



Prospect

July/August 2009

Price when sold £1

Barnes Fair Programme enclosed (please note that the biodegradable bag can be composted)

The fun of Barnes Fair 2009



We look forward to seeing you on SATURDAY 11th JULY for Barnes Fair, sponsored again this year by Friend & Falcke. This year's Fair has a historic theme and this will be reflected in the Parade, Fancy Dress competition, Quiz, Art

workshops, music and entertainments that we've organised. For full details of this year's events, see the Fair Programme which is included with this copy of *Prospect*. * There will also be a great selection of Stalls to browse through and delicious food on offer from many well-known Barnes restaurants. Don't miss it!
Charlotte Sharpe-Neal, Barnes Fair Organiser

*If your copy of the Fair Programme is missing, then please collect one from Rose House or from the BCA Tent on Fair day itself.



Biba and Fred Budge, this year's Fair King and Queen, from the Harrodian School

Love French wine and cheese?

Our friends from Le Pecq (a similar place to Barnes and a short distance from Paris) will be visiting us again and manning a real French cheese and wine stand at Barnes Fair. Find them near the book marquee. They will be delighted to see you and to sell you a glass of their best.....

Have you ever wondered who organises Barnes Fair?*

It's not the Council. It's not private enterprise. It is volunteer members from **BARNES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BCA)**, who start work on the Fair on January 1st every year.

What is the BCA? It was founded in 1975 'to keep Barnes as a pleasant place to live'. It is non-political and welcomes all religions and nationalities.

Membership is ridiculously cheap at £8 for an individual and £12 for a family annually. For this you will receive ten issues of *Prospect* each year bringing you news of Barnes.

Is it part of the Council? NO, but we sometimes ask the Council to join us in funding our actions like the salary of our Common-keeper or the cost of restoring the pond after it mysteriously emptied in 2001.

Where is the BCA based? Our HQ is in the pink Rose House in Barnes High Street, where we have an office, a Reception Room answering enquiries, a small hall for meetings and, upstairs, several small classrooms.

Why do people join? We asked some of our members and they all said 'because it's interesting,

it's keeping Barnes as a pleasant place to live and above all IT'S FUN!'

Do we have to do anything? Many BCA members just want to read *Prospect* and leave it at that but others want to join in the activities. It's up to you what you do.

How can we join? By calling at the BCA stall on Fair Day or by going along to Rose House from Monday to Fridays from 10am – 4pm. (Rose House will be closed throughout August but if you miss it, please go in September.) A Membership Form is also available from our website www.barnesvillage.org.uk – click on Membership.

The more members we have - the stronger we are. If you want to keep the pleasant atmosphere in Barnes - please join us - now.

*This does not apply to the 2,000 residents of Barnes who are already members of the BCA

BCA Jumble Sale

It may seem a bit early to be thinking about the October jumble sale but here at the BCA we are already planning for this mega event. This year it's on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th October. So if you have any good quality jumble please hang on to it until Rose House reopens in September.

We are short of space for storing the jumble this year 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 have a few hours to spare please give Hilary a ring at Rose House, 8878 2359. We are a friendly team and have a lot of fun organising the sale.

BCA



matters...

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Executive news

It was a rather reduced BCA Executive this month due to European Election duties.

We discussed a new retail campaign: SOS – Save Our Shops – featuring Shop Local week (June 15th-20th) which has been organised by our Retail Champion. Hopefully this will become a regular event, as successful as Christmas Late Night Shopping. Members of the BCA met up with Richard Frankel, representative of one of the largest landlords on the High Street. This was the first time the BCA has had a meeting with a key stakeholder in our retail community. In the wide ranging discussions we outlined the concerns of the retailers. Plans are agreed for better communication and joint marketing which should help in these difficult financial conditions.

The other main topic of the meeting was progress on Barnes Vision. Barnes Vision was set up in 2007 with the objective of preserving the Barn Elms playing fields from building development. The development has now been cancelled but there is still a long way to go before the playing fields are brought up to acceptable standards. Barnes Vision is working with Fields in Trust (formerly the National Playing Fields Association) and is planning to set up a charitable trust that will be called Barn Elms Sports Trust (BEST). It is always good to be known by a snappy acronym! The next step will be for Fields in Trust to sign a deed of dedication with Richmond Council. This will ensure that the land cannot be sold or

developed inappropriately and can only be used for sports and recreation for the next 150 years. This will be a great achievement.

Finally the BCA Police Liaison member would like to warn Barnes' residents of the continuing level of theft from cars. This is happening because we are complacent. According to our local police team we leave cars unlocked and we leave valuable goods on full view. Theft will not reduce if we don't take simple precautions.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair on July 11th.

Isobel Woolf
BCA Chairman



On our stall at the Fair we will have information leaflets for many ways of enjoying our environment. Also we will have a map of Barnes with the present concerns highlighted.

