



# Prospect

July/August 2008

Price when sold £1



## DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S BARNES FAIR!

From 9.30am until 5.30pm on Saturday 12th July, Barnes Green will once again be transformed into a vibrant and exciting village Fair. All Barnes residents receive a copy of the Fair Programme which contains details of the activities planned – including the **Fair Parade**, live **music** and **shows**, **fairground attractions** and the best places for a bite to eat, or a refreshing **BCA Pimm's**.

Do leave time for some **shopping** too, as we have over 300 stalls exhibiting at the Fair this year. From original pictures and paintings to unusual clothes and jewellery, not forgetting cards, crafts, French linen, bric-à-brac and homemade fudge – there's something for everyone – and that includes your dog! Pet lovers should seek out the Doggy Days bakery for healthy dog treats and organic dog products from Lushpuppi. For children, there's face painting, story telling and candy floss on offer – if you can tear them away from the Gallopers...



The **BCA Tombola** is always a highlight of the Fair – do come and try your luck! We rely on the generosity of Barnes residents to make the tombola better each year so do look out any unwanted bottles, toiletries or gifts and drop them into Rose House before Fair day – it's not too late. Prizes for children are also welcomed as we have a separate tombola for the under 12's.

Last, but certainly not least, we look forward to meeting you in the new **BCA Tent** this year – look out for the green and white striped roof! You can say *bonjour* to our friends from Le Pecq, learn more about the work of the BCA Environment Group and the Friends of Barnes Common or just treat yourself to a Barnes mug, bag or card.

*PS: We don't want to nag but we are still looking for a few extra volunteers to man stands on Fair day – if you could find a couple of spare hours, please call Charlotte on 8748 5898.*

**We wish you a happy day out at the 34th Barnes Fair!**

**Friend & Falcke are the principal sponsors of Barnes Fair**



**BCA**



**matters...**

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Joseph Pederzoli and Martha Comerford of St Osmund's School will be this year's Fair King and Queen

## News from the Executive

### Retail champion for Barnes

We sounded a 'wake-up' call in the March issue of *Prospect*, calling on residents to be aware of future development plans for the High Street, and for the threat posed to the small shops which are so important to Barnes. The recent closure of the Terrace for five weeks was an additional problem that decimated High Street footfall. The BCA has now decided that, working as we do with our local Councillors and with Council planners, and through our increasingly influential Environment Group, we should more positively nail our colours to the mast on behalf of all local retailers, not only those on the High Street. In short, we wish to appoint a retail champion for Barnes, at least part-funded by the BCA, who will have a wide-ranging mandate, acting primarily as a link between retailers, the Council planners and developers.

The main aims of the retail champion would be: the establishment of a better trading

environment for small shops, improvement of the retail mix to meet local consumer needs, and improvement in communication with the Council on fiscal difficulties (rates, etc.) that small shops face. There is much more, of course, and we do not for a moment believe this is going to be an easy job. An acceptable candidate would probably live locally, have good lobbying skills, would establish a rapport with all the retailers, and would have a good working knowledge of retail issues. Later, there will be a more formal process prior to either a full or part-time appointment – not least on the matter of salary and matched funding – but any *Prospect* reader who might have an interest in this should make themselves known to Julia in the BCA office.

David Stott  
Chairman

## Moving at a snail's pace...

### or is that too complimentary?

A couple of years back, Richmond Council held a consultation about simplifying the number of controlled parking zones (CPZs) in our area: they proposed that our three adjoining two-hour-only zones (B1, CB1, CB2) should be merged for an experimental period. With the response being very positive, a 'trial' was set up and in one sense it has continued ever since. No formal Traffic Order has been made but the parking attendants are told to enforce the simplified zone/s as in the trial.

Now comes the time to make these (and other) arrangements formal. First the officers will check details are correct throughout Barnes; then, by law, a further consultation for an effective Traffic Order has to take place, this time on fully detailed plans.

Meanwhile, final design work, to be followed by consultation on controls is planned for:

- Rocks Lane Car Park
- Small Profit Car Park (opposite the end of Gerard Road)

So... now we will have reached September and the consultation results will be reported to the Transport Consultative Group in October. So... we are now looking at November/December for implementation of the merged zones and the new controls on the small car parks.

But it doesn't end there. In the next financial year, May or June, we are told the Council will come back to Barnes with 'improved signage and lining'.

Katie Gent



## Environment Group Report

### Barnes Bridge

Richmond Conservation Officers are in the picture now as the Bridge is protected, as indeed the

view is too. PLA Harbour Master has taken our comments and is considering them. We await news.

### Rocks Lane Tennis Club

Council officers, including an Enforcement Officer, spent time with the management of Rocks Lane Tennis Club. The Council officers have told the Club that many people are unhappy over the mess on the Common and hope the Club Management will decide shortly what they are going to do.

