



Prospect

November 2007

Price when sold £1

Late Night Shopping

Friday, 7th December, 6-9pm



Make a note of the date for the BCA Late Night Shopping event and come along for an evening of entertainment and Christmas shopping.

Father Christmas has promised to distribute gifts to all the children who come to meet him at Rose House, the headquarters of the BCA, where delicious food and drink will also be available.

There will be musical entertainment throughout the village and many of the shops in Barnes which stay open late offer drinks and nibbles, so you can do your Christmas shopping locally, support your shopkeepers and have a good time.

A detailed programme of events will be published in next month's *Prospect*.

Turning trash into treasure

A huge thank you to all who helped with the BCA Jumble Sale this year.

A sale this size means an enormous amount of work and our volunteers give so much time and effort each year to make it a big success. This year we banked over £7,000, which we can donate to local charities and schools.

However it's not all hard work, we do have a lot of fun as well. We had a very exciting moment when an old letter fell out of a book and turned out to be from the author of *The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C S Lewis, dated 1935!

This year we are losing some of our valuable storage space. One of the reasons our sale is so successful is due to the fact that we can receive items all through the year but it does mean we need places to keep it until sale time. So, if you have a little spare room in a garden shed or a garage please let us know – ring Hilary on 8878 2359.

Hilary McGough



Hilary and Dorothy Paignton with just some of the toys donated to the sale

Gold Medal winner

Ted Cullinan, the architect who designed the rebuild of St Mary's Barnes after the terrible fire of 1978, has won the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture, awarded by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Stop press!

The party for BCA volunteers will be held on Thursday 15th November and not on 14th November as given in October's edition of *Prospect*. Admission is by invitation only.

Antiques and Collectors' Fairs

Two more of these ever popular fairs are planned for the autumn. Come along to Rose House, Barnes High Street on **Saturday 10th November** and **Saturday 15th December** from 10am to 5pm. You will find a variety of interesting stalls selling such items as antique jewellery, silver and silver-plate cutlery, linen, quilts and lavender bags. Admission is free and you are sure to find super Christmas gifts.

Next issue of Prospect

We would like to remind readers that the next issue of *Prospect* will be a combined December/ January edition. Therefore, as well as those for December, all **Diary** entries for **January** must also be sent in by **10th November**.

Barnes Fair 2008

Children's Art Competition – volunteer needed



The BCA is looking for a volunteer to organise the Children's Art Competition, which involves local schools and is judged by an artist. The prizes are awarded by The Mayor of Richmond on Fair Day.

The volunteer would be required to liaise with local primary and nursery schools, and local sponsors, as well as setting up the exhibition and assisting the Mayor with the presentation.

It's fun to get involved, so if you are interested please contact the BCA Office on 8878 2359.

**B
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matters...

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News from the Executive

The proposed wording on new notice boards around the Pond – due to be installed soon by the Council – came under critical examination at the **October** Executive meeting. No mention of the partnership between the BCA and the Council, nor of the BCA's part-funding of the Commonkeeper, was included in the wording, and a letter has now been sent to the Director of the Environment asking the Council to re-think the matter and work with us to find a solution.

Sue Boyd presented the Environment Group's current concerns over any long-term developments at Barn Elms inimical to its future as playing fields and areas of recreation; possible over-development of 28/29 Barnes High Street; and The Harrodian School's ambitious plan to erect a four-storey high sports hall in their grounds close to Windermere Court.

Isobel Woolf told the meeting that the Donations Committee was hard at work fleshing out its ideas on future BCA giving, while Sriram Chari outlined his proposal for a Barnes Traders' Christmas supplement.

Finally, readers of *Prospect* are reminded that the big party for volunteers and new members will be held at the Barnes Green Centre on Thursday 15th November.

David Stott, Chairman

We regret to inform you that this year the BCA will not be producing a Christmas card. However, we have a couple of fantastic ideas for cards in 2008 – watch this space!

Christmas Day Lunch



Instead of spending Christmas Day alone why not join the BCA at the Barnes Green Centre where a traditional Christmas lunch will be served? Roast turkey and all the trimmings will be followed by entertainment.

Call into the BCA office at Rose House or ring Hilary on 8878 2359 to book your place but please make sure you have your name down by December 10th so we can adequately plan the catering.

Volunteer helpers needed

The BCA funds the Christmas lunch but we do need volunteers to help in the kitchen, to serve the food and to provide transport. So if you could spare a little time on Christmas Day to help people who would otherwise be on their own we would be very pleased to hear from you. Contact Hilary on 8878 2359.

If you cannot give your time perhaps you could make a small donation to the event, a bottle of wine or little gift for an elderly person. All gifts gratefully received at Rose House.

And thank you

The BCA would like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who so generously have given their time. We are particularly grateful to our former cook Mo Saunders and to Mr and Mrs Mark Chester of The Victoria in Sheen for their continuing involvement.

Environment Group

At our Group meeting there were many topics to discuss. Here are a few of them!

1. Development on Barn Elms

The Council Cabinet decided that in order to develop and enhance the public sports facilities on Barn Elms they would recommend that the land, to enable development, will be considered as leasehold as well as freehold. The sports field needs developing and enhancing as it is used more and more by clubs, schools and individuals. No permission to include floodlighting in any commercial development will be given.