1. Woodland Survey

The Council has agreed to fund a woodland survey of the major wooded conservation sites. The work will take place over the summer with reports at the end of year and management plans to follow in 2010/11. The survey will look at appropriate management of the woodlands throughout the Borough, and also opportunities to increase biodiversity through glade creation, native bulb planting, veteran tree management and other opportunities.

2. Tow Path

In accordance with its commitment to work with stakeholders during the preparation and implementation of the Tow Path Tree and Vegetation Management Plan, the Port of

London Authority is proposing to undertake the following works during winter and spring 2009/10:

- Completing the few remaining urgent tree works not undertaken, due to the presence of nesting birds earlier this year.
- Limited works to remove trees and other vegetation that are in poor condition from the most damaged areas of revetment wall.
- Tree replanting programme which we hope will be funded jointly with local groups.

The detailed programme covering these three elements will be prepared by Bartlett Consulting in consultation with the PLA and should be finalised by the autumn.

It is very much hoped that those local groups which pledged financial support for the programme of tree planting, prepared by Bartlett Consulting, will work with the PLA and the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to maximise opportunities for sustainable replanting on the towpath.

If you see something that you think needs attention then please get in touch with us.

3. Barnes Vision

Since September last year, Barnes Vision has been working closely with the council to draw up draft plans for a new pavilion, renovation of the tennis courts and improved pitch drainage and layout. In parallel, the team has been liaising with potential funding bodies to maximise grant funding for this very exciting project. Barnes Vision will be on the BCA stand with news of the latest plans for Barn Elms Playing Fields. Come and see what's proposed for your local playing fields.

Retail Champion Sue Nichols will be exhibiting her ideas for the shopping areas in Barnes, an exciting BCA and Council initiative.

The Environment group, Barnes Vision and Retail Champion all need your input and ideas. Barnes is a super place to live in – let's keep it that way! See you there!

Susan Boyd, Chairman



Pond matters

Russell Greaves, our Commonkeeper talks to a group of young Harrodian School pupils about the pond and its ecology. The Harrodian School has taken on co-partnership with the BCA and Richmond Council in paying a grant towards the maintenance of the pond – and Russell.

Barnes Bridge closure dates

We are advised that engineering works will affect South West Trains through Barnes Bridge Station the weekends of 25-27 July and 1-3 August. Check for bus replacement and route diversions before travelling.

Barnes Bridge footbridge will be closed 18 May-5 July and 24 August-4 September. A white minibus service will run half-hourly between Elm Bank Gardens and where the footpath joins the roadway on the north side of the river.

CPZs merge at last

As *Prospect* goes to press, we are told that final installation of the merged 2-hour controlled parking zones will be taking place in "June/July". This merging affects only the original zones B1, CB1 and CB2 (not CB or B, which have day-long restrictions) but there are a number of small changes to parking regulations elsewhere.

Wherever you are thinking of leaving your car, double-check the new notices!

BCA Spring Tour 2009

It was during the BCA tour to Austria last May that members expressed the wish to visit Provence as our venture for 2009 but did not relish a two-day coach journey. I therefore researched a tour which left London by Eurostar and spent seven days gliding along the scenic Saône and Rhône rivers, passing some of the most beautiful vistas of the region and included a culture curriculum of lectures and guided tours to UNESCO World Heritage sites. This was quite a change from our traditional May BCA tour but did fit the requested conditions. However, despite a low take-up after the advanced mailing of all details and a piece in *Prospect*, a small group did book and the experience of the Eurostar first class lounge at St Pancras and the excellent breakfast served whilst we sped to Paris were real luxury. The remainder of the journey was a little downhill but we survived and were welcomed on the 'Viking Burgundy', our home for the rest of the week. The regional cuisine was excellent, thanks to the head chef, and the many wine tasting excursions made for convivial companionship. We trod the cobbled streets of Arles and drank

in the history of Avignon the 'City of Popes'. On returning to our home on the river we relaxed on the sundeck with a little liquid libation. It was an ideal way of absorbing the delights of Provence without the hassle of road travel. However everything must come to an end and we left the ship mid-morning for our train to Paris, where we had a tour through the city before the transfer to Eurostar for first class service and a smooth journey home.

I am hoping to go on a trip in September, organised by the Rhône-Alpes Tourist Board and Rail Europe, to appraise a tour for May 2010. If I think it would be suitable all members on the



The famous bridge at Avignon

BCA holiday mailing list will receive a priority booking notification as normal. It will also be noted in *Prospect*. If you wish to go on the mailing list please notify Rose House or, likewise, if you no longer wish to receive details.