### 56/58 Barnes High Street

We have not heard from anybody who is unhappy with this application.

### De Worde House

The Group felt we should write a letter to the Inspector about the latest application.

### Floodlighting at Riverside Club

The temporary buildings have gone – they are making full use of the lights which they have no permission to use. Richmond Council is in contact with Hounslow Council. It is hoped something will be done about it.

Meanwhile the riverside view is spoilt by floodlights on summer evenings.

### Dukes Meadows

At a consultation meeting a proposal to upgrade the lights along the river routes was discussed. There was an outcry from Chiswick residents about this. They are also trying to cut down on traffic, particularly deliveries, generated by the Riverside Club.

### Barn Elms/Barnes Vision

Their plan was submitted to the Council for discussion at Cabinet on 2nd June. We will know the decision by Barnes Fair – July 12th

### Planning Applications

There have been a few recent applications that may need considering if they are not in keeping with the Conservation areas.

### Barnes Fair

Please look out for us among the BCA group of stalls. We are not having plants this year but we will have our giant map of Barnes with our various concerns highlighted. It would be great if you would come and see us and let us know your concerns.

Hopefully we will have news of Barnes Vision and our Council's decision on the future of Richmond Barn Elms.

Susan Boyd

## Planning St Paul's

As you may know, St. Paul's School has a long-term plan to improve its facilities, replacing a number of its ugly 'Clasp' buildings, building new, and making more of a public statement both with the entrance to Lonsdale Road and towards the river.

There is general goodwill to the school and its plans, but we know *the details must be got right*. In particular, the proposed building of staff accommodation on the site of the current car park aroused bitter opposition from residents of Lillian Road first time round.

With a new planning application, have they now got it right? See for yourself: the reference number is **08/1760/OUT** and can be seen on the web and at Castelnau Library.

## On Fair Day...

**St. Mary's churchyard** will provide an oasis of calm, away from the hustle and bustle of the Green.

There will be all day refreshments including morning coffee, home made cakes and Krispy Kreme doughnuts. There will also be lunches and teas, a Pimm's tent, live music, children's activities and space to relax under the trees (or inside if wet).

The adventurous may climb the Tudor bell tower for far-reaching views to Canary Wharf, Wembley, the London Eye and Kew Pagoda.

Good quality second hand bikes will be for sale in the church yard and also at their stall on the green opposite Natson's, alongside delicious home baked goods such as cakes, savoury dishes and preserves.

## Anne Johnstone

Regular watchers of the Grand Parade at Barnes Fair will miss the smart figure of 'Special' Inspector Anne Johnstone, leading the column through the village. Anne has recently retired from the Metropolitan Police Service where she has been a member of the 'Specials' for twenty-four years. Her duties, apart from regular patrols throughout the borough, have ranged from policing rugby internationals at Twickenham, concerts at Marble Hill, the Boat Race and leading her team of 'Specials' at Barnes Fair. She has received many awards for her outstanding service.

Not one to sit back and vegetate, Anne, fortunately, won't be lost to us. She lives in Barnes, is a long-term member of the BCA and will be working in conjunction with Sgt Will Jack of the Community Police as Security Officer for the Fair as well as taking her turn among the BCA volunteers helping visitors to the Information Stand.

Sally Holloway



Anne and Sgt Jack study the map of the Fair site during discussion on security



## Grand Parade

Don't forget that the Grand Parade assembles in Glebe Road at 10.20am. Anyone who would like to join in with any sort of vehicle (within reason!) and hasn't taken part before, should contact the Parade Organiser, Julia Bebington, at Rose House – 8878-2359.

## Antony and the pig go to the Fair

Antony Worrall Thompson has mint tea for breakfast. And sometimes a banana. Bet that surprises you.

Luckily for us he won't be bringing his breakfast frugality to the Barnes Fair. The celebrity chef and owner of Barnes Grill on Rock's Lane will be escorting one of his very own pigs to the fair for a hog roast.

"It should be really interesting," he told *Prospect*. "The pig will be sourced from my own farm. I breed pigs."

A big fan of Barnes, Antony is looking forward to his first experience of the Fair. "Barnes is one of the only villages in London. It's a sweet, lovely village," he says. "That's one of the reasons why I wanted to open a restaurant there."

For a taster of Antony's famous cooking, or if a hog roast sounds like your thing, don't forget to follow your nose to his barbecue stall at Barnes Fair.

Rachel Rickard Straus



## BCA bargains

Present buying made easy at the **BCA stall** – there will be a range of attractive and useful goods including tea towels showing views of Barnes, BCA calico bags and two new lines: a large bone china mug bearing the message 'Barnes Brew' and a range of five postcards, designed by artist Matthew Cowpe, illustrating Barnes in black and white. (If you can't get to the Fair, these goods are always on sale from Rose House.)

