



Prospect

November 2009

Price when sold £1



Post early for Christmas!

This delightful new BCA Christmas card, from local photographer Caroline Silver Lewis, is available now from Rose House. It measures 4" x 6" and comes in packs of twelve cards for £5. Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go towards the renovation of the kitchen at Rose House which, after more than thirty years, is looking rather tired.

Late Night Christmas Shopping in Barnes Village

The Barnes Community Association will once again coordinate Late Night Shopping from 6-9pm on **Friday 4th December**, with Open House at the BCA headquarters in Rose House, 70 Barnes High Street and shops in the High Street and Church Road offering a warm welcome.

There will be all the usual attractions including Father Christmas, who will distribute gifts to children at Rose House; a carousel on the Green; St. Mary's Church hand-bell ringers in the High Street; Barnes Concert Band performing on the traffic island near the pond and the Harrodian School Choir singing

seasonal music.

An added attraction this year will be an Arts and Crafts evening in the Barnes Green Centre – for more information contact Chrissie Penfold, 07863 562 956. Whilst you browse the stalls Age Concern will be on hand with mulled wine and mince pies. Incidentally they are looking for new volunteers to help run the Centre and staff will be on hand to answer any questions.

It is also hoped, weather permitting, to hold a Bric-à-Brac and Antiques Market by the pond.

Look out for more details of these and other 'happenings' in the December issue of *Prospect*!

Turning trash into treasure

I understand that the pre-sale sorters thought that there wasn't much jumble, let alone anything worth much. How wrong they were!

On Friday evening 185 people came through the door, to be followed on Saturday by another 467, helping the BCA take well over £8,500 gross. The net amount will not be known for some time and at that stage the money raised will be shared amongst the BCA, local primary schools, Guides and Scouts who all provided volunteers and assistance.

I asked around for any anecdotes and was told about the Barnes dad – now in the dog-house – who handed in, as well as the family's jumble, a bag containing precious pictures done many years ago by his small children. And overheard in the main hall "Are you serving in this department?" and "I must just pop over to the electrical department". The *Jumble Sale of the Year* has gone up in the world!

The BCA is extremely grateful to everyone who helped in so many ways, before, during and after the sale and, of course, to all those who donated items and came to buy.

Gill Spillane



Save the Children Fund Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 7th November, 10.30am-3.30pm
Rose House, 70 Barnes High Street

Stock up early on Christmas cards, wrapping paper, gifts and stocking fillers
Cakes and refreshments on sale

Next issue of *Prospect*

We would like to remind readers that the next issue of *Prospect* will be a combined **December/January** edition. All copy and adverts, as well as diary entries for both December and January, must be sent by **10th November**, preferably by e-mail to bca@barnesvillage.org.uk.

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matters...

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News from the Executive

The October BCA Executive meeting heard and considered two presentations. Candice Streeter-Jewitt gave us an update on the Barn Elms sports facility. At last Barn Elms Sports Trust (BEST) has the go ahead from the council to improve the pitch and pavilion. However there is still work to be done which needs help from the whole Barnes community. Firstly we shall be expected to make good use of all the facilities and secondly continuous fund raising will be required to keep the facilities up to scratch so they do not fall into disrepair again.

Sue Nichol, the BCA Retail Champion, then gave a review of her work over the summer. She has set up the Barnes Association of Retail Traders (BART) which will hopefully enable the shops to market and regenerate our shopping centres for the benefit of all. As part of this launch a colourful 2010 calendar showing views of Barnes has been produced. Come and buy your copies from Rose House reception – the perfect Christmas present for overseas friends and family. See page 3 for details.

The Saturday Antiques and Collectables market by the pond has started well; hopefully

this will encourage both local and outside visitors to come into Barnes to shop. Sue will be putting further plans together for the retailers to take advantage of events such as Hallowe'en and Christmas shopping.

The Executive elected four Trustees and I am pleased to announce that they are Mike Spillane and Katie Gent, who have been trustees for some time, and David Stott and Sue Boyd, well known to the BCA as former Fair Chairman and Environment Group Chairman respectively. We look forward to working with them. Jean Glover stood down as a trustee after nearly ten years. Jean has been a stalwart of the BCA for many years and it would not be the strong and diverse organisation it is today without her help and guidance. Fortunately she will still be available to the BCA should we need her great expertise.