Rita Robinson

Barnes Ball donates to Home-Start Richmond



Home-Start Richmond has benefited to the tune of £11,500 from the proceeds of the Barnes Charity Ball 2009. Offering family support through volunteers across the borough, Home-Start is using this donation to increase its activity in Barnes and provide support to many more families. Picture shows Martina Philips, Home-Start Richmond Manager, receiving the cheque from Revd Ross Collins, Rector of St Mary's Barnes (right) and Andrew Summers, Chairman of the Friends of St Mary's Barnes who organised the Ball.

Cheque book cheats in Barnes.... AGAIN

A BCA member reported to his bank that a cheque book he was expecting had not arrived. It had, in fact, been stolen in transit and three cheques amounting to more than £1,000 submitted to his bank in a stranger's name. Having been warned, the bank was able to stop payment.

We reiterate our previous warnings. If you are expecting a cheque book and it doesn't arrive, always report it to your bank. Also, be sure that all cheques in a new cheque book are in sequence and none is missing.

Barnes – village to suburb

If you are interested in tracing the pattern of the village within the suburb which engulfed it, join Margaret Sharp on a two-mile walk around the village and nearby parts of the Common on Sunday afternoon July 19th. She is not a local historian and relies on the publications of our own local history society for her facts, but Margaret has always been interested in relating what she reads with what she can still see around her.

The walk will set off at 3pm from Rose House. This will be open from 2.30pm for walkers to study in advance the maps which illustrate so graphically the development of Barnes in the last two and a half centuries.

Browsing the BCA....

The BCA website has developed considerably over the past year or so, and plans are afoot for more expansion and improvement over the coming months. We aim to include online small ads as well as offering a service whereby small local businesses would be able to have their own, low-cost web pages. The long-awaited photo gallery should be in place soon, plus several new sections covering BCA activities and items of local interest.

Visit the website at www.barnesvillage.org.uk; any comments or suggestions can be emailed to webmaster@barnesvillage.org.uk.



Elderly local residents have, during this term, been talking to children at Lowther School about growing up in WW2. At the end – of course – they enjoyed a 'Street' Party.

'Helping poor farmers to double their income'

IDE-UK is a Barnes-based registered charity that raises funds to help poor farming families in Africa and Asia escape from poverty by doubling their income. IDE's mission is to confront the challenge of rural poverty by developing products and market systems that enable poor women and men to access and control water, increase production, create wealth, and improve the quality of life for their families. In countries regularly affected by drought, the ability to irrigate land

efficiently can mean the difference between poverty and the chance to earn a living from successful yields of high value crops.

IDE has developed innovative, low cost treadle pump and irrigation equipment which farmers can afford to buy for themselves to increase their crop yields dramatically. Visit www.ide-uk.org for more information about the valuable work that IDE-UK does and to see how you might contribute to their efforts.



The Barnes Police Liaison Group

invites you to attend a public meeting on

Thursday 9th July at 7.00pm
at The Old Sorting Office, Barnes Green
(behind ASK Restaurant)

This is your opportunity to meet your local police team, the officers who actually patrol your streets, and raise any matters about crime, anti-social behaviour and any other matters which concern you and your neighbours.

Find out what is really happening in the area – is burglary rising? What can you do to keep your home safe? What is being done about graffiti and anti-social behaviour? Whom do you call if there is a noisy party? Are people allowed to light barbecues on the Common?

You, the resident, have the right to help determine what your local Safer Neighbourhood Team should concentrate on, and your priorities for the coming months will be decided at this meeting.

It is only an hour of your time, but what will be discussed and decided could make such a difference to this area this summer, to keep it sunny and safe.

For more information, please contact Sgt Will Jack on 0208 721 2007

Party on Chiswick Pier Sunday 26th July 2009

Join the 'Party on and off the Pier' on Sunday 26th July. Enjoy FREE 30-minute boat trips sponsored by Chiswick Pier Trust and Fullers aboard *Princess Freda* – a 'Dunkirk Little Ship'. Also on the river, why not try a canoe taster session with the Canoe Club?

Meanwhile, back at the Pier House a wood specialist will be making reproductions of ancient woodwork, archaeological artists will help children make foreshore inspired art for them to keep, and the Foreshore Recording and Observation Group will be working on the archaeology at Chiswick with an information stall with images and finds from the project.

Adults and children alike will be delighted to know that Punch & Judy will be back and, for the younger ones, a bouncy castle – kindly sponsored by Sworn & Co.

Browse a great selection of stalls, have a bite to eat from the BBQ, a drink from the Fullers bar or tea, cakes and ice cream. Relax and soak up the atmosphere by the river whilst listening to the ever-popular band – *Shenanigans*.

The fun starts at 12.30 and the Mayor of Hounslow will be arriving by river on board the Harbour Master's launch at 1.00pm.

Don't miss this fun family day – put the date in your diary now!

