



# Prospect

May 2009

Price when sold £1

## Barnes Fair Saturday 11 July 2009 HISTORIC BARNES



This year's Barnes Fair will be filled with historical figures and traditional entertainments. Old favourites such as the **Gallopers**, which date from 1903, **Helter Skelter**, **Smiley Happy Train** and **Punch & Judy** shows will be returning, whilst

the line up of historic music includes a **men's barbershop chorus**, **Barnes Big Band** and **Barnes Choir**. Vintage cars and old fashioned floats will be exhibiting in the **Parade** whilst historic characters aged 3-12 will be welcomed at the **NEW Fancy Dress** competition in the Events Arena.

### FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD.....

A great selection of delicious food is guaranteed this year from some of our favourite local restaurants. **Sonny's** are returning to the Marquee by the pond and will have a selection of homemade salads, delicious desserts and wine; while over on the steps by the pond, **The Brown Dog** will have their ever-popular – and historical! – hog roast. **The Depot** are barbecuing sausages and meat sandwiches and new for this year, **The Treehouse** will also be tempting you with seasonal fare. Also new is **Monzil** – visit them for a selection of Indian treats. Teas and coffees will be widely available – and if you're at the Fair for breakfast, the Scouts' bacon rolls have a big following..... Finally, we'll be stocking up on Pimm's and strawberries for the BCA Pimm's Stand so no chance of us running out this year! Cheers!

### BCA TOMBOLA

Please start putting aside any bottles or unwanted gifts that can be used as prizes at this year's Tombola. All donations are really welcomed – or if you prefer to give cash, we can buy prizes on your behalf. The Tombola is always a firm favourite at the Fair and all proceeds go to the BCA. Please drop your prizes into Rose House or call 020 8563 2288 to arrange collection. Thank you.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has offered to help out with the Fair. We now have a team of helpers for Friday and Saturday – but if you'd like to volunteer to work on a BCA Stall then do call 020 8563 2288.

**YOUR FAIR PROGRAMME** will be sent out with the July issue of *Prospect*.

**THANK YOU** to all our sponsors – especially **Friend & Falcke** who are on board once more as our principal sponsor.

## A quacking good race

The BCA's first ever duck race went swimmingly. Even though the drizzle persisted throughout the day we all had a lot of fun at Beverley Brook. There was quite a gathering and at 12 noon on the dot William Mortimer gave us the countdown, the floodgates opened and lots of little yellow plastic ducks set off down the stream to see if they could complete the course. They all successfully reached the finishing post and their owners were each rewarded with a small Easter egg. There was one outright winner though – number 11 owned by Izzy Cannon, so she won the special Easter egg prize. Izzy's duck was hotly pursued by numbers 2 and 33.

Stevie McGarrity Alderdice – never known to be a shy and retiring sort – dressed up in a wonderful goose costume which was kindly loaned to us by the Wetland Centre. He wandered around the farmers' market and surrounding area rustling up interest for the duck race and helping us to sell even more

ducks. Thanks to everyone involved we raised between £400-£500 pounds, which will go towards the Christmas Day Lunch at the Barnes Green Centre. What a great little event to add to our events calendar and what good clean fun.

Participants thanked us profusely for this new fun event and encouraged us to repeat it annually – Easter Saturday at noon next year then! Hopefully, as this becomes a local tradition and a regular occasion, then more people will join in and even more money will be raised. Not such a quackers idea after all!

*Julia Bebington and Hilary McGough*



*The goose with admirers*



*Nice weather for the ducks*

## FiSH at Barnes Fair

This year at the Fair, FiSH is having a 'Retro' and 'Vintage' year and would welcome donations of anything small and interesting (**no large items of furniture**) from 1950-1980. Vinyl discs and retro bric-à-brac are particularly welcome. Please take to the FiSH office at Barnes Green Centre weekdays between 9am and 12noon. They will also be having a Plant Stall and Plant Advice corner.

# BCA



### matters...

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## Environment Group Report

We are still waiting for decisions and comments from the Council on quite a few subjects but we have news on the following:

### Rocks Lane Tennis Club

An agreement between the Council and the Club has been made. Among the points of agreement are:

- a. the Club will provide a properly marked drop-off and parking area with clear pedestrian pathways to the Club and playground.
- b. the provision of a multi-sport pitch adjoining this area with fencing to the Common to reduce the intrusion that currently exists. General tidying and landscaping of this boundary to follow the fencing improvements. The boundary to be measured and fixed.
- c. the old public toilets to be refurbished by the Club for changing and use by the public during Club hours.
- d. light pollution from the courts and pitches has been negotiated. New hooded floodlights are scheduled to be installed on the new and existing facilities this year.

The Club is to be more closely monitored to ensure provision locally. Weekend opening hours have been discussed as this affects the openings to the playground area.

The group is very pleased that agreement has been reached with the Club and looks forward to a tidier and more pleasant addition to Barn Elms.

### Barnes Bridge

The scaffolding is being put up on the bridge in preparation for the repair and repainting. A scaffold tower, on the upstream side of Barnes Bridge, is to get the contractors up to Bridge level from their Works Compound behind the Thames Tradesmen's Boathouse. They are also doing the walkway across the mouth of Duke's Hollow Nature Reserve. They will also be putting in a temporary footbridge under Barnes Bridge as well as scaffolding for virtually the whole Bridge. A number of people think it would be a good idea to press them to leave the footbridge and make it permanent! What do you all think?

