by June 23rd.

The WHAG urged all residents who receive ballot papers to vote NO.

Now we shall see how Sainsbury's

respond. There are many things which could be done on the land in question which will benefit the neighbourhood and be welcomed by all.

But many many people feel an unwanted chain store is not one of them.

¹ In response to huge objections from local people, Richmond Council refused the planning application, but this refusal was overturned by the Government's Planning Inspectorate.



Village Shopping: This is what so many love (And our congratulations go to Michael and Tracey)

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES

present

Come and sing English Choral Classics

as part of **Sing London**,

a festival to get the whole city singing
including Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and Parry's *I Was Glad*
with a 'last night' grand finale featuring *Land of Hope & Glory*
and *Jerusalem*

with the Westminster Junior Singers

Caroline Lenton-Ward soprano

Cameron Burns piano and conductor

SATURDAY 7 JULY 2007

Rehearsal from 10.00 to 1.00

Concert at 7.30 pm

St Mary's, Church Road, Barnes SW13 9HL

For singers all music provided – register in advance

For audience – come to the concert and join in the grand finale

Tickets/registration £10

from office@stmarysbarnes.org or 020 8741 5422

All proceeds for the upkeep and preservation of St Mary's Church, the
oldest building in Barnes

www.singlondon.org www.stmarysbarnes.org