All planning applications are discussed and whatever option the developers apply for we will have the opportunity to try to decide on the merits of any proposal.

2. Proposed Cycle Track through Barnes Common to Barnes Station

The Council sent us two options to discuss. It was noticed by residents of the Cedars Road area that the option which the majority of us decided on many years ago was not included. It was decided that we would press the Council to reconsider the following option.

There is a dedicated cycle track running parallel to Rocks Lane from the Red Lion junction to the pedestrian/cycle traffic lights by Ranelagh Avenue. There are pedestrian foot paths on BOTH sides of Rocks Lane to the traffic lights at the junction of Rocks Lane and Mill Hill Road. The foot path along this part of Rocks Lane is not much used, and a dedicated cycle route would be welcomed. It would mean the traffic lights at Rocks Lane/Mill Hill Road would have to have a phase for cycles and pedestrians but this is NO bad thing since they need to be

adjusted as they are not coping with the volume of commuter traffic at present. The present footpath continues along the Common to Barnes Station and could be widened and used by cyclists. As Barnes Station approach is being re-thought and re-designed the two projects would be complementary.



3. Planning applications

a. *Demolition of garages at 28 and 29 Barnes High Street (07/2649/FUL)*

Extension of The Coach and Horses pub at ground and first floor level, construction of a new retail space, and residential units. There is no provision for deliveries to the site or parking. The proposed retail development, equivalent to 'two shop fronts' to employ up to 30 people, suggests a supermarket. We decided to write with our group's objection to the overdevelopment of this site.

b. *Sports Hall at the Harrodian School (07/2886/FUL)*

Residents of Windermere Court are concerned at the proposed size of this Hall and the lack of parking provision. The Group supports their concerns.

The Council is consulting on the Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework. We are looking into what provision and guidelines the Council is making for our area.

We always welcome comments so please let us know what you think!

Susan Boyd, Chairman

Overhanging trees

Please would everyone ensure that their front hedges and trees are cut back in line with their boundary walls and fences. Cracked and uneven pavements are hazardous enough without having to dodge overhanging branches. It is up to us all to keep our own hedges trimmed. Thank you!

Dogwatch

Your local police team invites you to join the new **Dogwatch for Barnes Common**. Dog walkers are the eyes and ears of any open space, coming every day, rain or shine, winter or summer, and therefore know their area very well indeed. They also want it to be a safe place, not only for them to walk their dogs and for children to play in, but also for wild inhabitants. Graffiti, fly tipping, damage to trees and other destructive acts spoil the environment for everyone, and can damage natural habitats.

The idea behind Dogwatch is to enlist the help of those who use the Common on a regular basis. You will be provided with a small card on which you will find useful telephone numbers so that you can contact the police or the graffiti clean-up team, report broken street lights or fly tipping, and find information on what to do should you lose your dog. The card should

fit into your pocket so, when you see something amiss, the numbers you need to report it are at your fingertips.

Please do join in. Dogwatch is a Neighbourhood Watch for the Common, and will help make this lovely place safer for all its users. Similar schemes are already in operation in other parts of London and are proving very successful.

For further information and to register please contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team at mortlake.barnescommon.snt@met.police.uk or call 8721 2007. The team is also planning fortnightly 'on the ground' recruitment days, so look out for them and it is hoped to launch the scheme along the towpath early in the New Year.



Ship ahoy!

In late September a small group of BCA maritime novices were collected from their front doors in Barnes to travel to Dover for a mini 'taster' cruise on board the *Saga Rose*, taking with them a huge box of soft toys, collected from Barnes jumble sales, to present to *Saga* for forwarding to an orphanage overseas.

Our cases had arrived in our cabins before us so all we had to do on boarding was to unpack, enjoy delicious tea and cakes and explore the ship before setting sail for Zeebrugge. The North Sea was rather lively when the Captain held his welcome cocktail party and some of our group decided to forego the champagne, evening dinner and superb evening entertainment in favour of a comfy cabin. However everyone was up bright and early the next morning and ready to enjoy either a trip to Bruges, a visit to the WWI battle fields or the shuttle to the nearby town of Blankenberge. The afternoon was so hot and sunny that some of us just relaxed on deck.

In the late afternoon we sailed to Le Havre, docking overnight before either visiting Paris, Honfleur, Rouen and Giverny or taking the free shuttle into town where the market, museums and art galleries awaited. The Musée Malraux, in particular, was worth a visit for its collection of Impressionist paintings.

St Peter Port on Guernsey was our last port of call where some intrepid BCA members took the ferry over to Sark to experience a novel series of transport round the island including a barouche, a tractor and the ship's tender which developed a fault in the electrics, leading to a half hour wallowing about on the sea! Dinner, during which Margaret Williams was serenaded and presented with a birthday cake by the ship's staff, was preceded by a special Captain's party for all the newcomers on board.

The next morning everyone was sorry to leave such a relaxed and luxurious way of life; the service was exceptional and the food marvellous – lobster, guinea fowl, fillet steak and mouth-watering desserts.

Thank you very much Rita – can we go again next year?