### Hammersmith Bus Station

So many of us are fed up with the long horrid walk to get our bus home. We are still in contact with TFL but they are moving at a snail's pace!

The only piece of good news I can give is that by December 2009 the frequency of trains between Edgware Road and Hammersmith will be doubled as the Circle Line is coming to Hammersmith. It is hoped this will increase reliability and capacity on the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines.

### Stag Brewery

There are thoughts being voiced that the industrial buildings of the brewery could be used as indoor floodlit tennis courts and multi-sports areas instead of the present rash of sports clubs using Dukes Meadows. Other suggestions include riverside open space with floodlighting.

What do you think? I look forward to hearing from you!

Susan Boyd  
Chairman

## Friends of Barnes Common AGM

Those who come to the AGM of the Friends of Barnes Common on Thursday evening, May 21st, will hear why areas such as our own Barnes Common are important to London. After the business part of the evening (reports on work accomplished or planned on the Old Goods Yard and its development; the reedbed scheme) Dr Paul Losse from Natural England will help to put these items in context. He will speak on the importance of London's historic heathlands and grasslands and what current policies are hoping to achieve. The meeting starts at 7.30pm in the main hall at Rose House, but members and visitors alike are invited to drop in from 7pm for a glass of wine or tea/coffee and nibbles and a chance to meet FoBC officers and other members. All are welcome.

Margaret Sharp



### Kay Haugh

The BCA is indebted to the late Kay Haugh for generous gifts from her estate. We were invited by Kay's relatives to accept beautiful articles from her house, most of

which will be put on the Tombola at Barnes Fair. We were also given a huge bottle of brandy to be kept for pouring over the puddings at the next Christmas Day lunch at the Barnes Green Centre. Kay, who was 94 when she died last December, was an inspirational, active lady with many interests and talents. She was an artist and had her own company, a photographic studio, continuing with her artwork throughout her life. She and her late husband Frank, a military man, were both extremely generous and philanthropic and enjoyed a happy life together.

Julia Bebington



## Bonjour! A special occasion

Exciting news was announced at a recent get-together of BCA members interested in the link with Le Pecq. Besides being twinned with other towns, Le Pecq is 'godmother' to l'Eridan, a French Navy minesweeper. The Mayor of Le Pecq will be travelling to London by sea in order to attend, together with the ship's company, the ceremony of l'Appel, which commemorates General de Gaulle's famous appeal from London to the people of France in 1940, which began the French resistance to occupation. This is held annually on 18th June, in Carlton Gardens in front of the statue of de Gaulle, where everyone is welcome. On the evening of Thursday, 18th June the Mayor and the Commandant of the l'Eridan will host a reception (by invitation as space is limited) on board the ship, which will be

moored near Tower Bridge, to mark the fifth anniversary of our twinning. The Mayor and the Commandant were both together in Barnes when they took part in the Remembrance Day service in November. We know that they thoroughly enjoyed their visit on that occasion and were keen to come back. They have decided to return in some style! At the time of writing plans have not been finalised and it is possible that there may be other events over this period.

Plans are at a very early stage for a visit to Le Pecq in September, probably the weekend of 18th-19th September. If you would like to know more about any of these events or, for new readers, information on the history of the link, please contact me at [lepecq@barnesvillage.org.uk](mailto:lepecq@barnesvillage.org.uk)  
Mike Spillane

## Barnes Choir returns to Le Pecq

The Barnes Choir has been invited to perform again in this year's International Spring Music Festival in Le Pecq. They will be singing English music – madrigals and Elgar part songs – and French music by three good Parisians: Debussy *Dieu qu'il la fait bon regarder!* (Debussy was born in neighbouring St. Germain-en-Laye), Berlioz *Ballet des Ombres* and Poulenc *Hodie* as well as choruses from Beethoven *Ruins of Athens*.

The concert is on May 9th, Europe Day, the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration in 1950 launching the European Community. How many people in Britain know that? If necessary, the choir will be ready to render the European Anthem, Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, as they did last time, in the original German or in French, with equal conviction!

John Greenwood

## Litter-picking



The sun shone brightly for the sixth annual Barnes Common litter-pick day and kept the forty-odd volunteers warm while they scoured the Common for any sort of litter. Our thanks go to Mike Dixon as van driver and also the fifteen cubs from St Mary Scout Group who swelled our numbers. This year we were tasked in clearing up after a camper left rubbish which filled over twenty bags. Unusual items retrieved were a TV monitor, a polystyrene fish box, a mop, a very large plant pot complete with plant and five completely soaked and heavy bundles of undelivered copies of the *Informer*.

*Martin Conway*

## Two things we learnt at the Area Consultation Meeting

### Primary school places

When Richmond first began to have a shortage of primary school places, it was assumed that officers had simply not done the right maths when working on their predictions. Some primaries were expanded and a brand new school was built in Kew. But this has not been enough; it looks as though there will never be enough places. Parents buy houses in this borough especially to give their children the best start in life.

For some time, central government could not believe there was a problem, since school enrolments are, if anything, going down outside the capital. Now it is admitted that each year Richmond has to provide for yet more pupils. It will be interesting to see if any extra money is made available for this; in the current circumstances, probably not.

