



Prospect

May 2007

Price when sold £1

A new member of our team



For some time the editorial team of *Prospect* has wondered whether we could have more news of specific interest to our younger readers. The answer has come!

We now welcome Rachel Rickard Straus to our group. She has lived with her family in Barnes for 13 years and was educated at Lady Margaret School. Rachel graduated in English Literature from York University last summer and promptly set off on her solo travels around Southern and East Africa. When asked how many countries she has visited she said "the same number as my age plus a spare – so 23 – starting with two visits to the USA before I was six months old." Her main interests are diving, writing, theatre and tea.

Already she has impressed us with her enthusiasm, intuitive skills and her plans for a series of reports on events which might interest younger readers or their parents, (particularly) in this area. The first, a feature on the Players on the Pond Drama group, appeared in our April edition. In the next few months she will be exploring youth clubs in Barnes.

Rachel will be starting on a journalism course at City University in September – we look forward to her reports!

Sally Holloway

Thinking **Green**.....

Excitement is growing among the organisers about this year's 'Think Green' Barnes Fair on **SATURDAY JULY 14TH, 9.30AM-5.30PM ON BARNES COMMON, BY THE POND.**

All 300 stalls have already been snapped up.

We are aiming to make the Grand Parade even bigger this year, with new, environmentally conscious floats, following the 'Think Green' theme, by inviting new organisations to join us in the Float Competition. The winner of this will be awarded the new Harrodian Shield, kindly donated by the Harrodian School. Among the marching contingent will be birds and animals from the Wetland Centre – some observers may notice a distinct resemblance to the characters in last year's Wetland Pantomime! This group will be wandering through the



Fair during the day so that children may chat to them. They are generously sponsored by *Savills*.

If your organisation has not taken part before, please contact the Parade organiser, Sarah Mulford via 8878 2359, who will give you advice on how to join in.

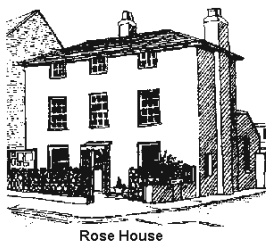
Sadly, but perfectly understandably, Diane du Parcq is not able to continue organising her popular BCA café. However we look forward to exciting new food outlets from some of our local restaurants: Sonny's, The Depot and L'Auberge at The Castelnau.

As always, we shall need volunteers to help us before and during Fair Day. Even if you can only spare an hour, all offers will be gratefully received by Liz Collison, 8563 2288.

Friend and Falcke are the principal sponsors of Barnes Fair



**B
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A**



Rose House

matters...

Executive Matters	p2
Le Pecq	p2
Environment Group News	p3
BCA Spring Fair	p3

Does this apply to you?

We don't want to nag, but... We have been asked to remind all members who have still not yet returned their **membership** forms and subscriptions to Rose House to do so immediately please, so that they can continue to be involved in BCA activities and to receive *Prospect* in 2007. We regret that otherwise this issue may be the last you see! If you have lost the form which was

enclosed in the February issue they are available from Rose House, or can be downloaded from www.barnesvillage.org.uk. You can now subscribe by standing order – just one form does it all with no further renewals required. For any queries please call Julia, 8878 2359, Mon-Fri, 9.30am to 12 noon.

We really don't want to lose you – all members are important to us.

News from the Executive

The Chairman began the April meeting by welcoming two visitors. **David Stott** (who had been nominated as Chairman of the BCA for the coming year) gave a very positive report to the committee on the progress of the Fair preparations. **Glynis Potter**, our book-keeper, attended to answer any queries on financial matters as we were considering the yearly accounts ahead of the AGM. Unfortunately, our treasurer was out of the country, but the officers had met with him ahead of the Executive Meeting to scrutinise the accounts, after which he had clarified a number of points with the auditor.

It was reported that all three primary schools were delighted with the timely donations of £300 each received as the result of our Christmas card sales:

- Lowther School has used the money to purchase library books.
- St Osmund's has added this money to the £500 that they received as a result of their help at the Jumble sale and purchased a library software package which the Headteacher feels will revolutionise the use of this important resource.
- Barnes Primary's share has been used to purchase materials for use in 'Solve a Problem week' in which they built models creating and evaluating the use of a

prototype to solve a problem; and also towards the cost of using architectural workshops relating to a number of historical and modern topics.