## BCA Jumble Sale

It may seem a bit early to be thinking about the October jumble sale but the BCA is already planning for this mega event. This year it's on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th October. So if you have any good quality jumble please hang onto it until Rose House opens in September.

We are short of space this year for storing the jumble so if you have any spare room, perhaps in garages or garden sheds, please let us know.

We are also desperate for helpers. If you can spare a few hours please give Hilary a ring at Rose House, 8878 2359. We are a friendly team and have a lot of fun organising the sale.

## Police matters

Several matters have been brought to the attention of the Prospect team and **William Mortimer** went to meet **Sgt Jack** to discuss them.

### Graffiti

A Prospect reader sent in a photograph of a 'Banksy' style mural on a wall in Barnes. Since the rise in popularity of Banksy's work there is a perception that 'street art' is not only acceptable but desirable. However, one person's work of art is another one's graffiti. This image was produced crudely using a stencil and in our opinion lacks any artistic merit. Unless a legitimately commissioned piece of art, it is graffiti and should be reported as such.

### To bike or not to bike

We were sent the accompanying photograph ostensibly showing two opposing instructions. Sgt Jack assures us that the image on the path is a forgery, so if you come across two similar conflicting instructions we recommend following the sign on the lamppost, conforming to the Highway Code.



### Guard your PIN

A lady has changed the way she lists numbers in her mobile telephone address book after losing it along with the contents of her stolen handbag. Not twenty minutes after the theft she called her husband from a coinbox to tell him what had happened. "I received your text asking for bank PIN number a few minutes ago and have already replied" he told her.

Realising the danger, she rushed to the bank only to be informed that money had already been withdrawn. The thief had used the mobile to deceive her husband into thinking it was she who had asked for the banking PIN number. The advice to protect yourself in similar circumstances is:

- **Do not** reveal relationships when you put names and numbers into your mobile telephone's address book - avoid using identities like Home, Husband, Sweetheart, Dad, Mum, etc.
- **Do not** respond to requests via incoming text messages for sensitive information - always call back to the person supposedly asking for the information so satisfying yourself in a voice call that the message has come from a bona fide source. Ask yourself if there is another way of getting the information to them securely.
- **Be careful** when an incoming text is asking you to meet somewhere with a member of the family or a friend - always call back to be sure that the person you thought was asking for the meeting is indeed the message originator. Discuss with them whether the meeting place and time is safe and sensible.

## Did you know...

- that Castelnau was first called Upper Bridge Road and was originally designed to run straight across Barnes Pond?
- why so many roads in Barnes have Lakeland names?
- that John Gielgud acted in the old Byfeld Hall when it was a theatre? Ellen Terry lived nearby.
- that William Cobbett rented land in Barnes (which would now be under the Wetlands)?
- that Barnes just escaped from having tower blocks of flats built on the Leg o' Mutton site?
- that there were once three ponds on Barnes Green?
- that the Old Sorting Office was once a chocolate factory?
- that in 1800 magistrates 'forbade fairs on the Green'?

There are so many interesting facts about Barnes that many people do not know and we propose to have a regular feature in future issues of *Prospect*. We appreciate the help of the Barnes & Mortlake History Society and the Local Studies Collection ([localstudies@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:localstudies@richmond.gov.uk)) for their help in our research. If any readers have an interesting or little-known story to tell about Barnes please write to the editors via the BCA, [bca@barnesvillage.org.uk](mailto:bca@barnesvillage.org.uk)



## Nearly 20 years ago, we all cried 'SAVE BARN ELMS!'

From 1988 to 1990, the Government had grand plans for Barnes: much of our green space was to be covered by a highway called The Relief South Circular.

The first plan was to bring this very main new road through the Common and then to cross over Barnes Bridge. Barnes residents were all *appalled* and set up the non-political Barnes and Mortlake Traffic Action Group, BAMTAG\*, to kill those proposals. And we did!

The Department for Transport (DTP) had to go away and lick its wounds, still devoted to achieving its aims, but promising us something more environmentally-friendly.

Then just before Christmas 1989 new proposals were published, avoiding the Common but hitting Barn Elms fields with a 20-acre interchange. To the north-west of this interchange, a tunnel would run under mid/north Barnes to emerge at

Chiswick; to the south-east of the interchange, a new road would run along the riverbed to Putney. (Don't ask!) Heavy traffic from south London would be taken from some point on Rocks Lane towards Barn Elms. For good measure, the redundant reservoirs at what is now the Wetland Centre could be used for storage of building materials.

I recall asking one of the DTP consultants why the tunnel and the 'drain' had to surface in Barnes at all. He replied that the interchange could in theory be deleted, but that the new road "would not attract enough traffic". (Ah, now we're getting somewhere!)