### Dog mess should be less bother

For a long time now, we have needed special Poop-Scoop bins in order to clear up our dogs' mess. Now the law has been changed and your scooped poop can be put into any public waste bin. Let's hope it helps cut down the problem.

*Katie Gent*

## No clamping here

CLlr David Trigg, Cabinet Member for the Environment, has recently issued the following statement:

"Richmond Council does not approve of clamping and has not taken any legal powers to clamp vehicles itself.

Moreover, the Council has a policy of not approving clamping by any other body on any parts of the borough that are part of the public highway.

If you ever see a clamped vehicle on the public highway in Barnes, please make a note of the notice that will be attached to that vehicle, particularly the phone number, and inform the Council."

## Cuppa and comfort

The new café at the Castelnau Centre in Stillingfleet Hall was launched on Friday 3rd April. A colourful crowd of young and old were there to enjoy a cup of tea and piece of cake. A resident at either end of the age scale (one a two-week-old baby) officially opened the café after one of the trustees of the Community Centre, Geoffrey Barnett, said a few words of thanks to those leading the project and to all the volunteers.

From 20th April this year, residents of North Barnes have on their doorstep an inexpensive café serving teas, coffees, snacks and cakes between the hours of 9am and 12 noon on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Nicola Thexton proposed the idea of the café, Juliet Burnett had the experience to apply for the grant and Karin Ayok-Loewenberg helped to promote the idea and get the project done. A £10,000 grant from the 'Awards for All' element of the National Lottery has funded a new wooden floor, elegant and robust café furniture, a useful kitchen/serving area and the redecoration of the Castelnau Centre foyer. The result is a welcoming, cheerful and comfortable space, and the friendly volunteers are tuned to the needs of every age group.

Many of the cakes and biscuits are home-made and prices are extremely keen. The launch party kept volunteers very busy while children worked off their energy on a bouncy castle in the sports hall. This endeavour, to put life back into the building and provide a friendly rendezvous to meet with friends, is highly appreciated by local residents. It is a place to escape the stress of modern living and meet up with neighbours. Comfort and a 'cuppa' are just around the corner from home.

*William Mortimer*



*Let them eat cake..... the new café is launched in style*

## CPZs in Barnes: the last piece of the jigsaw?

The Council is reviewing how the Mortlake CPZ and the East Sheen CPZ have been working, and at the same time it is asking remaining uncontrolled areas nearby if they want to join one or other of these zones. As far as SW13 is concerned, this means that the area east of White Hart Lane, north of the South Circular but south of the railway, is being consulted both on the principle of joining and on possible hours of operation.

For details, go to [www.richmond.gov.uk/mortlake\\_cpz\\_review](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/mortlake_cpz_review); to express a view email [highwaysandtransport@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:highwaysandtransport@richmond.gov.uk). Do this urgently because the closing date for the consultation is the beginning of May.

Decision day will be **Wednesday, 27th May**, when the Transport Consultative Group will meet at the **Sheen Lane Centre at 6.30pm**. The Agenda and Report to that meeting will be available on the website seven days before. If you wish to speak at the meeting, ring 020 8891 7156 before 2pm Tuesday 26th May.

*Katie Gent*

# Fun and games at Barnes Primary School

The aim of the ever popular Sports Week, packed full of amazing activities, is not only to have fun, but also to teach children at Barnes Primary School about keeping fit and healthy and about the value of teamwork.

A huge range of people gave up their time to go to the school either to demonstrate or talk about the sport in which they excel, including a phenomenal demonstration from Matt, the karate sensei who teaches many of the children. And double Olympic gold medallist Sarah Webb took in her medals and talked about her triumphs in sailing! Different year groups took part in varied activities such as lindy hopping (a type of jazz dance), karate, cricket, rugby, swimming, Brazilian soccer skills, fencing and hockey. Unfortunately, because of SATS, Year 6 pupils participated in fewer activities, but left the staff behind when Igor scored an amazing goal in the 10-9 victory in bench basketball.

On a cold spring morning, football teams from local schools Fox, Lowther, Queens,



*Chairman of the BCA, David Stott, presents medals to girls from the Swedish School in Barnes*

St Osmund's and the Swedish School joined Barnes Primary in the Invitation Cup, co-sponsored by the BCA and Barnes Eagles

Football Club. Three trophies were up for grabs. The girls' trophy was won by the Swedish School whilst the winning boys' teams came from Fox School and Barnes Primary.

Florence and Chloe from Year 6 at Barnes Primary School describe their part in the event:

"Our first match was against St Osmund's. The first goal was scored by Georgia. Olivia passed to her and the wind blew her hair out of her face as she dribbled the ball down the line. When she reached the defenders she dodged them and tapped the ball into the goal. We also beat the Swedish School. Having lost to them 12-0 in our first ever match, this cheered us greatly. We eventually got into the final where we had to play the Swedish School again. The final went to a penalty shoot-out and we lost. In a way we were devastated, but at least we were second, were awarded medals and at the end of the competition the manager of the Swedish School team told Brian, our coach, how much we had improved."