The school has sent us a copy of the Sports booklet which we helped fund (see April Prospect) and for which we receive an acknowledgement on the cover.

We also spent time considering improvements needed at Rose House, a small group of executive members having met earlier to discuss requirements. Updating the hall and its facilities was considered important, but the House Manager pointed out that the boiler and the storage sheds, which are leaking, need replacing. The outside of the house needs redecorating, not necessarily this year, but before too long. One member of the consultative group, supported by some others, proposed that we should research the possibility of a small extension off the kitchen area of the hall. Bob and Mike, having both independently consulted architects, reported that because of the building difficulties involved such an extension was neither viable nor cost effective. Executive therefore decided to replace the boiler and sheds this year and to improve the hall during summer 2008.

Bob Glover, BCA Chairman



Aide-mémoire

Just to remind you that we will be welcoming a group of walkers (and others) from Le Pecq for the weekend of the 18th, 19th and 20th May. If you would like to join in, particularly if you are able to offer accommodation, please get in touch as soon as possible with Mike Spillane, mhspillane@hotmail.com, or via the BCA office. John Greenwood, johngreenwood@blueyonder.co.uk, is planning some super walks for us all, probably along the Thames and also in the Box Hill area, and possibly a London walk. Of course there will also be opportunities to meet our French friends socially.

Don't forget that Mary Hodgson, 8878 7742, would like to hear from you if you are interested in spending the weekend of 23rd and 24th June painting outside in Le Pecq. Artists from the Le Pecq and Barnes areas will be exhibiting at the Salon des Arts at the OSO Arts Centre from 12th to 14th July.

We also expect that a party will make their now customary visit to Barnes Fair, 14th July, and again, if you are able to offer hospitality, please contact Mike.

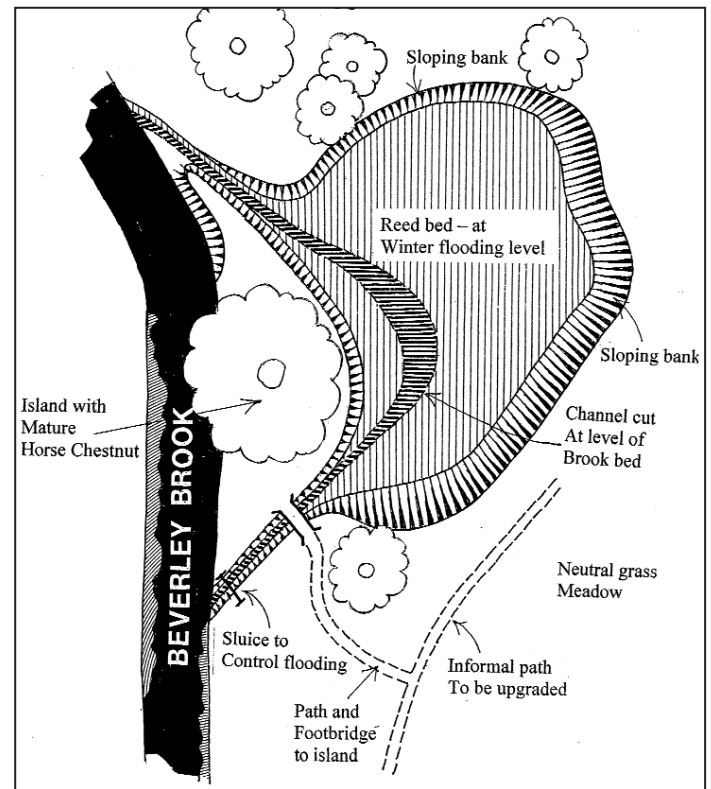
Gill Spillane

Friends of Barnes Common gain reed-bed approval

More than ten years after it was first mooted, The Friends of Barnes Common and Richmond Council have received consent from the Environment Agency to create a 400 square metre area of reed-bed on the Common adjacent to Beverley Brook, in the meadow behind Glebe Road.