Judy Edwards



A birthday to remember

STOP PRESS

The next BCA *Saga* four-night mini-cruise will sail to France and Guernsey on 29th August 2008. Discounts for BCA members will be held until 14th December 2007 – ring Ann Hollingshead on 0800 300 666 for details.

Rita is planning a five night/six day coach trip to Normandy next May and details will be available shortly.

For more information on both holidays, or to be put on the mailing list, ring Rita Robinson on 8741 3028

Celebrations in Le Pecq



Mike Spillane, Chairman of the Friends of Le Pecq, was delighted to be invited to represent the BCA in Le Pecq recently at celebrations to commemorate the tenth anniversary of their twinning with Hennef in Germany.

And what celebrations! Speeches, music and a gymnastic dancing display at a gala dinner; more speeches, name plaque unveiling, more music – this time by the brass band of the local emergency services – and flag hoisting in the park; and the inauguration of a huge fresco (painted by local artists) of the arrival of the first railway in Le Pecq with yet more speeches. All this was orchestrated by the larger-than-life mayor of Le Pecq and took place in the presence of a large delegation from Hennef led by their mayor; the mayor of Aranjuez, Le Pecq's twinned Spanish town; the commandant of L'Éridan, a French mine-sweeper linked to Le Pecq (all Navy ships have a French town as a 'godmother'); local town councillors and inhabitants..... and Mike and me!

We did wonder whether the *entente cordiale* would wear a bit thin over the weekend as it coincided with France's defeat by England in the semi-final of the Rugby World Cup, with French mutterings of 'Agincourt, Crécy and Waterloo!' Not a bit of it! Best of friends, barring one eighty-minute period on Saturday evening!

Whilst they can't promise quite such an exciting time, *Les Amis de Barnes* would be

delighted to welcome some 'ambassadors' from Barnes for the weekend of 10th-11th November, when the main event will be a tea party, English style. Please contact Mike immediately via Rose House or mhspllane@hotmail.com. This would be a great opportunity to meet lots of locals and to get to know the town. Similarly, if you are interested in joining in when some ten or so *alpicois* come to Barnes (30th November-2nd December) for the pantomime and Barnes Choir Christmas concert, particularly if you are able to offer accommodation, please get in touch.

Gill Spillane



Sally, President of *Les Amis de Barnes*, and Mike after the naming of the *Esplanade de l'Europe*



THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES

invite you to

CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday 4 November 2007 at 6.00 pm

with

Rt Rev Tom Butler
Bishop of Southwark

and

The Choir of St Mary's Barnes
directed by Cameron Burns

At the annual Choral Evensong, The Friends of St Mary's Barnes are delighted to welcome the Bishop of Southwark, Rt Rev Tom Butler. Bishop Tom is well known as a regular contributor to Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* and is active in many national activities including publishing the *Staying in the City* report and as co-chair of the Inter-Faith Network. The service will be led by the Choir of St Mary's Barnes, which over the last year has established a reputation for fine choral music in the beautiful contemporary/ mediaeval setting of St Mary's Church.

WINE AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE

www.stmarysbarnes.org/friends.htm
020 8741 5422

Lowther School welcomes Bobby Bear

Pat Henchie, head teacher at Lowther Primary School, was delighted. Newly arrived Bobby Bear (a name chosen by the children) is very popular and he has a particular purpose in the Nursery Section where Sally Waterman and Mary Hassal teach. Sally explained that Bobby provides physical comfort to the children and they return his friendship by reading him storybooks. Reading has never been so popular.

Jean Glover sent Bobby (who was donated by Paula Webster) to the school rather than making him a raffle prize at the Late Night Shopping Evening. She recognised that his girth and loveable countenance were ideally suited to the comfort and encouragement of children starting school. Whatever their home background or origin, small children relate to a Teddy Bear. Bobby's huge size has made him the talk of the playground and everybody in the class wanted to join his photo shoot.

William Mortimer



Paula Webster's generous gift thrills the children at Bobby's new home

It started in a church and ended in an art gallery



Readers may remember reading about **Daniel's Walk 4 Mimi** in the July edition of *Prospect* when 9-year old Daniel, a local school boy, announced he would undertake a walk along Hadrian's Wall in memory of his grandmother Mimi to raise funds for ovarian cancer. Joined by his elder brother Benji, aged 13, the journey started in St Osmund's church as Father Romano blessed the children and wished them well on their travels and ended with a party in a West End art gallery to celebrate the end of the walk.

In between, the brothers walked for seven days, from one side of the country to the other,

from the North Sea coast to the Irish Sea. They had taken a train to Newcastle, to the misty borders in the north east of England, where the Roman emperor Hadrian once surveyed the construction of a wall that would bear his name. From there, they walked past shipyards and warehouses along the River Tyne until it led them out to open countryside and the beautiful landscapes of Northumberland and Cumbria. They saw historic sites and were met with great warmth and kindness wherever they went. They even found time to meet the mayors of Newcastle and Carlisle, spreading the message about ovarian cancer.