## London Borough of Richmond upon Thames Community and Police Partnership

### The Barnes Police Liaison Group

and your

### Safer Neighbourhood Team

Invite you to

## A meeting of the Barnes Safer Neighbourhood Team

Thursday 14th May at 7.00pm  
Barnes Green Day Centre, Barnes

This is your chance to do the questioning on the policing issues concerning you in Barnes. Meet officers from your Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Ask them about your local police force, crime issues and the problems which worry you most.

Hollie Phillips, from the Council's Community Safety Partnership, will be speaking at the meeting.

By attending meetings, you can contribute to a safer community, identify actions that you feel are needed to combat crime and anti-social behaviour in your area and use your influence to ensure that the correct policing priorities are in place.

For more details please call 020 8891 7155

## Here are the details of our Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Sgt Michael Coughlan; PC Martyn Stone; PC Ashley Sparks; PCSO Suzanne Morton; PCSO Emily Cotton; PCSO Robert Ryall; PCSO Azelarab Jedid  
020 8721 2747 Barnes.SNT@met.police.uk  
www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods  
**In an emergency always dial 999**

## 500th Anniversary of St Paul's School

St Paul's School is celebrating its 500th Anniversary this year and as part of the celebrations they are having a big event at the School on **Saturday 23rd May**. This will take the form of an Open Day in the afternoon and an evening outdoor concert starring the artists Katherine Jenkins and Heather Small alongside an orchestra and choir. The concert will draw to a close with a proms finale and fireworks spectacular.

St Paul's says "We would very much like to let the local community know about the event, and invite them to join us; we would like to make some tickets available to people to buy for the concert."

We understand that the Concert will be on the lines of a 'Proms in the Park' celebration with an audience of 4,000.

Further information is available on line at <http://Quincentenary.stpaulsschool.org.uk>

## White Hart Lane closure

We have been advised that White Hart Lane will be closed for three months from May 11th.

## Queen Mary's Summer Fair

The Friends of Queen Mary's Hospital will hold its annual Summer Fair again this year in the grounds of the hospital in Roehampton at 1pm on **Saturday 6th June**. A celebrity – to be announced nearer the time – will open the event and welcome visitors to join in all the fun of the fair.

Jane Perry, chairman of The Friends of Queen Mary's says: "Please come and see what we have lined up this year. Entry is being held at 50p and children under five go free. As our main fundraising event of the year, we are hoping to raise a substantial sum which will go towards the ongoing work of the Friends".

The Summer Fair will again be held in the car park where it will be clearly visible from the main road, Roehampton Lane. In addition to the usual stalls, a tombola and lucky dip, attractions will include a bouncy castle and carousel as well as other children's games. A jazz band will be playing throughout the afternoon and refreshments will include a barbecue, bar, teas, strawberries and cream.

Friends of Queen Mary's provide voluntary support for current and former patients of

Queen Mary's who are disabled, infirm or in need of financial assistance. Their sources of revenue are via fundraising events, such as the Summer Fair, as well as from donations and legacies. Amenities provided by the Friends of Queen Mary's include library services, in-ward activities and entertainment and social events, all of which help to improve the quality of patients' lives.

Work is to start shortly on the construction of a rehabilitation garden specifically designed to help disabled patients improve their mobility in different surroundings. Planting beds will be accessible to wheelchair users so that patients can be actively involved in the development of the garden. Equally the garden will be an amenity for everyone involved in the work of the hospital to enjoy.

Queen Mary's Roehampton is home to the world-famous Douglas Bader Unit, which is internationally recognised as a centre for excellence in the treatment and rehabilitation of patients who have lost limbs.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends of Queen Mary's (registered charity 266438) should contact The Honorary Secretary, 020 8487 6798 or e-mail: friends.qmh@wpct.nhs.uk.



### Do you have a bike to sell? St Mary's Church, Barnes Sale of Good Quality Second Hand Bicycles at Barnes Fair

We can offer your bike for sale in return for a share of the proceeds  
Only bikes in working order that have been kept under cover please  
Adult bikes sell particularly well  
Local collection by arrangement  
Please contact  
BarnesFair@stmarybarnes.org  
or tel. 020 8748 0757 for further details  
or collection of bicycles  
Want to buy a bike? See you in the church yard on July 11th!

## Shene to become an Academy?

Last Autumn *Prospect* drew attention to the fact that both the Council and a parents' group wanted to explore making Shene School into an 'Academy', thereby bringing it back to the central position it used to have as the local secondary school of choice. Now, after what we are told have been months of 'rumour, rancour and misinformation', it seems a new start is being made, with cross-party support.

Paul Mason, of the Parent Promoted Foundation (PPF) explains their part in this: "The PPF is a coalition of local parents from the Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen community. It currently has nearly one hundred members, one thousand people on its mailing list and contacts in all local primary schools. We wish to be part of a strong alliance of committed stakeholders – Head Teacher, governors, staff, children, parents, Academy sponsor and Council – working together to ensure a fresh start at the school – a reinvigorated school which promotes academic excellence and vocational achievement and that places the School at the heart of the community. There is admirable work already

being undertaken by Head Teacher Lesley Kirby, teaching staff, governors and the students, as evidenced by their improved GCSE results and Ofsted report, and they are working hard to raise standards of behaviour. However it is still the case that less than 15% of the current school intake lives locally. Many passionate views on the right future for the school have been expressed from all sides but these may have brought more heat than light. The PPF feel that independent and objective information needs to be gathered on the true feelings and views of the local and wider community. This independent research should complement and supplement the work of the Academy sponsor, and inform any discussions and decisions on the future of the school and how the Academy funding is allocated. Our cross-party, non-party, proposal has been supported by Susan Kramer MP, Zac Goldsmith (Conservative parliamentary candidate) and Lesley Kirby herself. We await word from the Council."