This will add to the bio-diversity of Barnes Common as a Local Nature Reserve, help meet regional targets for this threatened habitat and will help wildlife in the Beverley Brook corridor between the Thames/Wetland area and Richmond Park. The proposal is fully funded under the EU SUN (Sustainable Urban Planning Networks for Green Spaces) scheme for conservation projects with local volunteer involvement. Planning consent is not required, so there will be no formal public consultation period, but FOBC is happy to discuss the proposal up to its AGM on May 17th. A set of plans is available in Rose House for anyone interested to see the proposals, which will involve mechanical diggers on the Common later this year. The area will need to be fenced off until it has become established, initially for safety, but then to prevent geese destroying the young reeds! The plan is to use some of the soil from the reed-bed site to provide a barrier along Mill Hill Road to prevent vehicles coming onto the Common and the rest to improve the bramble patch area within the woods north of Mill Hill Road.

Mike Hildesley, FoBC



The proposed reed-bed, opposite Laurel Road. It shows the banks sloping down to the reed-bed area, lowered to winter flooding level, and the channel that will take water from Beverley Brook during periods when the reed-bed needs to be flooded

Small Profits* are now better value

For decades the gardens beside the towpath opposite the Gerard Road junction, Small Profits Dock Gardens, have looked shabby and run down. A couple of years ago there was a possibility that they might be transformed by landscape gardeners, as part of the Thames Landscape Strategy Kew to Chelsea. However, local people and, in particular, the BCA Environment Group insisted on a more modest and appropriate refurbishment. In early April, work began on this refurbishment.

So what is the score now?

- Broken concrete fence posts removed ✓
- Roadside boundaries made good ✓
- New (large) trees by the roadside ✓
- New (smaller) trees at garden entrance ✓

Restored ground surface at garden entrance ✓
Middle path, between towpath and the roadside, resurfaced and extended ✓

New seating ✓

The main funding for this has come from Richmond Council, with all-party support. Additional funding came from The Strategic Walking Scheme and Natural England.

Congratulations to all involved.

Katie Gent

*The small profits alluded to in the name of these gardens are not thought to refer to any lack of viability of river trade; instead, there may have been a field of that name nearby.



The Gardens ready for the Boat Race – no point in planting grass before the crowds arrive

Come and buy

You will find a variety of stalls selling antique silver and jewellery, *objets d'art*, decorative mirrors, wall lights, etc. at the **BCA Spring Fair on Saturday 12th May** at Rose House, 70 High Street, Barnes.

If your Granny has left you just five silver dessert spoons or only three tea spoons, Marlene, who carries a huge choice of silver and Sheffield plate, will try to make up a set for you.

Or look out for Vanessa's huge selection of marmalade and jams, exotic chutneys and mustards, special oils and vinegars, all made to her own recipes. You can order a hamper to be filled with goodies.

Our Antiques and Collectors Fairs are held three times a year, always on Saturday. The Autumn Fair will be on 10th November and the Christmas Fair on 15th December. Do come along!



Save the Children

The Barnes Branch is looking for a new Secretary. The duties involved are not very onerous and the friendly committee has raised around £500,000 over the past 25 years for Save the Children's work at home and abroad.

A Wine Tasting is planned for May and a Literary Event in October.

If you are interested please call David on 8748 5951.

Environment Group News

Items discussed at the last Environment Group meeting included:

1 Dukes Meadows Bandstand: A music licence has been granted to run from 11am to 6pm on certain days. The first time we experienced this was on Boat Race Day.

2 10/12 Barnes High Street: Application 06/0857/FUL has gone to appeal and an informal hearing was to be heard at York House on 3rd April. It was hoped that residents of Stanton Road and the affected area would be able to have their say. The plans are for a five-storey block (two above the present building), increased loading and storage area, with 6/8 one-bedroom flats. We feel this building would be overbearing for this crowded area behind the shops, decrease off-street parking and be detrimental to the High Street.

3 Small Profits Dock Gardens: We are delighted with the gardens (see article and photo above). Seats are to be returned – particularly the seat dedicated to Timothy Baxter (Timo) who lived most of his life in Gerard Road. He was killed by 'druggies' while walking over Hungerford Bridge. His devastated parents, who no longer live in Barnes but often visit, dedicated this seat in his memory.

4 Parking: The Council will consult on the Barnes CPZs and other parking issues, including the problems of commuter parking at Small Profits Dock, hopefully by the end of April 2007. We hope everyone will take this opportunity to have their views taken into account.