Meanwhile, there was furious opposition from those in Barnes who might find themselves living on top of a tunnel or affected by knock-on subsidence problems. BAMTAG continued to campaign with its

slogan: 'New roads are not an answer'. And in the end we won.

Two points arise from this very brief summary. At the time of our campaign, the playing fields were still hidden behind a long, dilapidated wooden fence and the DTP assumed that Barn Elms was unimportant to us. Opening up the view from Rocks Lane with a good quality metal fence became top of the priority list.

Secondly, the DTP finally came to accept that 'new roads are not the answer' and, from that time, made all the right noises about improving public transport. They also brought in many traffic management measures such as speed humps.

Katie Gent

\*And BAMTAG? That deserves a longer article all on its own.

# Readers' letters

## Centenary Ale

Dear Editor

I was amused to read in your June issue, an article by Gill Spillane asking for enlightenment regarding a bottle of *Centenary Ale* that surfaced at the spring jumble sale. I am uniquely placed to answer Gill's query. As I write I am inspired by an unopened bottle of *Centenary Ale*, limited edition number 0969 at my elbow, alongside the original photograph taken by my husband, which was used on the label.

I can hardly believe it is twenty-one years since I helped celebrate the centenary of the opening of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's 'new' Hammersmith Bridge (replacing the 'old' bridge designed by Tierney Clark). The scene remains vivid in my mind.

On 20th June 1987 both the Hammersmith and the Barnes ends of the bridge were closed to traffic, and pedestrians commandeered the space between. Tables were set up in the centre of the bridge and a party was held. A carnival atmosphere pervaded Castelnau (originally Bridge Road) in Barnes. On the Hammersmith bank of the Thames, stalls and street theatre vied for space at crowded and bunting-bedizened Funnival Gardens. The tow-path seethed with revellers.

The bottom line on the *Centenary Ale* label supplies all the detail that remains regarding its origin: brewed by Young & Co, photo D. Cockcroft, design A. Farmer.

I contacted Young's Brewery to ask how many bottles of *Centenary Ale* were produced for the event but sadly no record appears to have been kept. It must have been a large number. I personally witnessed the contents of many, many bottles being happily consumed on the 20th. Relatively few bottles could have been preserved intact long enough to reach a 2008 jumble sale.

I'm glad that Gill thought the *Centenary Ale* label splendid. David Cockcroft, a 'name'

London photographer, was and is a local resident responsible for much national and international advertising and editorial photography over the years, as well as distinctive portraits. The Young & Co designer approached David for help in producing the label. David photographed Hammersmith Bridge in May 1987 using black and white film. He then technically transposed a tone print into black line, eradicating fine detail. Mr Farmer incorporated David's image into his typographical design and added an appropriate ale coloured background. The rest is history.

To accompany the celebrations, the History Society mounted an exhibition of historic documents and images appertaining to Hammersmith Bridge, at Castelnau Library from 16-27th June. David contributed his iconic *Centenary Ale* photograph of the bridge to the exhibition.

The Barnes & Mortlake History Society's late, long-serving member Charles Hailstone compiled a meticulously researched *Hammersmith Bridge* book for the centenary. Like the unopened bottle of *Centenary Ale* it is now a collectors' item, unhappily out of print. It is worth tracking down a copy. The contents are good for at least another hundred years. The book was published by the Barnes & Mortlake History Society in conjunction with the Fulham & Hammersmith Historical Society.

Charles, the consummate historian, purchased a commemorative bottle of ale which must have remained intact as he was a teetotaler.

I purchased an attractive, centenary terracotta pot produced by Fulham Pottery, 15cm high from base to knobbed lid.

I enjoyed the privilege of serving for several years prior to 1987 as editor of the *BMHS Newsletter*. The local history society,

and the use of a community asset. Local people are going to have to think hard about this and, if appropriate, negotiate hard too.

Yours faithfully  
Angela Style

Dear Editor

It may be of interest to readers of *Prospect* that the *Evening Standard* recently reported, under a headline '60 police stations to be closed across the capital' that Richmond police station is earmarked for closure.

Also, a further problem has arisen at the new bus station in Hammersmith. On a hot day, there is no protection there from the sun's rays. On a particularly hot afternoon I noticed several elderly ladies suffering in the heat as they waited for the 209 bus.

Yours sincerely  
John Smith

**Readers' letters continue on p6**



Original black and white photograph by David Cockcroft from which the *Centenary Ale* label was produced

founded in 1955, has done much to engender scholarship, appreciation and preservation of the special village environment we enjoy in the Barnes, Mortlake and Sheen areas. Its membership grows from strength to strength. Like the excellent village jumble sales at which the bottle of *Centenary Ale* re-surfaced, it has become one of the valued institutions that make Barnes and environs a privileged place to live.