Katie Gent

## A summer night's play

Barnes Charity Players will present William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Susan Conte, at Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, Barnes from **Tuesday, June 9th to Saturday June 13th** at 7.30pm, with a Saturday matinée at 2.30pm. This is a production

with music to delight all ages. Tickets at £8 and £10 will be available at Rose House and William Thomas Hair Salon, Barnes High Street, from Tuesday 26th May. Any school or language groups welcome – please call the Ticketline on 020 8748 9825.

### St Mary's Church Quiz Night

#### Saturday 9th May

Gather together your own winning team of **8 or 10** or buy individual tickets  
Tickets cost £10 per head and include a glass of bubbly

#### BRING A PICNIC

Please bring your own plates and cutlery, glasses provided

#### CASH BAR

**All profits to St Mary's so please support the bar!**

Doors open at 7.15pm for **PROMPT START** at **7.45pm** in Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, Barnes

Please contact Charlie Grainger at: charliegrainger@sacw.co.uk or call 020 8239 8861 for tickets.

## FiSH on Fridays



On the first Friday of each month, 1st May and 5th June, there will be a light lunch and entertainment at St. Michael's Barnes Community Centre, Elm Bank Gardens, SW13. Donations to FiSH for the lunch, ring FiSH Busline 8876 3765 for help with transport.

## The past uncovered

Workmen stripping down the shopfront of 60, Barnes High Street recently, revealed the shop board of 'Stanley Marsh' with 'Children's and Ladies Wear' on one side and 'Household Drapery' on the other. They also released a flood of memories of the days when you could get almost anything from the shops in the High Street or Church Road.

To those of us who remember the 1950s and '60s, there were two adjoining shops owned by Stanley Marsh and you entered by a short passage between the plate glass windows. You were immediately faced with two doors. To the left was the children's and ladies' wear ('Children' were just that in those days, and 'kids' were the progeny of goats!)

The right hand door led to the 'drapery', an Aladdin's cave of bed linen – sheets (single or double) from finest Manchester cotton or soft Irish linen and blankets from pure wool, the best from Witney in Oxfordshire. Curtains were draped from ceiling to floor and between them, discreetly, were dozens of Turkish towelling nappies and the fine cotton 'Harringtons' which would go between the baby and the rougher terry towelling and were fastened with large, curved safety pins. There were pillows in

abundance and bolsters – who in these days would use a bolster?

Children's clothes, beyond the left hand door, included navy blue knickers, a 'must have' for local schoolgirls (most of whom would have much preferred scanty French knickers). Liberty bodices jostled with skirts and blouses 'for best' while the women's wear included voluminous fleecy-lined bloomers with elastic at the knee, corsets, brassières (never 'bras' and certainly not mentioned in the refined society of Barnes).

Along with these came the 'Haberdashery' – gone forever from most stores now but including tape measures, assorted buttons, press studs, darning wool, shirring elastic and 'knicker' elastic, boxes of pins, small folders of needles in assorted sizes plus a rainbow of silk and cotton thread to match any outfit. All presided over by Mrs Dove, herself a quiet member of the Barnes



The façade of Stanley Marsh's shop briefly exposed before repainting

community – but woe betide you if you mixed up your request for pinafores ('pinnies') when you required aprons or overalls!

Those were the golden years of Barnes shopping but somehow I don't think I'd want to go back to them....

Sally Holloway



## Barnes Literary Society

### Great Russian Writers

Most of us take our freedom to read and discuss literary works for granted. For Tatyana Kinsey, however, growing up in Soviet Russia, many works of literature were a 'closed book'. In her talk to the Barnes Literary Society she will reveal how eventful periods of her country's history were reflected by the great Russian writers, and how the influence of social, historical and political events, including the effect of censorship, shaped their work. For Tatyana, educated in Kalinin on the Volga, some of the great Russian writers such as Dostoyevsky were not even mentioned in the school syllabus. It was only when she came to England that she discovered many of these writers who were denied to her and to generations of Soviet people, either because they emigrated after the Revolution or said something politically incorrect about the Soviet Union. Russian writers were at work at eventful periods of their country's history and have always had a special role. Some of them held strong views and were determined to propagate them, while others just sought to formulate the riddles of Russian life and human existence.

Tatyana teaches Russian language and literature at the University of Westminster and the School of Slavonic and East

European Studies (UCL). She has worked as an interpreter for BBC Television and travelled extensively in East and West Siberia. In her talk she will include many of the Russian 'greats' such as Pushkin, Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Chekhov, Pasternak and Solzhenitsyn. This event will be held on Wednesday 20th May in the OSO by Barnes Pond at 8pm. For membership details please contact 020 8748 2558 or see [www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk](http://www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk).