During our discussions we noted the number of 'To let' signs in the High Street. Worried residents saw a sign in one of the

windows saying a sex shop was coming. This sign, which seems to have gone now, together with rumours and uncertainty as to what is going to happen to the areas behind the shops on BOTH sides of the High Street, all lead to great disquiet. We in the Environment Group will try and keep a watchful eye on proposals. We are aware that alterations will impact on ALL residents. The health of our local High Street is a vital component in the quality and cost of living in Barnes. We need all BCA members to keep in touch.

Next meetings:
Mondays 28th May and
25th June at 8pm in
Room 1, Rose House
Sue Boyd, Chairman



Horror at the HoRR

Crowds flock to the Boat Race between the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, but how many people know about the Head of the River Race, which also takes place around the same time of year? On that occasion there is much more to see as, instead of just two boats, 420 crews row over the boat race course, but from Mortlake to Putney.

This year the weather was sunny, but cold with a stiff wind. The race started but soon had to be abandoned as boat after boat got into difficulties on the bend by Small Profits Dock.



Getting into difficulties

Sporting success



Barnes Sharks, a team of local boys, sponsored by Marcus Carrigan Design, recently won the Friday Night Fives Aguero Spring League at Rocks Lane Sports Centre; Orlando was the second highest goal scorer for the season. Well done boys!

Back L-R: Sam Malone, Orlando Allen, Alexander Ross, James Candlish
Front L-R: Luke Carrigan, Ally Collins, Cameron Haughton, James O'Connor

Are you a former pupil of the Village Nursery?

Did you or your child attend the Village Nursery School in Station Road? The Nursery near the pond has played a crucial role in local children's education for decades and now the Fundraising Group needs your support as it plans a fabulous quiz night at Kitson Hall on **Saturday 30th June** at 7.30pm. Wine and cheese will be available and there will be a fantastic auction and disco! All are welcome and tickets are on sale at the school, 10-11.30am.

Sponsored walk

Local resident Rachel Bryant invites you to join a sponsored walk she is organising to raise much needed funds for the local charity **Home Start** (registered charity No. 1057829). Rachel, who is just 11 years old, has already recruited over seventy people to do the walk which will start from the Golf Course car park, Richmond Park at 10am on Saturday, 19th May. For details on how to improve your fitness **and** raise money for charity please send SAE to Rachel Bryant, Home Start Walk, 3 Scarth Road, Barnes, SW13 0ND. Tel: 8408 9002. For information on the charity go to www.home-start.org.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support

The Barnes Committee of Macmillan will hold its AGM at Rose House on Wednesday May 16th, 6.30pm. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The committee is always seeking voluntary help with its fundraising activities so anyone who would like to offer their services, or hear more about the Charity's activities, will be very welcome at the meeting.

Common clean-up

The Friends of Barnes Common would like to thank the fifty or so people who turned out for their annual Clean up the Common day, in particular the many eager helpers from Colet Court and St Mary's Scout Group. All the boys (and girls) had a great time getting as much litter off the common as possible and one scout now has a souvenir 'Slippery Surfaces if wet' sign adorning his bedroom wall. There were more than 330 drink cans and over 150 bottles! The rubbish bag count of about eighty (25% more than last year) was in addition to abandoned items such as a motor scooter, a mattress, a tent (with poles) and sacks of builders' rubble.

This is a great start for the 'Think Green' theme at Barnes Fair on 14th July.

Martin Conway, FoBC



THE FRIENDS OF
ST MARY'S BARNES
present

LYRA

VOCAL ENSEMBLE FROM ST
PETERSBURG

Traditional Russian Orthodox
Church music
and Russian folk songs

FRIDAY 18th MAY 2007 at 7.45 pm
ST MARY'S CHURCH BARNES

Tickets £12 (concessions £10)
office@stmarybarnes.org 020 8741 5422

LYRA is a group of professional musicians most of whom are students or postgraduates of the St. Petersburg Conservatoire. They represent different musical professions: conductors, opera singers, instrumentalists, music teachers. Since being established in 1994 they have toured widely in Russia, Europe and the USA.

The main aim of LYRA's activity is exploring and popularising Russian choral music, introducing the enormous musical heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church, as well as traditions of Russian folk music to all people who are interested in Russia, its history and culture. Their repertoire ranges from early Russian sacred music to works of little-known, but remarkable composers of the XVIII-XX centuries, as well as famous masters like Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Stravinsky.

More information on the ensemble can be found at their website www.lyra-online.org.

Shall we dance?