But the Wall was the ever-present symbol of their journey, an epic challenge that was to ask questions of the boys. They found they had to dig deep to meet the challenge of walking seven or eight hours each day, of fighting fatigue, of convincing themselves that it was not a hill too far. "A remarkable achievement for boys so young" said their teacher. "The third day was the toughest" said Benji, "we walked 15 miles mostly through driving rain and up some pretty steep hills". Daniel chipped in "Most of the week was fine but that day was really hard".

The boys are on course to raise £7,000 for Ovarian Cancer Action. If you would like to support their fundraising efforts you can make donations to the charity online by visiting www.justgiving.com/danielwalk or you can make cheque payments to "Ovarian Cancer Action" and pay in at Natwest Bank in Barnes.

The Prospect editorial team congratulates Daniel and Benji on their tremendous achievement – well done

Magic in the Circle

Hula-hoops are not just for kids – fact. Hooping is the latest fitness craze and it's coming to Rose House this month. Group classes for beginners start at 3pm on Friday, 2nd November and hoops are provided. For further information on this fantastic cardio workout and to book your place contact Pavitri Wypior on 01784 460412 or 07784 789393, www.thehoola hoops.co.uk

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S BARNES

invite you to celebrate Mardi Gras at

THE BARNES CHARITY BALL

Friday 1st February 2008

Drinks and canapés from 7:00pm in Kitson Hall, followed by dinner and dancing in St Mary's Church

All proceeds will be donated to local and international charities

For tickets, please telephone the Ball Committee
07912 615 526
Tickets £85



BARNES GUIDES AND BROWNIES

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 3rd November, 1-4pm
Guide Hall, Washington Road, Barnes

Stalls include:

- Seasonal cards and wrapping paper
- Unusual Christmas ornaments and decorations
- Unique Jewellery, Bric à Brac
- Books, CDs and DVDs
- Spring Bulbs
- Tombola and Raffle
- Cake stall and Refreshments
- Order home-made Christmas cakes and puddings

CPZ Review and results

This summer, the Council consulted every household in Barnes about simplifying and/or modifying parking controls. 1450 responses were received and the analysis makes interesting reading.

Overall, how satisfied are you with the controlled parking zone in your area?

Very satisfied: 34% Quite satisfied: 47% Not satisfied: 16%

Would you like to see the existing CPZ removed from your street?

Yes: 14% No: 79% No Preference: 4%

Do you think the trial of merging these zones (B1, CB1, CB2) has

Improved parking: 50% Parking more difficult: 12% No difference: 31%

Would you like the trial of merging these zones to be continued?

Yes: 65% No: 15% Undecided: 14% No response: 6%

- The zones B1, CB1 and CB2, which all have two-hour controls, will be permanently merged
- Individual streets offered the chance of moving from day-long controls to two-hour controls
- Pay and display parking bays will be introduced towards the station in Station Road
- Parking controls will be introduced in the Rocks Lane car park
- Short-stay parking bays will be installed beside Small Profits Dock in Lonsdale Road (where there will also be environmental improvements)
- The Council will seek to enter into an agreement with the Wetlands Centre to operate a pay-and-display and/or permit parking scheme at their car park for, for example, local businesses
- A number of minor operational amendments e.g. combined residents/business spaces will be made

But, as ever, these proposals will require further work before the relevant Traffic Orders are advertised and subsequently made (not a short legal process). At that point, the revised signs will be prepared and put in place. Only then will the revised regulations come into force.

Katie Gent

Street by street analysis can be seen on the web.

In view of residents' detailed comments, as well as the figures above, it was decided to work up the following proposals:



Knitting is SEW last year – sewing is where it's at!

Stitchclub is a new after-school club that teaches girls and boys aged 8 and over how to sew.

Forget Playstations and Gameboys – traditional skills are now super-trendy again and children are discovering the simple delights of sewing!

At Stitchclub children start to sew, first by hand and then on child-friendly sewing machines, learning lots of sewing skills and making a huge variety of fantastic projects, from cushions and pencil cases to beach bags, rag dolls... and SEW much more! There are six levels, each taking six weeks and teaching lots of new sewing skills. All equipment and materials are provided.

Bookings are now being taken for classes on Wednesdays, 3.45pm and 5.15pm at the Methodist Church, Station Road, Barnes. For full details (including other venues) see www.stitchclub.co.uk or contact Bonnie Stebbing on 07943 370762 or bonnie@stitchclub.co.uk.

Who knows, maybe your child could be the next Alexander McQueen or Vivienne Westwood!

**BARNES
MUSIC
SOCIETY**



CONCERT

Pianist and Barnes resident, Jill Crossland, plays works by Bach, Mozart, Chopin and Beethoven

St Mary's Church, Barnes

Thursday 22nd November, 8pm

Tickets £10 on the door (Concessions £8)

Further details 07931 730009



FISH

Annual General Meeting

**Barnes Green Centre
Thursday 6th December, 8pm**

Special guest speaker: Susan Kramer, MP
Everyone is invited to attend

FiSH 'n' Chats – do drop in to Rose House
Friday mornings 10.15am-12 noon

Music at St Paul's School

The next musical event in the St Paul's subscription concert series features the dynamic piano duo of Philip Moore and Simon Crawford Phillips who will present a sumptuous programme of music by Stravinsky, including their own arrangement of *The Firebird*, Schubert, Schumann and Rachmaninov. The concert takes place at the Wathen Hall, St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road at 7.30pm on Wednesday 28th November. Tickets £15, concessions £10.