### Wednesday 24th June 'Wine with Words'

BLS celebrates its fifth year with a party for members and their guests. 'Wine with Words' will be hosted by Arthur Cunynghame, Chevalier of Bordeaux, and Chevalier du Taste-Fromage de France. Arthur, who is a wine and cheese specialist and writer, has made a number of television and radio appearances, and will introduce a light-hearted evening for literary bon viveurs. It will be held on Wednesday 24th June at 7.30pm at the OSO by Barnes Pond. Tickets are £15 to include a welcome drink, wine and cheese tasting and snacks. Members are welcome to invite guests. Advance booking essential. For further details see [www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk](http://www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk) or 8748 4852.



### Lowther Primary School

offers quality, affordable childcare for all children from Reception to Year 6 every weekday during term time 3.15 until 6pm and some of the school holidays.

### After-School/Holiday Club Leader covering maternity leave

Mon – Fri 3.00pm – 6.15pm 38 wks at 17¼ hrs pw  
Salary: £7,283

There is also a requirement to work 7.45am – 6.15pm Mon – Fri Holidays

1 week in Easter hols and 2 weeks in Summer hols for which there is additional payment.

(Start September 2009 plus 2 weeks during summer holiday)

You will have the skills to plan, deliver and supervise a daily club. You must have an NVQ Level 3 Childcare qualification, a current paediatric first aid certificate and relevant experience.

### Closing date: 18th May

For further information or to request an application pack:

Sharon Day  
Lowther Primary School  
Stillingfleet Road  
Barnes  
London SW13 9AE  
020 8748 3984

email: [info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:info@lowther.richmond.sch.uk)

## Rock and Blues at the Halfway House

I always knew that Barnes liked to boogie. With a Bowling Club as renowned for its musical members as its bowling experts, and with audiences dancing in their seats at the Bull's Head most nights of the week, there are plenty of telltale signs.

But what I wanted to know is where do Barnes folk go when a vigorous foot tap is not enough?

One Saturday night I found out.

On Priests Bridge Road stands a homely looking pub called the Halfway House. Go there at 8 o'clock on a Saturday night and you might think 'ah, how cosy, what a lovely place to escape with a pint and the crossword – and it's only a short walk home.'

But then, ladies and gentlemen, things change. It happens slowly and imperceptibly so that you might not even notice it happening, until you find yourself dancing round the pub like a loon to some of the best live blues and rock in London.



*The Rick Martin band playing at the Halfway House*

Let me tell you how it happens.

Those in the know begin filtering in as the evening progresses, starting out with some pub grub, catching up with other regulars.

Then the band kicks off, prompting the odd clap, toe tap or politely reserved wiggle.

Then without fail, the music gets livelier, the first brave couple takes to the floor, and then the next, and then the next.

For twenty-five years, landlords Jill and Mike Thompson have been having free, local jazz and blues at the Halfway House. Mike says: "I'm a musician in every way except I don't play an instrument. I love jazz."

This passion has been growing over the years from an occasional event, to once a month, to a 'what the hell, let's do every Saturday night' affair. Mike has every Saturday booked up until August with first class local bands.

Did I tell you it's free? "How many places in London can you go to hear free live music?" says Mike.

*Rachel Rickard Straus*

For more info see: [www.halfwayhousebarnes.co.uk](http://www.halfwayhousebarnes.co.uk)

## Fallen women



Barnes resident Jenny Hartley was researching *Little Dorrit* for her local reading group. She learned from Dickens' letters about the 'remarkable case' of Caroline Thompson, who was earning her living and supporting her child by prostitution. Knowing Dickens' interest in rehabilitating 'fallen women', her brother had appealed to him to help Caroline, 'a more virtuous minded woman never lived'. It was she who inspired the Amy Dorrit character, though Dickens spared Amy Caroline's fate. Jenny Hartley's researches led her to writing *Charles Dickens and the House of Fallen Women*.

*Little Dorrit* depicts the harsh conditions of 19th century London, which Dickens himself had experienced as a boy, where many young women turned to petty theft or prostitution in order to survive. They were sent to prison and then simply thrown back onto the streets. It was impossible for them to get domestic work, the main employment for uneducated girls, without a character reference.

Dickens wanted to help these girls. In 1847, with finance from Angela Burdett Coutts, the banking heiress, he founded a hostel to take in a dozen 'fallen' women for one year at a time in a strict but humane environment. It was in a large house, Urania Cottage – the Victorians had a rather grand idea about the size of cottages – in Lime Grove, set amongst the fields and gardens of Shepherd's Bush. They learned to cook, sew, clean and grow vegetables and Dickens also insisted they had two hours' lessons each morning to learn to read and write. The idea was that they would then emigrate to the Colonies, get domestic work and then hopefully marry and settle. Dickens believed in 'the power of beginning life anew, in a world perfectly untried'.

Dickens practised 'active management', selecting the residents himself and writing up their progress in a 'Case Book'. The matron found him 'rather overpowerfully energetic'. Jenny Hartley says "He was a control freak but by Victorian standards of social welfare, Urania Cottage was top of the range". Dickens enjoyed the company of these often spirited women whose stories provided him with useful material for his novels. Some, like the 'rambunctious' seventeen-year-old Frances Cranstone, who was 'so constantly irritating and mischief-making that they had all been made perfectly miserable', had to be thrown out. Eventually Dickens himself had to pull out of the project when his marriage broke down and he turned his attentions to a nineteen-year-old actress, Nelly Ternan.