For up to the minute information check on www.chiswickpier.org.uk



The Princess Freda

Second start for a new Shene Academy No trust in Edutrast

Richmond Council has been consulting widely in order to choose a new sponsor to make Shene School an Academy. It is vital that Shene should be reborn as the local secondary school of choice for local people: at present only 10% of the pupils come from our borough. The much-respected Headteacher, Lesley Kirby, is already improving the standing of the school, but the task remains huge.

Although the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) had cleared the original sponsor Edutrast (on a matter unrelated to education in our borough), the Council felt that full parental trust could not be regained.

With choosing a new sponsor this summer, it is still the aim to reopen the school as an Academy in September 2010.

Katie Gent

Historic Hammersmith Bridge

Many people crossing Hammersmith Bridge have been puzzled by the coats of arms which decorate its pillars. In the past local people thought that the bridge was originally intended for Canada and the coats of arms were French-Canadian. In fact, according to Suzanne Ebel and Doreen Impey, authors of *London's Riverside*, (published 1975) around the Royal Arms there are the arms of the former Metropolitan Board of Works for London, the City of Westminster, City of London and of Middlesex, Essex, Kent and Guildford!

Sadly when the bridge was last painted these armorial delights were obscured. When the bridge is due to be painted again it would be good to see it restored to the colourful state that was intended when the Bridge was designed.

Sally Holloway



Artist's impression of the arms as they were before being painted over (see below)



Elizabethan Bowls

see it and try out your skills at Barnes Fair

The annual Barnes Fair is this year extending its full welcome to the Barnes Bowling Club, which nestles quietly behind a three-hundred-year-old wall at the rear of The Sun Inn. A peek over the stable door any warm afternoon will reveal an oasis of history being played out on a bowling green that was formerly situated on the Common near the pond and relocated to its present site over two hundred years ago. Association bowls this is not. It harks back to the days when communities developed their own peculiar version of the world's oldest game and, whilst the rules of the English Bowling Association have been largely adopted throughout the country, a few clubs remain uniquely different. The Barnes Bowling Club is one of these.

Unlike Crown Green Bowls, traditionally played in the midlands and north, the Club plays a game familiarly known as Elizabethan Bowls. Elizabethan Bowls has similarities to the modern game but the green is smaller and much more undulating. Woods are delivered from corner to corner and are heavily biased, resulting in sometimes spectacular curving trajectories towards the jack. You will realise when watching a game in progress how the skill in delivery lies in taking advantage of the individual contours of the ancient green.

The Club is one of only two remaining venues left in England where Elizabethan Bowls is still played. Terry Humphrey, the club captain and an aficionado of local history, has a reasonably substantiated belief that Sir Francis Drake played bowls in Barnes with his friend and confidant the Earl of Walsingham, who lived nearby at Barn Elms and was known to be a keen bowler. What is without question is that this game would be very similar to the game that Drake enjoyed.

Terry told us "We have great plans to upgrade the green and the club facilities and this initiative is our attempt to make the club more amenable to the local community. With this in mind, on Barnes Fair Day we are having an open day at the club for visitors with interest in joining us and enjoying this little piece of history. It will be a chance for you to try out your skills encouraged and supported by club members. So this is an open invitation to come along and meet us on Barnes Fair Day".

A final comment from Terry: "This club is special and is part of the history of our community, one of the few examples of tradition in a fast-changing world. You will find us approachable, good company, and what better way to spend an afternoon with a glass of your preferred tittle. We look forward to meeting you".

www.barnesbowling.org



Barnes Music Society Concert Season 2009/10

Barnes Music has prepared a hugely enjoyable series of concerts for Barnes residents and their

friends beginning on Wednesday 30th September with the concert pianist Sam Hayward performing at the Methodist Hall on Barnes Green. He will be performing four Schubert Impromptus, followed by some magical pieces by Julian Isserlis (father of the senior vice-president of Barnes Music and grandfather of the cellist Steven Isserlis) and concluding with a Chopin Ballade, Scherzo, Nocturne and Polonaise.

There are eight concerts in the 2009/10 season which includes the world famous British composer, Howard Blake, the creator of *The*

Snowman music, talking about his life and performing his own works with violinist, Madeleine Mitchell. Other artists appearing range from the Divertimenti String Quintet playing Schubert to the supremely gifted performers from the Centre for Young Musicians playing Haydn, Mozart and Sibelius.

Season tickets are available to *Prospect* readers offering great value, details from the Admin. Secretary, tel 020 8876 1563. Barnes Music will have its usual stall at Barnes Fair on Saturday, 11th July. Visitors are welcome throughout the day during which a discount ticket offer will be available.

Full details are on: www.barnesmusicsociety.org.uk

Look out for more articles in future issues of *Prospect*.

Edward Clark, Chairman



Pianist Sam Hayward will be performing on 30th September

Open air Thanksgiving Service in graveyard on Barnes Common

The Rev Ross Collins from St. Mary's Church Barnes led a wonderful service on Saturday 16th May in this hitherto overgrown cemetery, a memorial to many of Barnes's former residents.