You may also like to make a note in your diary of the Sodexo Charity Sing-along of *Guys and Dolls* at 7pm on Sunday 2nd December, also in the Wathen Hall. Tickets £10. This sounds like a lot of fun!

For more information and to book tickets contact manager@wathenhall.com or 8746 5338.

FiSH Tuesday Talks



Barnes Green Centre

at 11.00am

Coffee available from 10.30am

6th November Our Local Police – *Personal and home security*

13th November Jill Silvester – *Bee-keeping in suburbia*

20th November Geoffrey Walker – *Whitelands College, Ruskin and the Church*

27th November Sue Boyd – *China's Terracotta Army Exhibition*

4th December Kim Anderson – *Council Tax and Benefit – Help and advice*

Home cooked lunch available afterwards if booked in advance on 8876 2377



Saturday November 17th 10am-4pm
St Mary's Church and Kitson Hall
No admission charge

Christmas is acumen in (with apologies to anon) and **St Mary's Christmas Fair** is the ideal occasion to start stocking up on presents and enjoy a raft of fun activities for all ages. The Fair has grown in size and will take place simultaneously in both the Church and Kitson Hall.

In the Church you will find Christmas essentials, craft and garden stalls together with children's activities, live music, Floral Workshops (see separate box) and a Silent Auction. The auction features tickets to a *Status Quo* concert plus the chance to meet the band, a week at a Malaga mill house, tickets to the Royal Albert Hall's *Christmas Spectacular* and a host of other goodies.

Kitson Hall sees more St Mary's stalls – the ever popular home-made cakes and preserves, bottle tombola and bric-à-brac – together with a wonderful variety of commercial stallholders selling everything one could possibly need for Christmas giving! Scrumptious puds, dazzling jewellery, hand embroidered bedspreads, colourful pashminas, scarves, throws and ties, prints of local scenes, cards for all occasions, men's clothing and accessories, natural cosmetics and handsome

wood products.

Amongst the new participants this year is **First Growth Direct**, who import wines directly from small independent French growers and who will be offering tastings and selling by the case, and **The Book People** selling discount-priced books.

Alongside this panoply of gifts will be an **All Day Café** serving home-made lunches, wine, coffee, tea, cakes etc and you can relax and put your feet up afterwards with reflexology and massage sessions from a qualified practitioner while you listen to jazz from young local musicians *The Innuendo Sax Quartet*.

Finally there is the now legendary **Christmas raffle** of over twenty-five prizes, many of them generously given by local businesses, with a star prize of a week in a villa at Luxor on the Nile. Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance from the Church office (weekdays 10am-3pm) or by sending an email to christmasfair@stmarybarnes.org if you are not able to be there on the day.

St. Mary's very much looks forward to welcoming you to their Christmas extravaganza.

Titillate your taste-buds



Long-term resident of Barnes, Jeremy Roberts, is reviving wine tastings at the Barnes Wine Club in a new venue, the restaurant area of Karavan, the interior decorating showroom off Church Road. A series of four tastings is planned starting with 'Hidalgo sherries and Spanish wines' on 22nd November when Javier Hidalgo will talk about his family sherries and wines and will also include an insight into Andalusia. Further tastings are planned for January-April and will include 'Matching food and wine', 'Recent Bordeaux vintages' and 'The best of English vineyards'.

Jeremy has a long experience in the wine trade. He is well travelled and has conducted many talks and tastings. He was co-author and editor of *Wines of the World* and now acts as an agent for a number of vineyards in the south of France and Bordeaux. He says "The emphasis for all these tastings is fun. They are not academic, or competitive, simply a chance to taste unfamiliar wines that you might not normally take off the shelf".

For more information contact Jeremy on 020 8748 0968 or e-mail wine-archive@ukonline.co.uk

Floral Workshops at St Mary's Christmas Fair

Organised by the prestigious Judith Blacklock Flower School in Knightsbridge these workshops will take place in the Church on Saturday November 17th

Four sessions at 10.30, 11.45, 1.00 and 2.15

Cost £25 per person

As places are limited we recommend pre-booking by email to christmasfair@stmarybarnes.org or by phone to 0208 748 0757



Ugly Sisters Keith Perry and Robin Bushell with Cinderella (Louise Wellby) and Dandini (Adem Duman)

Barnes Charity Players bring Cinderella to Barnes

The Fairy Godmother will be waving her magic wand over the pumpkin as the pantomime *Cinderella*, directed by Fergus O'Kelly and designed by Darrol Blake, comes to Kitson Hall from Tuesday 27th November until Saturday 1st December at 7.30pm, with a matinee on Saturday at 2.30pm.

This is a traditional pantomime with lots of jokes, singing and dancing (including a chorus of small mice), perfect for a family audience.

Tickets at £10 and £7 are available from Wednesday 7th November at Rose House and William Thomas Hairdressers, both in Barnes High Street, or you can call the Ticketline on 020 8748 9825.

Every year the profits go to charity and this year they will be supporting projects at Barnes Primary School for recording living history, St. Osmund's Youth Club for hiring equipment and vehicles, and The Community Club based in North Barnes to support its sports programme for young people.