Thanks in large part to a welcome guest appearance by the sun on 20th June 1987 a great time was had by all at the Bridge Centenary Celebrations, especially by families with young children. Those children might well be young parents themselves now, carrying happy memories of the event from the 20th into the 21st century. Perhaps we should plan a century-and-a-quarter bridge party for 2012. Brewers take note.

V. Irene Cockcroft

## Closure in White Hart Lane

Works to replace the Victorian water mains will commence in White Hart Lane on July 23rd and continue for an estimated twelve weeks. During a substantial period of this time the level crossing will have to be closed to vehicles for health and safety reasons. The crossings in Sheen Lane and Vine Road will NOT be affected. The works in Mortlake High Street will cease during this time, but will have to restart in October to complete the replacement there. No traffic light control should be necessary as the work will have reached the dual carriageway section.

Anna Davies  
Councillor for Mortlake and Barnes Common  
Telephone: 8876 4614

## Barn Elms: Correction

To the Editor

I know that a last minute-update on your June edition on page 1 could not give a detailed picture of the search by Barnes Vision for major monies to upgrade Barn Elms. However, I read with dismay the paragraph headed 'Breaking News'. Unfortunately this paragraph as written gives the reader the impression that the £1,500,000 is to come from the London Marathon Charitable Trust, albeit subject to certain conditions. It is this impression that is so inaccurate because you do not mention that the second organisation is likely to be from a school somewhere in Richmond. This school (as yet unnamed) but by definition not a state school, otherwise the Council would have told us about it, would be committed to pledge £1,000,000. This fact means that the London Marathon Charitable Trust has only pledged £500,000. It is important to make this distinction because £1m would surely give a private school influence on the facilities built

## Readers' letters (continued from p5)

### A lament for our old position 'C' bus stop at Butterwick Bus Station

Dear Prospect

Was it the intention of the designers of the newly arranged Butterwick Bus Station at Hammersmith to cause the maximum discomfort and humiliation to travellers to Barnes village? If so, they have certainly succeeded.

In the past, our journey home from Hammersmith involved a brief wait, comfortably seated indoors, for the three buses serving the Church Road and Barnes Pond area – 209, 283, 485, all arriving at the same stop C, moments from the tube. Even the stop of the 419, going down Lonsdale Road, was only yards away and a useful alternative. Our four buses all arrived and departed from the same place.

Now we have a trek to the great outdoors, the route buried, barely signposted, next to McDonald's. Our buses are arranged over the concourse – three parallel roads, zebra crossings between – and we must make a decision on arrival as to which to wait for. If one waits at one stop, and then seeks to rush to another as an alternative bus arrives, it will inevitably have gone before one gets to it. If a bus is already on its

stand when one arrives, it is impossible to see where it is going since the front of the bus is out of sight. (Incidentally even if one has ascertained that a 283 does claim it is going to Barnes Pond on the front, it will in my experience inevitably swing maddeningly left to the Wetlands Centre at the Red Lion instead.)

Having waited, exposed to the elements, under the inadequate 'shelter' for, say, the 209, one is relieved when one hoves into view, only to have to then wait, looking at closed doors, while the driver nonchalantly fills in his log and performs other lengthy functions, ignoring the cold, wet passengers crowding against the bus door, noses pathetically pressed against the glass. (Can there not be an area, in that vast space, where drivers can sort themselves out and arrive at the stop actually able to take the poor passengers on board?) Because the 209 waits in this way at its stop, there is no knowing when it is going to leave as one emerges from the bus station tunnel, and sees it sitting there. Old and young therefore feel compelled to run across the road in an undignified fashion for the

bus, heavy shopping, briefcases or small children in tow, only to be greeted inevitably with the bus either driving off as they approach (a favourite this), or their having to stand and wait on the pavement as previously described, as they struggle to catch their breath, or – when finally granted access – waiting for ages within the bus until it finally deigns to depart.

I have witnessed people running fruitlessly over the roads from one of the three Barnes Pond bus stops to another in an attempt to get home. I have seen others fall over the kerb as they scan the station as they try to make their decision as to which bus to go for. As one station operative remarked to me in the early days – 'it's an accident waiting to happen'.

The words 'over' and 'barrel' come to mind. Our dignified, comfortable journeys of the past are clearly gone for ever; the quality of our commuting lives has been severely diminished and our levels of daily stress and irritation very much increased.

Yours sincerely  
Anne Auber



### Parlez-vous...?

These happy students are pictured during their recent evening class in Spanish at Rose House. New courses in French, Spanish, Italian and Chinese will begin in October, with taster courses in September. For details contact Hilary Hawken 0208 878 7229 or [www.languagecoursesuk.co.uk](http://www.languagecoursesuk.co.uk).

## Club Italiano

### Would you like to communicate effectively with native speakers?

Our Wednesday lunchtime class at Rose House has two spaces left, from the 10th September '08 to the 20th May '09 for only £255.