Top-class live jazz, superior cuisine and a host of exclusive prizes will all be on offer at **St Michael's Jazz Dinner Dance** at Kitson Hall on 12th May.

Since its inception in 1991, the Jazz Dance has built a reputation as one of the most keenly anticipated annual social events in Barnes and in recent years all proceeds have gone to the campaign to build the much-needed St Michael and All Angels' Community Centre in Elm Bank Gardens.

As reported in the March issue of *Prospect*, the Centre is up and running but funds are still urgently needed, and it is hoped that this year's dance will repeat its crucial fundraising role by breaking the £10,000 barrier.

Basil Moss and his Chicago Jazzmen will once again play their part in creating the unique party atmosphere for which the dance has become known, thanks to their polished and varied set, and, as well as a full three-course meal, there will be free bubbly, a raffle, a silent auction plus a well stocked bar.

As ever, demand for this black tie event is expected to be high. Tickets, priced £27.50 (£20 concessions), are available from The Chairman, St Michael's Dance Committee, 13 Cleveland Road, Barnes SW13 0AA, 020 8876 9035, bazmo@blueyonder.co.uk



Luxury bird-watching by appointment



Stuck for the perfect present to give a keen birder or want a birding course tailored to your requirements? Book your own personal birding trainer for a special session at the **London Wetland Centre** at £40 per hour (£30 Members). Call 020 8409 4400 for more information.

New arrivals at St Osmund's School



Whenever I drove past Campion House, the Jesuit seminary in Osterley, I used to admire the statues of the Holy Family until one day my husband and I noticed that a huge fence had been erected and that the property had apparently been closed and sold for redevelopment. My heart lurched for a second and then I saw Joseph's head just visible over the top of the high perimeter fence. My

husband suggested I tried to get the statues for the school.

Father Logan put me in touch with the Jesuits who, when I explained the situation, were more than delighted to give the Holy Family to a Catholic primary school. My delight was added to when I was asked if I would also like Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette. So I 'visited' the statues and met the site keeper to discuss the next move.

It was very exciting, measuring them and talking about how to care for them. This was not an exercise to be

undertaken lightly. The school had to demonstrate that they would be positioned suitably, cared for correctly and treated with reverence. Then a professional firm was commissioned to clean and relocate the statues.

They are already well established into our community. The marble gleams softly in the sunlight. Our Lady and Bernadette are serene, Mary, Jesus and

Joseph, though dressed in clothes associated with Biblical times, have a distinctly contemporary look to them.

Now that the weather is getting better we have begun planting around them and at 2pm on May 23rd a Mass will be held to bless and welcome them officially into our safe keeping.

Maria Walbyoff, Headteacher



Barnes Music Society



I know little about music but I know when I have heard something special. All the concerts put on by the Barnes Music Society this season have had something interesting about them, the musicians being specially chosen because they are in the early part of their careers.

Most recently we were treated to a varied programme

performed by Simon Wallfisch, cellist and tenor, and pianist Rhodri Clarke. The concert included works by Schumann, Liszt, Bach and Prokofiev, together with a short work by Christopher Mayo for voice and cello. The words for this were taken from three postcards and intermingled with responses on the cello: a perfect piece for Simon and which had the usually rather conservative audience alert in their seats and taking notice. These two young men perform together regularly – look out for them. Make sure, too, that you join the Barnes Music Society in good time for the autumn season. Information from www.barnesmusicsociety.org.uk.

Ann Tabak

Reader's letter

Dear *Prospect*

I was glad to read about the possibility of recycling polythene wrappers and bags in the March edition.

It reminded me that back in the 1970s one of the earliest activities of the newly formed BCA was the collection of newspapers for recycling. A few volunteers collected newspapers from interested households once a month, took them to Rose House where they were loaded onto a lorry for transport to a recycling facility. We have come a long way since then: now the council arranges a collection from the house every week!

Perhaps someone might take the initiative of organising the collection of polythene in the same way, for I doubt whether many of us, green though we are, will actually get around to posting off our polythene a kilo at a time. And who knows, it might be the start of something bigger – even regular doorstep collections by the council?

Yours faithfully

John Harris

Spoiled for choice



May brings many summer specials at the London Wetland Centre – choose early birding, identifying bird song or basic and advanced bird-watching skills, as well as the ever-popular evening bat walks (24th and 31st May) when, after a talk by an expert, you will head out to the wild reserve, complete with

bat detector, to see which species are swooping around. Times vary according to sunset.