The date of BCA helpers' party that I mentioned in last month's *Prospect* has been changed to Thursday 26th November. Please keep that date free.

Isobel Woolf, *BCA Chairman*

A reminder



There is still time to join in the fun of the *Marché de Noël* in Le Pecq on Sunday 29th November when you will be able to buy unusual Christmas gifts from France,

Spain and Germany. It is also hoped that visitors from Barnes will help to sell BCA goods, including the new Christmas cards and calendars. There will, of course, be other events arranged during the weekend. Do get in touch if you are interested.

Host families are being sought for our French friends coming to Barnes for the weekend of the 11th-13th December when they will be attending a performance by the Barnes Choir of Handel's *Messiah*. If you can help, please contact me via the BCA office on 8878 2359 or at lepecq@barnesvillage.org.uk.

Mike Spillane

A successful launch

A steady flow of people visited the new **Arts and Crafts Market** at the Barnes Green Centre last month to browse or purchase from the wide range of crafts. It was very encouraging to have so many local artists among the stallholders. There was a lot of positive feedback from visitors, many staying for lunch and a complimentary glass of wine.

The next market is on Saturday 7th November and entry is free. It is expected that pictures, sculptures, jewellery, wooden items, pewter, ceramics, children's clothes and toys, photography and much more will be for sale. For further information please contact Chrissie Penfold on 07863 562 956 or email chrissieartsandcrafts@yahoo.co.uk.



Environment Group report

Items discussed at the last meeting included:

1. Riverside Trees

Together with the West

London River Group we are keeping an eye on which trees the Port of London Authority will be removing from the revetments. To replace some the PLA will plant sixteen trees, a mixture of chestnuts, oaks, planes and maples, between Hammersmith Bridge and the bank opposite Chiswick Pier. The exact planting positions can be seen on a map in the BCA office, together with a copy of a study compiled by Dr Aaron Davis on behalf of the Kew Society, reporting a good quantity of female black poplars, at least 5% of the national population. These are old, many planted by the old Metropolitan Water Board when this part of Barnes, by the river, was used for freshwater reservoirs.

2. Hammersmith Lower Bus Station

After a very protracted process, connected with putting facilities on other people's property, the handrail in the passage to the lower bus station at Hammersmith is due to be installed. Although the passage is owned by the shopping centre the handrail is being funded by Transport for London. Slow progress, but we are gradually inching towards the change in bus stops on the lower bus station!

3. Old Barnes Cemetery

There is a problem by the Old Barnes Cemetery on Barnes Common and on the

boundary with Putney Common, for many years popular places for homosexual activities. This summer activities seem to have increased, leading to a serious litter problem with the potential to spread disease. In the last few months this area has been so disgusting that dog walkers and people with children have been avoiding, in particular, the Old Cemetery. Being overgrown, this is a wonderful place for a large variety of birds and wildlife; it would be a pity to have to cut back the trees just because this area is being abused. Friends of Barnes Common, our Community Police, the Council and the BCA are working together to find out how we, the community, can keep this area free of this disgusting and unhygienic rubbish. We want the message to go out, loud and clear: take your offensive litter home.

Next meeting: Monday, 23rd November, 8pm at Rose House

Susan Boyd, *Chairman*

Barnes Railway Bridge

Network Rail informs us that further closures of the footbridge over the river are necessary: 1am Saturday 21st to 4am Monday 23rd November and 1am Sunday 13th to 4am Monday 14th December; 9.30am to 3.30pm, Monday 9th November to Sunday 13th December.

Further information from the Hotline 0800 389 5901.

Area Consultation Meeting

**Barnes Green Centre,
Monday 7th December, 7.30pm**

Meet and discuss local issues with Barnes and Mortlake councillors and the Safer Neighbourhood Police teams.