The level is intermediate, the atmosphere is friendly, the emphasis is on conversation. Learning Italian is only one of the many benefits you will experience.

Closing date: **Wednesday 2nd July**. To enrol, contact Mrs Stefania Frigieri-Baldwin tel:020 8748 6418. Website: [www.italianlearning.co.uk](http://www.italianlearning.co.uk)

Grazie e ciao.

## Making music with RPO resound

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra is holding its first ever summer school this August at St Paul's School.

Taking place over three days from 21st to 23rd August, young people will, with the assistance of the world-class musicians from the RPO, create their own pieces as well as work on exciting material from the orchestral repertoire. After crafting their pieces, they will show off their achievements to friends and family in a performance on the last day. New friends will be made, musical discoveries will be accomplished and insights into a professional musician's life will be given.

**RPO resound**, the RPO's community and education department, envisages that this course will be very popular and will sell out quickly. Aimed at young people aged 14 – 18 who are grade 4 and above on any orchestral instrument, this course represents an experience not to be missed. There will be no auditions and the course is operated on a first-come first served basis. For more information about this project, or about the Community and Education work that RPO resound does please contact Rebecca Willows on 0207 608 8829, email [education@rpo.co.uk](mailto:education@rpo.co.uk) or visit [www.rpo.co.uk](http://www.rpo.co.uk).



## BCA Spring Tour to Normandy

We started off from Barnes very early and soon settled in the coach that was for our exclusive use and would be our transport to explore Normandy at our leisure. It was a pleasure not having any crowded airports or ferries to struggle through; we arrived at the 'Chunnel' terminal early and drove straight onto the shuttle, catching up on some sleep before arriving in Calais by 9am. The hotel in Caen was beside the yacht basin and near to the main shopping area. During our six-day stay we visited Bayeux to see the tapestry and cathedral, the D-day beaches and the American cemetery which, with a new visitors' centre, was a real eye opener and not to be missed. This was not in the original itinerary but, as with all BCA trips which are flexible, we took advantage of our driver's knowledge and were well rewarded.

The little known Chateau Vendeune was voted the best yet as we toured the room settings and saw the collection of miniature artwork in pottery, silver, and wood. The gardens were full of strange artwork which gave forth displays of water and music with no warning and pure white peacocks added to the delightful setting. The 'Village of God's Frying



Pan' was a real treat with a visit to the Atelier du Cuivre to see how traditional tinned copper pans, still used by the best chefs, are made much as they were two hundred years ago in the same premises. The bell foundry was also fascinating, the techniques using hand skilled labour continue in this unspoilt hidden region of Normandy, which is well worth a visit.

A treat before we left for the journey home was the local farmers' market which gave us the

opportunity to buy really fresh real Normandy produce to bring back and enjoy – cheese, butter, cream, fresh fish, asparagus, fruit, salads and local lamb and poultry were all too good to resist.

With only a short stop on the way back to Calais, and again a smooth no-wait loading onto the shuttle we were back in Barnes by 5pm.

The holiday was tinged with sadness as a regular and very popular BCA member, Laverne Mayer, who was booked to come with us, passed away a fortnight before we left. However his brother, who was over from Canada for the funeral, was able to take his place and was comforted by being amongst his friends who in turn enjoyed his company. Laverne will always be remembered for giving a ballet lesson

to everyone on the coach whilst going through the Channel Tunnel on his very first trip, such was his sense of fun. The holiday group donated £130 in his memory to the British Heart Foundation.

Rita Robinson

**Note:** There are still vacancies on the mini-cruise in August. Ring Ann Hollinghead on 0800 300 666 for details, quoting **BCA Group**.

## A taste of Normandy



One of the highlights of our very enjoyable holiday with Rita in Normandy was a specially arranged tasting at La Ferme Billy, one of France's oldest (1651) makers of fine Cider and Calvados.

We were taken through a guided tasting of five of their products by Guillaume Vauvrecy, a direct descendant of the founder, whose charm and good looks distracted some of the ladies from their tasting glasses.

First we tried the pure, unfermented apple-juice, deliciously fresh and moreish with just a touch of sweetness.

Then two Ciders: the demi-sec,

just off-dry and the sec, bone-dry, both agreeably winey. I thought that the hint of sweetness in the former suited the apple flavours better but, of course, it is entirely a matter of opinion.

Next came Pommeau, a far more alcoholic drink (17% alcohol by volume) made by adding one-third old Calvados to two-thirds apple-juice and maturing in oak casks for three years. This showed darker, almost chocolatey flavours with hints of prune juice mingled with overall apple character.

Finally we tasted the mature Calvados, aged in cask for eight years and fit to be ranked with France's two other fine spirits, Cognac and Armagnac. This had dark, almost burnt apple flavours with a lovely earthy character and the taste elements lingered on and on in the mouth after swallowing.

Many of the appreciative tasters purchased a bottle or two of what they had enjoyed, to take away with them.