About half the girls who went through Urania Cottage during its ten-year life completed the course. A hundred of them went to Australia in small groups, others to New Zealand, South Africa and Canada, caught up in the great emigration craze of the mid 19th century. Some jumped ship on arrival after succumbing to the temptations of plentiful drink and the attentions of lustful sailors during the four-month sea voyage in sailing ships. Many though did find husbands and settled successfully. Jenny Hartley tracked down one descendant in Melbourne, Rosina Gale's great granddaughter who said that she remembered her grandmother very clearly but had no idea of the Dickens connection. Rosina had evidently followed Dickens' advice to the girls to cover their tracks.

Urania Cottage was pulled down in the early 1900s to make way for Britain's first purpose built film studios where directors like Alfred Hitchcock and David Lean worked – Lean later went on to make classic versions of *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist*. The studios were taken over by the BBC in 1949 and finally pulled down for redevelopment in the 1990s. Now, a hostel for homeless young people stands on the site. As Jenny says: "The spirit of Urania lives on."

*John Greenwood*

*Jenny Hartley is Professor of English Literature at Roehampton University. Her book is available from Barnes Bookshop price £17.99. She has also written about reading groups and runs them herself in prisons.*

## Spring gets off to a great start



Spring has well and truly sprung here at the WWT London Wetland Centre, with recent sightings including redshank, common snipe, ring ouzel, yellow wagtail and wheatear.

Wildlife at the reserve is abundant

at this time of year. Water voles have become more active and can be seen looking for food in the ponds – move quietly though, water voles are very shy! Also, keep an eye out for reptiles on the move. Common lizard, slow worm and grass snake have all been seen on site, either crossing the paths along Waterlife or basking on the sides of the WWF hide and log piles in the sustainable gardens.

In conjunction with late night openings this year, the Centre is introducing 'Flavours of the World' every Thursday night during July and August at the Water's Edge Cafe. You can enjoy a different international à la carte menu each week, starting with Portuguese on 2nd July. Let someone else do the cooking for you 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.

Following the success of the national photography competition over the last two years, WWT and Nikon are once again challenging photographers of all ages to send in their photos of wildlife, landscapes and people at WWT Centres. This is the perfect opportunity to show what WWT means to you – in return, you'll have the chance to win superb Nikon prizes worth over £5,000 in total and you might even see your photo published in WWT's *Waterlife* magazine. Deadline for entries is 7th September. Entry Forms are available from the Centre or the WWT website.

Our Big Batty Walks are starting to book up quickly again this year. They will run in May, July, August and September- book now to secure your place!

Come and try your hand at worm-charming during the May half term from 23rd-31st May. Children can also join in on art workshops to make dragonflies and butterflies and go pond dipping with experts.

Don't forget to buy your ticket to the Barnes Barn Dance which will be held on 15th May in the Water's Edge Room. Call Chris Elliott on 020 8409 4402 for more information.

Call 020 8409 4400 or [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk) for more information or call to book an event.

*Nicole Snowden*

## Readers' letters

### Car Club parking

*Letter sent to Head of Highways and Transport, LBRUT and copied for inclusion in Prospect*

*Dear Sir*

The Crescent and Glebe Road already have to provide parking for all the commercial premises in Church Road, which has made parking in this central area of Barnes extremely difficult. We are all horrified to see two grossly oversized car parking spaces for 'club cars' appear outside our local surgery in Glebe Road. These are at the expense of the already overcrowded residents' parking spaces. To our knowledge there has been NO LOCAL CONSULTATION whatsoever. The 'club car' parking restriction is for 'any time' whilst Zone CBI has restrictions only between 10am-12 noon. We have not seen a single 'club car' use these restricted spaces.

On behalf of local residents we strongly request that these valuable local parking spaces be restored for local residents' use. If there really is any call for 'car club' parking it should be experimented with in a quieter area, not this very busy central area of Barnes.

*Yours faithfully*

*Miles Mallinson*

*The Crescent, Barnes*

### Hammersmith bus station

*Dear Editor*

The crux of the matter, which no-one has so far mentioned, is that the distance between the upper and lower levels is a real hike for the elderly and the disabled without wheelchairs to get from A to B. Even with the lift it takes me fifteen minutes to trudge from buses say 9/10 to the buses on the lower level and with tremendous difficulties as the large hallway is strictly uphill. As I have mentioned in previous correspondence, since the 72 and 283 buses stop on the upper level coming from Barnes, why oh why can't they stop at the same level on the way back? Surely in this economic downturn it would be a far less costly and simpler alternative to put into action.

All my correspondence with London Transport on this very subject merely resulted in platitudes and that is when they could be bothered to answer in the first instance.