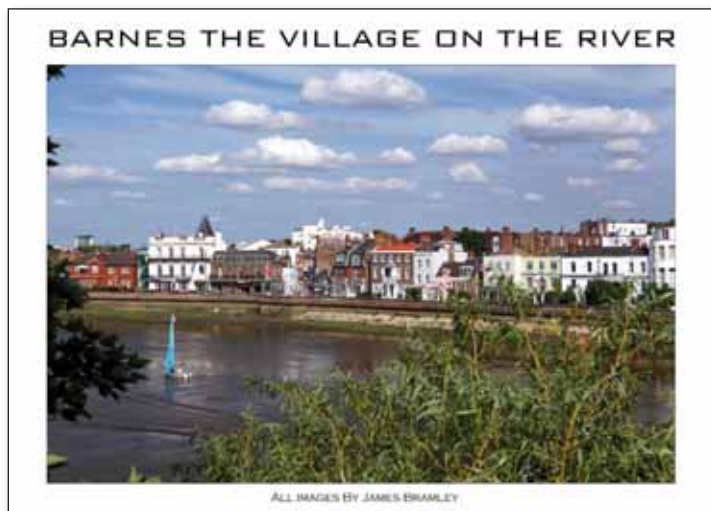
If you have an issue and want to be sure of a full answer on the night, contact Richmond Council at least ten days before the meeting and ask for your concern to be an agenda item. For this, you can use an online form (www.richmond.gov.uk) or ring 0208 891 7813. Other items can be raised on the night, though the answers may not be complete.

Barnes, the village on the river – calendars for 2010

We are very grateful to professional photographer James Bramley who has donated some beautiful original pictures of Barnes for our calendars. They include important dates in the Barnes calendar and information on local retailers.

The calendars, priced at £7.50 each or two for £12, are available from Rose House, St Mary's Christmas Fair, the market and local shops. All profits will go towards rejuvenating Barnes, which is currently looking 'tired'. There is redundant street furniture, a plethora of notices, so many varieties of paving. This, along with empty shops, is a bit depressing. So monies raised will be spent on making Barnes attractive – adding blooms wherever possible and creating events to bring people and life to the heart of the village.

Sue Nichol, Retail Champion



Taxi!

Residents with long memories may remember that there used to be a phone in a box at the foot of the stairs on the central platform of Barnes Station to enable passengers to ring for a lift or a taxi. That went when vandals set fire to the platform buildings and since then we have had a standard telephone kiosk by the exit onto Station Road.

Now passengers arriving late, heavily burdened, unable – or unwilling – to walk across the common, can arrange for a mini cab before even leaving the platform. Barnes Cars, which used to operate from premises on Upper Richmond Road West, have transferred to what used to be the waiting room on Platforms 2 and 3 and renamed themselves **Barnes Station Cars** but with the same telephone number, 8876 6666. They are open 24/7 and apparently spend some of the night hours, if there are no trains or phone calls, playing computer games!

Apart from the loss of the waiting room which, I seem to remember, was locked as often as not, everyone gains. The firm saves on the cost of business premises; South West Trains are presumably glad of their presence at night and when the station is unstaffed; and passengers in need of a cab can arrange this on the spot.

Margaret Sharp

Innovations to make busy lives easier

Car Clubs

If your car use is irregular and relatively infrequent or you occasionally have need of a second car, it might suit you to 'rent as you go' rather than buy. Car clubs, with sixteen available cars, have appeared in Barnes. The system is simple: first register with the club; then each time you need a car book it via the internet or telephone; use your smartcard to get in; use and return the car, paying by the hour. It is hassle free and cheaper than running a car. See www.carclubs.org.uk.

RingGo

New parking meters in Barnes allow for RingGo cashless parking. Once registered, you can pay for your parking by mobile phone and top up your parking whilst away from the meter. The system even sends you a text message to warn you if you are running out of time! For more information see www.richmond.gov.uk.

Concert by The Music Makers

**St Michael and All Angels, Elm Bank Gardens, Barnes
Saturday 12th December, 7.30pm**

Fauré's *Requiem*, Duruflé's *Quatre Motets* and French Christmas music
Tickets £10, £8 (concessions) from coralieedwards@hotmail.com,
8876 2686

Hallelujah!

Or, more soberly, Barnes Choir to perform Handel's *Messiah*

Handel's *Messiah* is probably, and deservedly, the most frequently performed work of the choral repertoire and each performance has its own take. Barnes Choir will, unusually, be singing the full version. It tells the story of the birth, life, death, ascent to Heaven and resurrection of Christ, and the spreading of his gospel. Musical director Andrew Charity says "*Messiah* is a religious oratorio but the format is operatic – after all, Italian opera was Handel's favourite medium. So we have to tell the story as if we are making a discovery and singing it for the first time. And we need to sing in a bright, clean way, with the voices we've got and as the people we are".