As an act of 'Thanks' to the Friends of Barnes Common and Richmond Council, who have recently carried out extensive clearance work, some seventy people and a great number of dogs collected on a dubious May morning at the grave of Ebenezer Cobb Morley, who died at the age of 93 in 1924. He lived in The Terrace at Barnes where he conceived the plans and wrote the first rules for the Football Association.

Alyson Rudd, the journalist who has become a champion for this unheralded man, related his story – and confirmed the fact that football transcends all nations and barriers and is perhaps worldwide the most played sport. She hopes for better recognition of Morley in the future and that the FA will display the painting they have of him at their headquarters. As the



nearest club to Barnes and indeed the oldest club in the league, Fulham FC was represented by David Hamilton. The 'stop' at Morley's grave concluded with the singing of *Abide with me*, led by Alison Hunka and members of the choir of All Saints on nearby Putney Common.

A procession led by Rev Collins then walked past some of the war graves to the Hedgman

family tomb – possibly the largest in the grave yard. James Hedgman died in 1877 and left an endowment that until recent years provided shoes and football boots for the children of the former Westfield's primary school. Here Maisie Brown, Barnes Historian, spoke of those buried nearby. These include the Victorian landscape painter Edward Williams, his wife and two sons, who were also Barnes residents and artists in their own right. Notably, the three young children of The Rev John Ellerton, a former vicar of St. Mary's, who all died within a few months of each other – the eldest aged five – are also buried here. The words to the closing hymn, *The day that thou gavest, Lord, is ended*, were written by John Ellerton.

A true act of Thanksgiving for a marvellous job done that allows the local community to enjoy the intense peace that exists now under the canopies of many trees in this nature reserve.
Susan Adams
on behalf of St. Mary's Parish Church Barnes



Barnes Literary Society

'Wonderful, Intelligent and Cultured People'

In the five years since it was founded BLS has become a popular focus for literary events in Barnes. The society has made quite a name for itself, as is evident from its large membership and well-attended events, and has attracted excellent speakers. Meeting the writer after an event is always popular and a recent speaker referred to the pleasure of meeting 'wonderful, intelligent and cultured people' at the Barnes Literary Society – quite an accolade.

Next year's programme promises a variety of speakers and topics. To start the season BLS is delighted to welcome Lord Patten of Barnes to speak on the hot topic of 'Surviving the Twenty-First Century'. This will be followed by playwright Ronald Harwood on 'Writing for Stage and Screen'. 2010 will open with an evening on 'Scarlet Women' with historical biographers Kate Williams, Alison Weir and Tracy Borman, who will reveal the secrets of mistresses in history. Spring events will include award-winning novelist Lee Langley, leading art critic Andrew Graham-Dixon, and an evening on Charles Dickens with local writer and Dickens expert, Professor Jenny Hartley. If this has whetted your appetite view our website www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk for further details about BLS, or ring 020 8748 2558 to be included in our September mailing.

Felipe Browne



Felipe Browne is a renowned pianist from Chile. He has performed across many continents and in most of the major European cities, including London's Wigmore Hall and St John's, Smith Square. He has also performed on two occasions with the European Union Chamber Orchestra, with the University Orchestra of Cuyo in Argentina, with the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Teatro Municipal, with the Andes University Chamber Orchestra and with the Symphonic Orchestra of Concepcion.

Browne began his piano lessons in Santiago. In 1984 he was warmly praised by Claudio Arrau following a performance at the Teatro Municipal in Santiago. In 1988, after graduating as a concert pianist from the Catholic University, he was invited by Arie Vardi to study in Israel. Following Professor Vardi's advice, Browne moved to London in the early 1990s to continue his studies with Peter Feuchtwanger for three years. He returned to Chile to teach piano at the *Instituto de Música de Santiago Chile* and in 1998 returned to London sponsored by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2007 he opened the 'Circle of Grand Pianists' cycle of great pianists at the Teatro Municipal of Santiago de Chile, and in October 2008 played again for this cycle.

Felipe Browne has offered to do two recitals this July at **St. Mary's Church, Barnes.**

- **Wednesday July 15th, 7:30pm** – In support of St Osmund's Catholic Primary School
- **Monday July 20th, 7:30pm** – In support of St Vincent de Paul Society

Tickets: £12 per person, includes drinks and canapés in the interval

Send cheque payable to 'St Mary's Barnes' to St. Mary's Church, Barnes SW13 9HL or Contact Isabel Boyle on 07810 257172 or 020 8239 7245

FiSH escort and driver volunteers



FiSH would like to recruit more people who could help out with escorting outings on the FiSH minibus, particularly shopping trips.

A more crucial need is for additional drivers who would be willing to use their own car to take clients to local appointments and errands.