On Sunday 6th May the gates of the London Wetland Centre will open at 4am for a chance to appreciate the reserve at its best as the dawn chorus begins, followed by a well-earned cooked breakfast. In the afternoon, for something slightly different, join Jonathan Elphick, eminent birder, naturalist and author, for insights into bird migration or for a guided walk through the reserve focusing on spring migrants.

Nikon is again sponsoring a weekend of photography talks and workshops (12th and 13th May) and, on the Sunday, there is an opportunity for the more (or less!) avid birders to form teams to compete for the most birds spotted. Persistence can outstrip expertise in this event, only having to give in to the odd sighting of a more unusual winged visitor.

Or how about exploring the world of reptiles and amphibians through guided trails, arts and crafts activities during the week beginning Saturday, 26th May?

Full details, including prices, of these and other events can be found in the events folder available at the Centre and from Rose House or visit www.wwt.org.uk. As ever, please book in advance.

Mary Evans



A Moorhen invades the fritillary meadow

FiSH Tuesday Talks



1st May, 1pm

Dr Linda Balazic: *Staying active the Chiropractic way*
Why not come to lunch first?

8th May, 11.15am

David Hall: *Introduction to Tai Chi*

15th May, 11am

Irene Judge & Pamela le Couteur:
A Guide's View of Kew

22nd May, 11am

Frances Ratchford: *The History of the RSA - What it does today*

29th May

No talk - Holiday Week

5th June, 11am

Michael Butler: *A trip to Machu Picchu*

All welcome. Talks take place at the Barnes Green Centre where coffee is available from 10.30am. Please note the time changes on 1st and 8th May. Why not book home cooked lunch? Call 8876 2377 in advance. Transport can be arranged if necessary, call 8876 3765.



Barnes Literary Society

Victoria Schofield: Writing Military History – 'Arms and the Man'

Thorough research is essential for any historical work, and military history demands particularly rigorous investigation. As a military historian, Victoria Schofield's books have been commended for their in-depth research, and her latest publication, *Wavell Soldier and Statesman*, a biography of one of Britain's great military leaders and Viceroy of India, has been described as 'an historical masterpiece'. Drawing upon unpublished letters and diaries, together with interviews with the last surviving generation, Victoria has produced a fascinating insight into World War Two and the origins of independent India and Pakistan.

Victoria has travelled widely, especially in South West Asia, and many of her books deal with India, Pakistan and the North West frontier, and its turbulent military history.

They include *Kashmir in Conflict* and *Afghan Frontier: feuding and fighting in Central Asia* - very topical subjects. She has also contributed to numerous newspapers and journals on South Asia with special emphasis on Indo-Pakistani relations. She is a frequent commentator on BBC News 24 and has also contributed to BBC World Service radio.

This event will be held on Wednesday 16th May at 8pm at the OSO by Barnes Pond. For membership details please see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk or contact 8748 2558.

National Gardens Scheme Open Days

'Higgledy-piggledy planting of trees, shrubs and perennials hides a softly structured garden design. Gentle colour schemes are planted for low maintenance throughout the seasons with special emphasis on attracting birds, bees and pond-life, all of which makes for a relaxed town space.'

This is the description of the garden at 11 Woodlands Road as it appears in the *Yellow Book*, the guide to gardens open through the National Gardens Scheme. You can visit on Sunday, 20th May from 12 noon to 6pm when the admission charge is £2 and 50p for children. Tea and home-made scones are served so visitors can linger a little longer to enjoy the garden.

Other Barnes gardens at 12 Westmoreland Road, 6 Cumberland Road, 8 Queens Ride (teas available) and 2 St Mary's Grove will open as a group on Sunday, 10th June, 2-6pm. Each garden costs £2 to visit, £1 concessions, children free, or a combined ticket is £6.

The National Gardens Scheme is a charity founded in 1927 which raises money by opening gardens to the public. It is hoped in this 80th birthday year to raise even more money than last year when London gardens alone contributed over £103,000 to the beneficiaries.



The garden in Woodlands Road

Police Surgeries

Sunday Police Surgeries will finish at the end of April. In future they will be held on alternate **Fridays** between 5pm and 7pm. Specific dates will be announced later but for more information call Julia at Rose House, 8878 2359 or Sgt Will Jack, 8721 2007.