For further information, contact Robin Eastwood on 020 8563 0332 or 07977 539654.

Sexologically Speaking at the OSO

“Yes,” says Carolyn Pertwee, whose four short plays will be in performance at the OSO from 15th to 18th November; “sexologically really is a word in the Oxford Dictionary”. Each play, she explains, covers different aspects of love and sex from growing older to a one-night stand. Three of the award winning plays, *The Beautiful Couple*, *On Thin Ice* and *The Stuff of Dreams* are between ten and fifteen minutes long. The fourth, *Double Image*, is a 45 minute one act play, which had performance readings in its shorter version at the BAC and at the Soho Theatre last year.

Carolyn was born into a theatrical family; her father was screenwriter/playwright, Michael Pertwee and her actress mother and stepfather ran the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne where Carolyn made her stage debut at the age of 12 in *Dear Brutus*. After training at RADA, she began a successful stage and TV career. Her big break came, aged 19, at the start of the Old Vic’s world tour where she played opposite Vivien Leigh in *Duel of Angels* in Melbourne. Sally Home, whom she was understudying, went down with mumps. Unrehearsed, Carolyn stepped into the role and received glowing reviews: one headlined ‘Mumps made a star’.

On that happy tour she met her husband-to-be Coeks Gordon, who had a backstage role and later became production manager at the

National Theatre. The couple would become well known to Barnes residents as the owners of GORDON’S, the toy, cards and stationery shop in the High Street. They decided that a change from stressful theatre was essential to establish a stable home-life for their small children. Carolyn found the years in the shop an invaluable feeding ground for the creative process allowing her time to observe all sorts of human traits and behaviours.

She took up writing shortly before the shop closed eleven years ago and within a year had her first play produced at the BAC. Carolyn’s writing soon attracted the attention of veteran producer John Howard Davies (*The Good Life* and *Fawlty Towers*) who actively encouraged her to write her second sitcom *Rosie and Dud* which was later bought by Warner Sisters. More recently her Radio Four afternoon play *The Beautiful Couple* with Julia McKenzie and Ronald Pickup was the pick of the day in all the national press, one critic describing the work as “A radio drama that grips you so tightly you will not care about returning late to work.”



Carolyn with Vivien Leigh in *Duel of Angels*

Anne Carroll, Artistic Director at the OSO who will be directing *Double Image* has directed Carolyn’s work in the past. Well known local thespians Anne Cunningham, Brian Spink and Madeleine Newbury make up three of the cast of six.

William Mortimer

The Holly Dog stories



Barnes Pond is the focus of the first of three stories about Holly to be published this month when Kew residents Lyn Keay and Marjorie Evans launch their first book of stories for young children. The inspiration is Holly, a dog owned by a Barnes family and the tales are based on her exploits in Barnes, Kew and Richmond. This illustrated book will be available from the Barnes Bookshop from mid-November; and at £7.99 makes an ideal Christmas present. ‘Holly Dog’ Christmas cards are also available.

Wetlands autumn in full swing

Autumn is in full swing, and the bird species have started to settle into their winter wetland habitat. Birdwatchers and staff alike were thrilled with the arrival of a Blyth’s Reed Warbler, spotted on 9th October. This species is an incredibly rare sight, especially in eastern England with the last sighting in Greater London in 2001. It highlights the importance of the nature reserve here in Barnes. Visitors and staff at the Wetlands hope they see more of this, and other, special species such as the Bittern, which is expected to arrive towards the end of the month.

Wintering birds, including Little Grebe, Gadwall, and Pochard, will be highlighted on the Wintering Wetland Birds course on offer on 18th November. This beginner/intermediate course will look at wintering wildfowl on the grounds, and includes lunch in the Water’s Edge Café.

The popular Sunday carveries continue with a full Sunday roast offering a variety of meats, vegetables, coffee and desserts (vegetarian options available).

Weekends are full of opportunities to learn more and improve skills. The Introduction to Birdwatching courses run on 4th, 10th and 25th November, and the Wildlife Walks for WWT Members are taking place on the 11th



Little Grebe savouring his catch! (Picture by Chris Algar.)

and 16th. The Centre also continues its free daily tours of the grounds, with each guide offering his or her own unique stories.

The appearance of the Blyth’s Reed Warbler has created a stir and excitement in the air – the perfect atmosphere to start up the holiday events at the centre. From 1st December visitors can buy their Christmas Trees on-site from Silver Fir, and a donation from each tree sold will be made directly to WWT’s conservation work. Special holiday events are planned at the wetlands this year including an ice rink and the traditional Carols by Candlelight evening. Stay tuned for more details of all Christmas activities, or pick up an Events leaflet from Rose House or the Centre. Stasa Veroukis

One hundred years of fashion

In a fit of madness in 1881, the philosopher and critic John Ruskin bestowed the most incredible gift on Whitelands College, now in Roehampton. Tired with dour Victorian values and longing for a bit of silly fun, Ruskin convinced his chum John Faunthorpe, the then head-teacher of Whitelands, to hold a May Queen Festival. It would be a day when all the students at the all-girls college would frolic or, as he put it, "be like daisies".