Expenses can be reclaimed from FiSH if required.

Please contact the FiSH office (8876 3335) if you think you can help with these vital services and other volunteering opportunities.

Readers' letters

Dear Editor

Regarding Katie Gent's article 'No news is bad news' (June Prospect)

Since it is all too obvious that TfL is not intending to do anything in the near future regarding Hammersmith Lower Bus Station, would it not be a good idea to push for the simplest change? – that is to request and insist that at the very least, buses 72 and 283 stop at the top level in both directions. This in the short term would be paramount in helping both the elderly and disabled to have a less stressful return to Barnes.

Yours sincerely

A. Mendes da Costa

Dear Editor

I'm just writing to say how disappointed I am at the attitude and lack of respect some of the community seem to have for the pond and its wildlife.

After walking by the pond this morning I watched three screaming children chasing and throwing stones at the birds, as well as running into the reed bed which has been cornered off for nesting. This behaviour I would find deplorable at any time of year but now especially so when most birds have young.

I went to have a chat with the mum/au pair responsible for the children and was told that so long as they didn't get wet she didn't care what they did to the birds. I was shocked that anyone could be so complacent about cruelty.

At 24 and without kids I'm in no position to comment on parenting, nor would that be my intention. All I want is for the birds to be able to nest without being chased and stoned by a mob of 8-year-olds.

Please can anyone who enjoys the pond make sure your children don't hurt or scare the birds. I'm sure I'm not the only one who finds it really upsetting.

Kind regards

Amy Wood

Dear Editor

Three generations of my family play tennis all year round at Rocks Lane, so I was very dismayed by the unbalanced tone of the reporting on Rocks Lane Tennis Club ('Environment Group Report', page 2, May). I note your disclaimer on p12, but your report with its talk of closer monitoring to 'ensure provision locally' gave the very misleading impression that the tennis club and the community are somehow at odds.

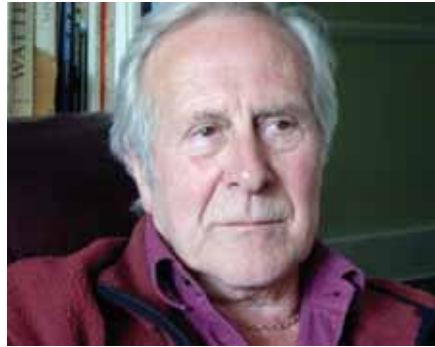
I'm certain that the literally hundreds of local families and people of all ages who use the club (for sport, for children's birthday parties, for the fantastic new playground) would agree that Liz and the team at Rocks Lane deserve a medal for all of the hard work that they do, week-in and week-out. This contributes greatly to the community in many ways, and is actually really *smartening up* that corner of Barn Elms. This is in stark contrast to the Local Authority neglect of the former recycling facilities and the old cemetery car park next door, which remains an eyesore, as do the poorly maintained courts on Queen Elizabeth Walk.

Discussions about the environment should also include questions of sustainability and health; such things are inextricably linked. Perhaps instead of carping at people who are providing a very valuable community resource, the Environment Group and BCA could look at excessive traffic. A campaign to minimize the use of 'Chelsea tractors' for journeys of less than one mile might be very effective in tidying up the club's parking facilities, and would also promote the healthier alternative of walking. The 'warm-up' thus provided would doubtless improve many a young footballer's game!

Yours sincerely,

A.L.White

The Camargue: portrait of a wilderness



The Camargue is that strange place in the South of France where the mighty Rhône disperses into the Mediterranean through a delta of lakes, marshlands and scattered farms. Edwin Mullins' latest book explores the area, famous for its semi-wild white horses; its black bulls with their upward-pointing, lyre-shaped horns, reminiscent

of the bulls of ancient Crete; and its flocks of red flamingos 'dotted in their thousands across the sheets of water at sunset, like brushstrokes of scarlet paint'. Edwin takes a painterly view, hardly surprising for one who was art correspondent for the *Sunday Telegraph* for many years.

Edwin Mullins divides his life between his home in Barnes and a house in the Vaucluse near Avignon. After a long career as a journalist, broadcaster, writer and film maker he has concentrated more recently on a series of books about France. The first three were: *In Search of Cluny*, about the celebrated mediaeval Benedictine monastery near Mâcon, *Avignon of the Popes* and *The Pilgrimage to Santiago*. He is a long-standing Francophile and first discovered the Camargue as a student in the 1950s at a time when you could still take a tent and ask a farmer "Can I camp here?" At the book launch at the Barnes Bookshop, Edwin was wearing a bright red cotton shirt patterned with typical tiny Provençal motifs, a nice homage to the traditional garb of the Camargue *gardian* (cowboy) who totes, not a lasso and six-shooter, but a long slender trident with which to herd the bulls. On special occasions, the *gardians*, mounted on their white horses and wearing black velvet jackets lined in red silk, pale moleskin trousers with dark piping and black broad-brimmed hats, make romantic figures.