Alastair Mackenzie

## Youth enterprise

Wandsworth Youth Enterprise Centre (WYEC) is a 20-year old Business Counselling Charity which offers a unique and free programme of support to 17-30 year-olds setting up their own businesses or who are likely to and/or intend to follow a self-employed/freelance career. Although originally set up for residents of Wandsworth, WYEC's support is now available to anyone, irrespective of residence.

Working from a Therapeutic Counselling Model, known as Person Centred Counselling, established counselling techniques and skills are used to support the client from inception of the business idea to the start-up of their business or self-employed career. This involves clients taking the time they need and gaining personal growth through the process. There are no fixed timeframes for the pre-start up process. All the counsellors are both trained in counselling and have business experience.

Training for clients is provided when required, in addition to formal training workshops that cover all aspects of marketing and finance. Clients are also offered free support for two years after start-up and they have access to small business units at subsidised rents during this period. The units are suitable as design studios, offices, storage, small workshops etc.

WYEC has helped many businesses set up and has a proven record in helping to create sustainable businesses. One example is of a business started by a young married woman whose skills lie in furniture painting. She first came to WYEC in October 2004 and within six months had completed her business plan, acquired a unit and raised the necessary finance for her start-up. She had thoroughly researched her market and is now operating a highly successful business. There are many such examples. WYEC also actively supports young men and women who may have poor credit histories, are disabled or otherwise disadvantaged, and ex-offenders, having links with many agencies working with these client groups. For more information visit the website [www.wyec.org.uk](http://www.wyec.org.uk) or telephone 8672 2832.

Anton Smith



## Summer at the Wetlands

There is plenty of action happening on the reserve at this time of year. The wildlife on site is thriving and biodiversity is increasing. At the time of printing,

there were three Common Tern chicks (two broods) on the tern rafts in the middle of the Main Lake, and six pairs of Common Tern are still breeding here, providing a welcome aerial assault on all the large Gulls and Corvids that pass over the lake in search of young chicks. Elsewhere, there were four visible Lapwing broods and twenty-four adults on the main lake and scrape, and six Tufted Duck broods. These

next few months will hopefully see most of the chicks make it into adulthood.

A family of water voles has made a special appearance – the whole family was seen next to the second bridge in Waterlife in early



June (the three juveniles are pictured, photo by Angela Flynn). The youngsters are quite bold and even ran through a group of visitors' legs.

Our line-up of summer events always means there is something to take in during July and August. We welcome singer-songwriters on 12th and 19th July for two fundraising evening concerts. Visitors can experience our specially themed barbecues, on 25th July for 'A Taste of Asia' and 'A Taste of Africa' on 29th August. Regular visitors will also note our Gift Shop has undergone some changes including new flooring and a fresh coat of paint (all eco-friendly of course). Watch this space for news of a relaunch of the shop coming in the autumn.

Stasa Veroukis

## Wetland Centre Diary

### REGULAR EVENTS

Every Thursday from 3 July – 11 September

#### Sizzling Summer BBQs

Sumptuous summer barbecues on the cafe terrace, accompanied by live music. BBQ is served between 6pm and 9pm, and there is a licensed bar with a selection of wine and beer.

#### Late Night Opening 6pm – 9pm

From 6pm to 8pm admission into the Wetland Centre is half the regular price. Last admission is at 8pm.

#### Big Batty Walks (from 17 July)

Big Batty Walks resume in July to take advantage of an earlier dusk for peak bat viewing. London Wetland Centre is one of the best bat sites in London and the Big Batty Walks consist of a talk by a bat expert before heading out to the wild reserve, complete with bat detector, to see which species are swooping around. Times vary with sunset. 020 8409 4400.

### JULY

12 & 19 July

#### The Sounds of Summer Concert Series

Two weekends in July when the Wetland Centre will be hosting singer-songwriters from London and around the world.

25 July

#### A Taste of Asia

Delicious food and entertainment make this a magical evening in one of London's most beautiful settings. The evening has an Asian theme with a feast of Asian delicacies on the menu. 7pm – 9.30pm. £19.95 (£17.95 for WWT members). Price includes admission to the Wetland Centre, food and one free drink. Booking essential 020 8409 4400.

### AUGUST

13, 19, 26 Aug

#### Night-time Safaris at the London Wetland Centre

Just for kids – an amazing night in the wild, exploring the animals and the elements in a safe environment and under the supervision of the qualified and trained education team. Go on

Safari from 6.30pm – 10.30pm, suitable for children aged 8 – 14 years. £25 (includes entry). Booking essential, please call 0208 409 4400.

16 Aug

#### Photography Course

London Wetland Centre is holding a photography course, led by an experienced professional photographer. If you are a beginner photographer this is an excellent opportunity to gain some tips and advice about taking professional quality pictures. This course is designed to teach skills for beginner photographers. Don't forget to bring your own camera. Book early to reserve your spot: 0208 409 4400.