But here's the really amazing bit. Ruskin's quirky vision never died out; they're still doing all of this at Whitelands every year as they have done since 1881. Ruskin worked through his bout of madness, to come up with more and more grand schemes for the occasion, all of which are honoured to this day. He thought a May Day Queen, voted in on the specifications of the most 'likeablest' and 'loveablest' pupil at the college, should be elected to rule over the festivities. She should have a dress and garland made for her and a cross to keep as a memento. Every year since a Queen has been elected for the day and has been given a dress, a garland and a cross, all still kept at Whitelands. So there is a dress from every year since 1881 – could you imagine a better study of fashion over time?

The first dress was black, corseted, high-collared and very austere. Ruskin was furious. The next year he took the matter into his own

hands and commissioned his friend the illustrator Kate Greenaway to design the second: a tunic of cream cashmere cloth with bell sleeves and the most exquisitely embroidered pansies for which Greenaway is well-known. Looking at the dresses together, you can see how fashion has changed over time: from long Victorian trains to oh-so-scandalous ankle-showing 1920s frocks; from gaudy hippy head-band adorned 60s styles to Laura Ashley 1970s prints; and now the strapless, long silk ball gowns which girls tend to wear. At Whitelands they also have most of the crosses archived; the Queens were so good-natured and 'loveablest' that most of them bequeathed them back to the college. The first cross was made by Ruskin's friend and renowned jeweller Arthur Severn (boy, did Ruskin know how to call in favours!). Whichever Queens are able, return to the May Queen Festival every year to wear their dresses and crosses in the procession.



May Day Procession, 1902 – with thanks to Whitelands College Collection

The best news is that you can see these spectacular dresses, crosses, and photos in the Whitelands archives. Phone the archivist Gilly King on 8392 3514 and she'll be happy to show you around.

Rachel Rickard Straus



Barnes Literary Society

JULIAN FELLOWES and BARBARA BAKER In Conversation about Script Writing

'You've read the book, now see the movie'. How many times have we been attracted by such a headline? The art of writing an enthralling script, whether it is adapted from a book, or is a fresh story, requires a special talent. In Julian Fellowes we have such a talent. The Oscar-winning screenwriter appeared in more than 40 movies and TV shows before writing his screenplay for *Gosford Park*. His experience as an actor has given him a very special insight into what works in a script – from convincing plot and characters to 'sayable' dialogue. His first major screenplay was of Anthony Trollope's *The Eustace Diamonds*, followed by the screenplay for *Vanity Fair*. Among his credits are *Separate Lies*, a film starring Tom Wilkinson, Emily Watson and Rupert Everett, the book for the musical *Mary Poppins* currently showing in the West End, and of course his entertaining social satire *Snobs*.

Julian will be in conversation with the writer Barbara Baker, who interviewed him for her book *The Way We Write*. This unique collection of interviews with novelists, poets, playwrights and screenplay writers makes fascinating reading and will be followed by her latest publication *Backstage Stories* (November 2007). Barbara is a full time writer who also has a great flair for interviewing and has written four books in this genre. This conversation will offer a fascinating insight into the art of script writing.

Please note **Change of Date** from previous publicity. The event will be held on **Wednesday 7th November** at 8pm at the OSO by Barnes Pond.

For membership details please see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk or contact 8748 2558.

Letter to the Editor

Dear *Prospect*

I much appreciated Sally Holloway's comments about the Farmers' Market in the last issue. It is a lively weekend event which gives my wife and me great pleasure, yet we are well aware that shops suffer as a result, and that in theory the market could disappear at the drop of a hat, leaving Barnes impoverished of shops forced to close through what is rightly seen to be unfair commercial competition, given the atrocious rents and taxes which local shopkeepers are compelled to pay.

Having worried about this situation for some time we have come to what we hope is a reasonable compromise, which is to use the Farmers' Market only for things that are unobtainable in local shops – this still gives us plenty of scope to enjoy the festive atmosphere of Saturday mornings, which I for one would greatly miss.

Yours sincerely
Edwin Mullins

An ideal solution which I hope others may follow – Sally H.

Erratum

Did you spot the 'deliberate mistake' in last month's *Prospect*? Rose House, one of the oldest buildings in Barnes, dates from the 17th Century and not the 18th. The rooms are not very large, and the Hall, with its small kitchenette, can only accommodate a maximum of 40 people. To hire this, or any of the smaller meeting rooms, contact Julia on 8878 2359.