I asked him "What's the best time to go to the Camargue?" "You should not go there when the tamarisk trees are in flower because that is when the biting beasties, the *arabies*, are around – what the Americans call *no-see-ums*". These are persistent little midges which swarm around in the season and are difficult to repel compared with the larger, more individualistic mosquito. However, as with the Scottish Highlands, they need not deter the enthusiastic tourist.

Edwin Mullins loved birdwatching on the Norfolk and Suffolk coastal marshes as a boy and he spotted the first avocet returning to breed in England after many years' absence. The avocet is the distinctively-patterned black and white wader with a long up-curved beak which the RSPB has adopted as its emblem. Edwin was already a life member of the Norfolk Naturalist Trust at the age of thirteen! He is a great admirer of the Barnes Wetlands, "a marvellous replication of marshes, including the Camargue".

Edwin Mullins also loves history and art. He is fascinated by "the beginnings of things", like Romanesque architecture. The Camargue area has strong links with France's historic past: as the granary for the Roman colony *Provincia* at the time of Julius Caesar, as the starting point for Crusades to the Holy Land and the St James's Way pilgrimage and as a scene of the brutal suppression of the Cathar heretics in mediaeval times. Without being a practising Christian himself, Edwin appreciates Christian culture, believing in "the transcendental quality of faith and whatever sparks the human imagination". These books give him an ideal opportunity to do what he likes best, to come at things as a journalist, to be comprehensible and to communicate his wonder and make people want to see.

John Greenwood

(*The Camargue: Portrait of a Wilderness*, Signal Books, Oxford, paperback, £12.99, available from Barnes Bookshop)

What do the summer months hold in store?



The London Wetland Centre is abundant with colour during the summer months, making it a perfect time for a stroll through the 105-acre site. Meanwhile, bird highlights over

the past month include little ringed plover, teal, pochard, gadwell, green sandpiper and lesser whitethroat.

On 4th June the Love London Recycled Sculpture Show was launched. There are now over thirty sculptures placed around the site made from reused and discarded materials. From frogs made from recycled mobile phones to a tall heron made from shopping trolleys, there is a sculpture for everyone to enjoy.

The popular Big Batty Walks start again from 16th July and run through the end of September. Visitors can book onto a late night walk and spot bats flying about the night sky. The Centre is an excellent site for bat watching, with nine species recorded on the reserve. Tickets must be pre booked and cost £10 per person. Start times vary with the sunset.

Summer school holidays activities are running from 18th July – 6th September this year. Children, and the young at heart, can get back to nature and discover their creative side with clay modelling and safari activities

over the holidays. They can sculpt a clay creature, join a safari walk or try their skills as a wildlife photographer – don't miss the holiday fun at London Wetland Centre. Please see the website for a full timetable.

The first 'Flavours of the World' on Thursday night 2nd July will feature Portuguese cuisine, followed by a different theme each Thursday evening throughout the summer. Let someone else do the cooking and enjoy the long summer nights overlooking the wetlands with friends. The Centre will be open for visitors until 9pm every Thursday night during July and August. Booking is not necessary. Nicole Snowden



Keep an eye out for the wonderful bee orchids, often seen in the wilder parts of the site, although this one was in the car park. (Photo by John Day)

Shop locally



There are mainly volume brands at **Wine Rack**, 125 Church Road (tel 020 8748 3910) as you would expect with a vast national chain. However, most are well-chosen, good quality and at the three-for-two deal, competitively priced.

Moncaro, Verdicchio dei Castelli di Jesi DOC Classico, 2008, £7.99, 3for2 @£5.33

Italian whites are enjoying a revival due to their easy-drinking nature and variety of styles, usually with light alcohol and zingy freshness. This bone dry, fresh, lightly lemon-scented grape of the Marche region is excellent with picnic food.

Ken Forrester, Chenin Blanc, 2008, £6.99, 3for2 @£4.66

The Old-Master of the Western Cape has long been known for his top quality Chenin, ('Steen' in South Africa). Everyone loves the light honey and blossom aromas leading to a full, appley palate and clean yet rounded finish. Brilliant value at the offer price – perfect, highly credible, wedding wine.

La Riada, "Old vines" Garnacha, Campo de Borja DO, 2007, £7.49, 3for2 @£4.99

Wines made from Garnacha (aka Grenache) are coming onto the radar as a single varietal for those who love strong yet unjammy reds. This underrated region near Rioja produces excellent value examples. With a red cherry nose, warm dusty palate underpinned by creamy, vanilla oak and a crisp, brambly fruit finish, this is a great match for chargrilled meat at the weekend barbie.