29 Aug

#### A Taste of Africa

Delicious food and entertainment make this a magical evening in one of London's most beautiful settings. The evening has an African theme with whole Congo Hog Roast and Moroccan Lamb tagine, just a few of the choices on offer. 7pm – 9.30pm. £19.95 (£17.95 for WWT members). Price includes admission to the Wetland Centre. Booking is recommended, to book phone 020 8409 4400.

## FiSH Tuesday Talks



**Barnes Green Centre**  
at 11.00am

Coffee available from 10.30am

- 1st July** Geoffrey Barnett: *Castelnau Community Care Project*  
**8th July** Nicholas Dakin *John Dee - astrologer, magician and scientist*  
**15th July** Presenter to be confirmed *Photo show: Where do you think you are??*  
**22nd July** Chris Cook *Able Community Care (Residential care in your home)*  
**29th July** Jonathan Bailey *Plays popular music with a Summer Sing-along*

There are no Tuesday Talks during August, talks resume on 9th September

## West London Churches Homeless Concern

Every night during the winter months the WLCHC organises sleeping accommodation, supper and a cooked breakfast for the homeless persons in our midst. The project began at Chelsea Methodist Church whose members were distressed at seeing so many people sleeping in shop doorways on the King's Road during the coldest months of the year. Now it's a big project.

In Barnes the Methodist Church are hosts every Saturday night between late October and March. A team from another West London church comes to prepare a substantial supper. The guests, who must have previously registered at the Project's

office, arrive in the early evening. After their supper they sleep on bed-mats on the floor. There are two paid persons on duty overnight and they also prepare a very early cooked breakfast. The guests depart at about 7.00am and a cleaner arrives.

Volunteers from various churches have come to assist with preparing the evening meal. Equipment, such as the bed-mats and cooking utensils, is ferried from church to church in a van. There are thirty-five guests each night, both men and women. Some have little English and communication can be difficult, but they are very appreciative and there have been

few problems.

The WLCHC has offices in the King's Road from where a full-time manager and a secretary work. During the summer months the manager is busy setting everything in motion for the following winter. (Even tiny things like where the van driver picks up the key on the Sunday morning have to be decided.) We have been told that the costs for the next winter season have been assessed at £140,000, so if anyone would like to make a donation towards these costs please send a cheque payable to WLCHC to their office address, 155A King's Road, London SW3 5TX.

## Not a shaggy dog story



Eighty-eight year old Henry Syrratt, who lives in North Barnes, was tinkering with his Austin 7 Special, getting it ready for Barnes Fair, when his beloved Westie, Honey, wandered off and disappeared. Distraught, Henry marshalled friends and neighbours to comb the district, but to no avail.

Police, vets and Battersea Dogs Home were informed and, later that day, a call came from Battersea to say that a Westie bitch had been handed in and he could go the next morning to see her. A friend drove Henry to Battersea where an ecstatic reunion between dog and owner took place. It is the policy of Battersea not to reveal the identity of anyone handing in a lost pet and so Henry is not able to thank his Good Samaritan personally. But he hopes that he or she is a *Prospect* reader and learns through this medium of his eternal gratitude.

*Happy Honey – home at last*

## Down on the allotment



At last! In the words of the song, 'April has cried and stepped aside', 'May didn't keep her promises quick enough for some', but now June is 'busting out all over'.

The growing conditions are near perfect, alternating rain and sun, and the seeds and plants know it.

So do the snails, slugs, black fly and weeds and they have to be dealt with. Otherwise, they will win.

Admittedly, they were there first, but it is either them or you. Leave a plot for

a year and it will be happily colonised with blackberries, convolvulus, couch grass, nettles, yellow or faded red poppies, and the wild life that goes with them.

In June, you need to go down almost every day, just to keep up with the picking: broad beans, peas – both have to be harvested young for that unique, bright green or grey green

succulence – lettuce, Swiss chard. Strawberries and raspberries tasting like they used to. With a little caster sugar and a lot of crème fraîche, perfection. Add a bit of protein, new potatoes (bought in because my Maris Peer earlies are not quite ready yet), make sure you have a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc in the fridge and your meals almost take care of themselves this month, preferably *al fresco*.

A second pair of hands is useful in the summer: they pick, you weed, hoe (this is essential to catch the weeds young – Dutch hoe is best, the type you rest on the ground and slide backwards and forwards to slice off the roots), cut the grass, sow more seeds, decide what to put in when the legumes are finished, bearing in mind your rotation plan. Or vice versa, when different back muscles are ready for stretching. So much to do. A lot more than the recommended minimum of three to four hours per week, come rain or shine. This is when the older, no longer working-for-money allotmenteer, has the edge.

*Jack*