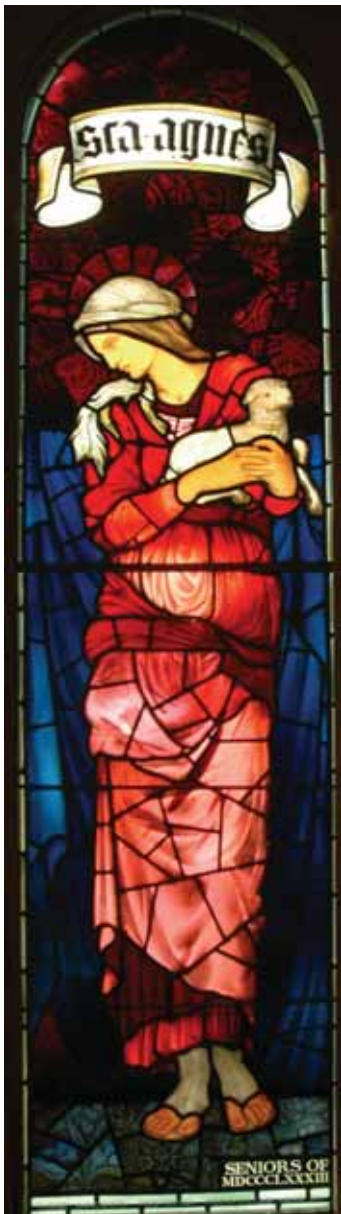
Artist and artisan

Eric and Jennifer Cooper have their workshop in 'Karavan' yard in Church Road. The materials they work in are numerous but above all glass and lead. The workshop, like those of medieval craftsmen, is both creative space and home.

Their creations in stained glass have so stirred imaginations that Eric was invited to speak at the first international conference on 'Conflict Resolution' sponsored by the World Health Organisation and the World Psychiatry Association in 2002. His subject was Art as Healer and quoting Goethe 'Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now', he thus revealed himself. The growing legacy of the Coopers' works in our area deserves to be better known.

Eric's particular muse, ever vigilant, permits him little rest, reminding us that the magic of all true 'art' - including that of the smallest child - emerges from the fire of its creator's obsession.

He is not without humour, observing that "My long fixation with professional integrity commenced with continental haute cuisine (a doomed adventure) via full-blown art training at the Royal College of Art but leading to a



master's degree in HGV driving for British Road Services". There followed the really serious business of raising a large family by means of designing and making thousands of hand-made lampshades mainly for major London stores. This 'bread-and-butter' exercise augmented by shop fitting, graphic and product design; exhibition installation and experimental work in ceramics and sculpture in glass, resin and acrylic, gradually evolved into restoration work. Initially, he concentrated on small, valuable items

proceeding to whole buildings, initially in-and-around Barnes and by this means acquired an endless repertory of skills. A host of materials, predominantly wood, in which he works include brick, stone, metal and glass from which emerge distinctive Cooper doors, windows, staircases, walls, chimneys, interiors, roofs, fences, etc.

Following a brief sabbatical in the State Apartments at Hampton Court, St. Paul's School invited him to join their art and drama departments. His responsibilities as general factotum suited his restless nature and he raised the standards of theatre production with some spectacular sets and special effects. Young Paulines struggling to realise their creative ideas were able to draw on his inventive and creative experience. During a six-year stay he also rescued and restored all thirty-six forgotten, stained glass panels from the original demolished school in Hammersmith. They may now be seen in all their glory, in the atrium, in the library and in the new music school, where an impressive example of his woodcarving is also to be found. Over the Wathen Hall balcony a carved and gilded, three-metre cherry wood scroll announces its name. In 2001, he and his wife Jennifer gilded the magnificent John Colet memorial, which stands at the school entrance.

His skills as artist and artisan resulted in commissions of a complexity that ended his time at the school and his next opus was the dazzling rose window for St. Osmund's church. This three-year marathon project comprised intricate crystal and semiprecious, rosy-pink glass forming the image of a phoenix engulfed in flames, symbol of spiritual resurrection, set against the deep blue of outer space filled with a galaxy of spinning, blinding stars.

A further significant commission, lasting several years, consisted of the removal, restoration and re-siting of fifteen Burne-Jones/William Morris windows, originally made for Whitelands College, Chelsea and now re-housed in splendour at Roehampton University



Eric Cooper gilding the John Colet memorial at St Paul's School

Parkstead House. Eric and Jennifer working together cleaned and restored these magnificent panels depicting female saints. In their own unique ash frames they can be appreciated at eye level for the first time, bringing the viewer into intimate contact with the genius of the artists. Above the original main door to Parkstead House, under the old clock, is another Cooper commission (designed to complement the Morris idiom) which bears a central motif of three crystal arrows, central to the badge of the Whitelands Guild, from the legend of St Ursula.

In the 1980s and 90s Eric's love of lettering and sign-writing led to many commissions from local shop-keepers: Focal Point among many others, remains as example. The ornate and gilded, wrought iron mortar and pestle for the chemist shop in Church Road was mysteriously 'stolen'. More durable perhaps is the dedication chiselled into the top of the large, pale beech frontals chest to the right of the altar in St. Mary's church. On the wall opposite are the names of Jeffreys, father and son, vicars who completed most structural work in the original church. The father was a nephew of the infamous "Hanging Judge", an Old Pauline and Chief Justice of England under King James. Eric can trace part of his ancestry to this monster via his paternal grandmother.

Eric and Jennifer's way of life, at variance with worldly wealth and status, is one of dogged immersion in their art. Their reward and satisfaction derives from the completion of and the life in their finished work. When achieved, its spirituality depends on the selection of materials that resonate. "Only then, within the setting", he says, "does the idea discover its voice, which can then amplify, articulate and express the aspiration of the artist and those he serves."

William Mortimer

It is hoped that this article with photographs of Eric, Jennifer and many fine examples of their work will appear on the BCA web site.