*Yours faithfully*

*A. Mendes da Costa  
Barnes*



Saving wetlands  
for wildlife and people

## LONDON WETLAND CENTRE BARN DANCE

**FRIDAY 15th MAY**

7.30pm – 11.30pm

Tickets £20

(Includes food, live music and caller.  
Cash bar)

Tickets available from the Wetland Centre

Tel: 020 8409 4402 or email

[christopher.elliott@wwt.org.uk](mailto:christopher.elliott@wwt.org.uk)

All proceeds raised for  
the London Wetland Centre

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES  
present

**Gwalia côr meibion**

The Gwalia Male Voice Choir

*singing Welsh folk songs, hymns  
and songs from the musicals*

**Saturday 16th May at 7.30pm**

**St Mary's Church Barnes**

Tickets £12 (concessions £10)

[office@stmarybarnes.org](mailto:office@stmarybarnes.org) 020 8741 5422

*All proceeds to the upkeep and preservation of  
the oldest building in Barnes*



## FiSH SUMMER MUSIC CONCERT

Music by Handel, Bach, Vaughan Williams,  
Stanford and Finzi; for oboe, baritone and  
cello with piano and organ accompaniment

**St. Mary's Church, Barnes  
Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May  
6.00-7.00pm**

Malcolm Munro, Sarah Baldock, Emma  
Baldock, Rachel Baldock.

Admission FREE, all welcome  
Retiring collection for FiSH

*For help with transport please ring the FiSH  
Busline, 8876 3765*

## Shop locally



One of the main tests of an excellent local food store is whether you can knock up an impromptu dinner party from its shelves.

Add the proviso that it should sell wine you would buy anyway and into the frame comes **Londis**, the much-loved shop at 63-65 Church Road (020 8748 5974). Boasting a large, well-chosen range at fair prices, you

need look no further, whatever the occasion. This versatile trio encompasses a delicious line-up of 'Old World' grape varieties given a modern treatment.

**Oveja Negra, rosé, 2008, £5.99.** With the pink revolution in full swing, this full-bodied Chilean blend of Syrah, Carmenère and Cabernet Sauvignon would please anybody, anytime. Made in the spirit of the 'black sheep' of its name, it has strawberry and spice aromas, leading into a crisp, mineral, berry-fruit palate and a mouth-watering, zingy finish. A fridge-door favourite hailing loudly for a chunky salad and crusty bread.

**Alamos, Malbec, 2007, £7.39.** From arguably the best name in Argentina, Bodega Catena, this easy-drinking, gentle red is made from Malbec, here given nine months' oak-aging with vanilla pod and smoky, tobacco notes. Crushed cherries and hedgerow fruit flavours move smoothly to a soft, spicy finish. If you haven't yet been won round to the fantastic value of Argentine wines, this is a good place to start. Malbec and meat is a match made in heaven, particularly a juicy steak and chips.

**Casa de la Ermita, Petit Verdot, Jumilla DO, 2003, £16.99.** Jumilla is a little-known region near Alicante in Spain producing strong, characterful wines. This grape of Bordeaux is hugely fashionable at the moment. 2003 was a hot year and this handsome wine has aromas of violets and brambles, leathery spice on the palate and a mellow, dried plum fruit finish. Petit Verdot has a sophisticated earthiness that marries well to game birds – pan-fried pigeon breasts or duck pâté on toast.

Next month we explore the wide and exciting world of French wines.  
*Vino Loco*

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

## FiSH Tuesday Talks



**Barnes Green Centre**  
at 11am  
Coffee from 10.30am, Talk 11am (40 mins)

- 5th May** Jean Finzi and Sarah Moule: *Gerald Finzi, composer*
- 12th May** Michael Glazebrook: *Environmental awareness in Kew*
- 19th May** Sarah Warren: *Jewellery design*
- 26th May** Trevor Moriarty: *Wiltshire Farm Foods – healthy food to your door, talk and tasting*
- 2nd June** Ruth Holmes: *An ongoing journey with batik*

## Farewell to Richmond Ladies' Swimming Club

Somehow that word 'ladies' in its name told a lot about the ethos of a swimming club that had been in operation for fifty years. The youngest of the teachers was sixty-three and the oldest seventy-six, and their values demanded proper etiquette and deportment around the pool as well as elegance in the water. It was about nurturing the individual in social as well as technical skills. It was about achieving fitness and confidence in a recreational pursuit whatever the natural ability. Most of all it was about relaxation.

The aims of RLSC were far from those of competition, paramount in importance to the Amateur Swimming Association and its raft of regulations. In part, changes in ASA rules influenced the decision to cease operation at Richmond along with the club's inability to attract volunteers to the teaching team. Reduction in membership was partly due to cessation of advertising until a fully staffed teaching team could be rebuilt and partly due to a preference by the older girls to meet friends in town rather than the pool. Thus costs were rising. Even so, an annual membership of £120 represented excellent value.

So not a dry eye at Pools on the Park for the last night of the club on 28th March though chlorine was entirely to blame for tears. The pupils enjoyed a final 'family' swim with their parents and brothers while their teachers revealed why pupils should do as teachers say – not what teachers do.

Parents were extremely generous in their appreciation of efforts by both teachers and officers of the club, providing £700 in funds for a farewell dinner. A sad day ended as the teachers left in their usual quiet way. Efforts are being made to assimilate some of the girls into a club operating in the Teddington pool on a Friday evening between 7pm and 9pm, and two RLSC teachers will be poolside for a period to help girls adjust to the new environment and to boys in the class. Unfortunately, some of the least affluent families live in Barnes and Mortlake and the journey time is prohibitive. Efforts continue to find them an alternative club to the north and east of the borough but hopes are fading.

*William Mortimer*



Left to right: Teachers Gordon Nockles, Derek White, Bill Dyke and William Mortimer (photo: Juliet Rawkins)