Watch the birdie

In spite of a regularly replenished bird feeder and its attraction for many finches, dunnocks, robins and tits of various hues, I lamented that I had rarely seen a goldfinch in the garden. Until I discovered that these discerning little creatures love to feast on niger seed. A trip to the Wetlands Centre to buy a small, already filled, hanging dispenser ensured their arrival. Indeed so successful was this new neighbourhood goldfinch restaurant that we bought a 3-litre top up bag of the seed (from the same source) to keep up supply with demand. Always feeding in pairs, these decorative birds are not camera-shy and are a delight to watch.

Trudie Martin



A pair of goldfinches in a Barnes garden

Circle dancing for all

Simple folk dances from many countries, uplifting and joyous, meditative and calming, old and new. No experience or partner needed. Just wear comfortable clothes and soft shoes and come and enjoy yourself!

**Barnes Methodist Church Hall,
Station Road**

2nd, 16th and 23rd May

7.30 to 9.30pm

£4 per session

Light refreshments provided
More details from Liz, 8571 5451,
or Davina, 8876 5730



Saying '99' with flowers.....

Once upon a time when you went to see the doctor he would almost always peer down your throat and tell you to say ninety-nine. According to local legend, Dr Geoffrey Hovenden who drove round Barnes in a smart pony and trap, was no exception. But when he had a fine new house built in Church Road, opposite the surgery in his old house on the corner of Glebe Road, there was a slight problem. The numbering of houses and shops in that stretch of Church Road was somewhat higgledy-piggledy.

The Post Office politely asked (as they did in those far-off days!) what number he would like for his splendid new home. The answer was simple. In a flash the good doctor said "say 99". Dr Hovenden, his brother Dr Hovenden and his son Dr Hovenden, have long gone but the house number remains – 99.

This year, the wisteria on the front is particularly profuse and wonderful.
Sally Holloway (photo by Gill Spillane)

Heathrow fears grow



In early April, the *Sunday Times* published two articles about a Department of Transport study, designed to deal with inevitable problems if the Airport is allowed to grow.

Because an EU Directive comes into force in 2010, in effect outlawing the growing air pollution around Heathrow, **Project Heathrow** has looked at ways of lowering the figures.

'Draconian' ideas mooted include:

- A drop-off charge on drivers of private cars entering the airport to collect or deliver passengers. The study looked at a range from £2 to £20 per trip.
- A wider congestion charge around the airport, payable by residents, local non-airport traffic, and even, possibly, drivers on the M4! The plan looks at the effect of a £10 charge and reckons this could cut pollution by up to 75%.
- Putting the M4 into a tunnel as it passes Heathrow.

Starting from the premise that somehow the above problems have been resolved (!), executives at Heathrow have done 'extensive work' on how the airport could function with three runways. "The new strip would be used for both take-offs and landings, the central runway would be used for arrivals and the southerly one for departures," we are told.

I have to declare an interest here: planes approaching what is at present the northern runway fly right over my house. People like me in north and central Barnes could be looking at unremitting noise 365 days a year.

Katie Gent, Hacan committee member

Barnes & Sheen Painting Group

The Barnes & Sheen Painting Group has just begun its summer outdoor painting meetings.

Weather permitting, the group will meet on alternate Wednesday mornings at 10.30am, finishing usually at 1pm. Some may wish to finish earlier or later and many will stay for some well-deserved lunchtime refreshment in a nearby cafeteria or inn. There is no charge to attend but there are entrance fees or car park charges at some of the venues.

Everyone is welcome, whatever standard. The group is strictly non competitive and beginners are especially welcome. Don't forget to bring a good sun hat and portable seat with your sketching equipment. The venues are:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| May 2nd | Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park |
| May 16th | Kew Gardens (meet Lion Gate entrance) |
| May 30th | Canbury Gardens, Kingston |
| June 13th | Strand on the Green, Chiswick |
| June 27th | Fishing Lake, Barnes (Queen Elizabeth Walk) |
| July 11th | Chiswick House Gardens |
| July 25th | Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park |
| Aug 8th | Mortlake Riverside (Ship Inn) |
| Aug 22nd | Wetlands, Barnes |
| Sept 3rd | Adam's Pond, Richmond Park |
| Sept 19th | Pond, Ham Common |

Further details from Derek Pendry, 8876 4865, phone and fax.