Camden Park, Bonarda/Shiraz, 2008, £7.99, 3for2 @£5.33

Most people are unaware of the wide variety of grapes grown in Argentina, including numerous Italian ones such as the light, fragrant Bonarda. Here, blended with ever popular Shiraz, we have a spicy red with sweet blackberry jam and mocha flavours, a soft structure and a juicy, berry finish. A great party red that you could also lightly chill at lunchtime.

Having covered all the wine shops in Barnes, this is the last in the Shop Locally series. Thank you for reading. Please keep trying new bottles and carry on supporting the retailers of Barnes. Hasta luego. *Vino Loco*

Prices and stock correct at time of going to press. Vintages may change. Please drink responsibly. www.drinkaware.co.uk. Any comments to thethirstybird@gmail.com. Find me at www.thirstybird.blogspot.com

FiSH Tuesday Talks



**Barnes Green Centre
at 11am**

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

- 7th July** Alan Read: *The Elgin Marbles*
- 14th July** Pat Ealey: *Palmer's the Chemist – Renovation of a Victorian chemist shop*
- 21st July** Katie Gibson: *William Morris and the Arts & Crafts movement*
- 28th July** Coffee concert: *Enjoy your morning coffee accompanied by musical entertainment*

Down on the allotment



I love young, sweet broad beans. No more than half an inch long, lightly cooked in olive oil and butter with bits of pancetta. The trouble is, so do black fly – not the beans but the whole plant.

They start with the succulent new top shoots and rapidly multiply to share the feast until they have smothered leaves and stems in a soft layer of quietly gorging insects, eventually

destroying the plant. Autumn sowings are a possible way to beat them but only three of mine survived last winter and I had to put in a new lot in the spring. Now they are infested. Washing the bugs off with soapy water or hosing them down doesn't work. This year I had had enough and, breaking with my organic principles, sprayed them with a systemic insecticide. The label says you can pick twenty-four hours later but it is dangerous to bees.

"Your beans look good", says a passing allotmenteer. "How do you manage the black fly?" I evade the question in Peter Mandelson style, smiling, making direct eye contact. "Yes, they're really bad this year, aren't they?" and adding slyly, "What have you done with yours? Do you spray them?" "Oh no, I wouldn't want to risk that with them", pointing to her two daughters, skipping around her. It is one of those passing exchanges and fortunately they walk on. I don't have to confess.

I did not feel proud of my fly-free rows – I have choice but the bees don't and I probably wouldn't do it again. I wonder how other people deal with this dilemma?

Jack

Vocal group return to St Mary's

LYRA, the vocal group from St Petersburg, are planning to make a welcome return to St Mary's, Barnes following their highly successful concert here in 2007.

They expect to be here during the weekend of September 11th/13th – so please watch out for further information in the coming weeks.

The Friends of St. Mary's

Hérons beware



Hérons are lovely birds, a joy to watch, but they do eat ducklings at the Pond and baby avocets at the Wetland Centre.

Most unusually, in May a heron who made the mistake of stalking on the Island was killed by a Canada goose. It is not clear whether she was defending actual or putative goslings. Our part-time Commonkeeper, Russell Greaves, went over to the island and brought back the heron corpse.

As I have said elsewhere, those who live by the beak may die by the beak.

Katie Gent

Fox booty

Returning from the BCA tour to Provence I was greeted with the sight of garden flower beds destroyed by a lively family of five fox cubs with bedding plants scattered everywhere, but they left me 'presents' (see below) – ten odd shoes including three large expensive men's trainers and a pair of children's shoes, a baby's trainer, four balls, and a cap. A plimsoll was buried in a hole dug ready for a fruit tree to be planted. In the past I have found half a chicken carcass, a large doggy bone and a cushion from my conservatory!!!

Do I think fox cubs are cute – do I H*** – anyone missing a shoe?

Rita Robinson



Dangerous bus stops

Standing, almost in the road, waiting for a northerly or southerly bus beside Barnes Station has long been dreary and dangerous. Many young students, and others not so young, also charge across the road in order to change from train to bus or vice versa. Away from the brow of the bridge, visibility north or south is restricted, and such pavements as there are are dangerously narrow.

We all need a safer and more pleasant public transport interchange, and Transport for London (TfL) is making money available for this in the current financial year. This must be good news.

However, if the bus stops are moved too far from the current setup, then another perceived problem could arise, with fear of crime making people feel unsafe in what they see as isolation.

We were consulted about the principles of the redesign a couple of years ago – we now await some very important details.

Katie Gent

FiSH stall at Barnes Fair: main fundraising event of the year

FiSH would welcome donations of any of the following for the FiSH stall:

- **Home made provisions** – jam, marmalade, cakes etc
- **Plants and garden items**
- **Vintage and Retro Year!** – Jewellery, vinyl discs, small bric-a-brac and clothing from 1950s to 1970s.

Items for the stall can be left at the FiSH office at Barnes Green, 9am – midday