When King George II decided to stand up for the *Hallelujah* chorus, everybody else in the hall, including the orchestra, had to stand up too. Audiences, but not the band, carry on the tradition to this day. Was the King standing to acknowledge Christ as the King of Kings? Or was he overwhelmed by the music? Did he arrive late for the performance and hadn't sat down yet? Or was it just that his gout was troubling him and he needed to stretch his legs? These are popular theories but no one actually knows. We shall see whether the tradition lives on when Barnes Choir performs *Messiah* on Saturday 12th December at 7.30pm in Duke Street Church, Duke Street, Richmond. Tickets £12, including programme, (children under 12 free) from Pauline Gore 8940 0949 or on the door.

John Greenwood

Anyone for Figgy Pudding?



No need to be alone on Christmas Day when a warm welcome awaits you at the Barnes Green Social Centre.

The BCA will be once again providing a fabulous traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, followed by entertainment. Call in to the BCA office at Rose House or ring Hilary on 8878 2359 to book your place, but make sure you have your name down by 10th December so we can plan the catering.

Volunteers wanted:

If you could spare a little time on Christmas Day we need volunteers to help with serving lunch, to entertain or provide transport. Please call Hilary on 8878 2359.

If you haven't time to spare on Christmas Day but would like to help the day go with a swing, perhaps you could give a gift, such as a bottle of wine, to the raffle, but we appreciate any contribution however small. Just bring it to Rose House sometime in December.
Hilary McGough



One hundred years of Girlguiding



Barnes Guides, Senior Section and Brownies joined with 1900 girls to celebrate the launch of **Girlguiding UK Centenary Year** with a party in Heyswood,

the county campsite, on the 100th anniversary of the original Boy Scout Rally at Crystal Palace.

From the early beginnings in 1909 when a group of girls demanded to be allowed to be Scouts too, which led to the formation of The Girl Guide Association in 1910, the movement has grown to over 600,000 members in the UK and over 10 million worldwide. The year ends at 20:10 on 20-10-2010 when as far as possible every Guide in the UK will renew her promise at the same time; Barnes District guides will renew their promises at the Windmill on Wimbledon Common, where Lord Baden Powell wrote part of *Scouting for Boys*.

Before then there will be many exciting opportunities for the current Barnes guides who hope to be joined by past members of Girlguiding for special events. The first event will be an Edwardian Christmas Fair at the Guide Hall, Washington Road on Saturday 21st November – see page 6 for details.



Barnes Guides Faye Hahlo and Abi Itkin celebrate the centenary in style

Remember, remember the Seventh of November!

It's time to light up the sky with the celebrated Barnes Bonfire and Firework display, the hottest ticket in SW13, to be held this year on Saturday 7th November.

This prime-time family event with fun for all ages will take place at Barnes Sports Club, Lonsdale Road, the club at the heart of the community, where the gates open at 5.30pm.

To celebrate Guy Fawkes – some say the last person to enter parliament with honest intentions! – the fantastic *Make-a-Guy* competition for children under thirteen is back by popular demand and the winner will get the opportunity to join the official firework lighting party and will receive a gift voucher donated by *Les Petits*. The Masked Judge will choose the winner at 6.50pm before leading guys and their owners in a torch-lit procession to lay them on the bonfire before it is lit at 7pm.

Food and drink including hamburgers and mulled wine will be for sale, as well as sparklers, light sticks and other fun things.

The firework display starts at 7.45pm. When it's over and the blazing bonfire is dying down, all those with the energy for revelry can make their way to the clubhouse bar for a different kind of warmth and a strictly optional bop!

Individual tickets: £10 adults, £5 children; Family tickets (2 adults and 2 children): £20. Save queuing by buying in advance from local shops including *Seals*, *Two Peas in a Pod*, *Focalpoint* and *Les Petits*.

Contact Mike Thomas for more details: 8876 1270.



Barnes Netball Club

A new netball club is looking for members. If you'd like to get back into the sport or start afresh with a local team, go to Barn Elms Sports Centre and meet like-minded women, some of whom have been playing socially over the summer and now want to progress to the next level. They train (and play a game) on Sunday mornings, 9.30-11am, currently outdoors, but will move to an indoor location, hopefully in Barnes, when the

weather turns. They will be playing friendly matches against other teams as well as entering tournaments, including the Jersey Open in February – three spaces still available.

More details and registration form from harrietmillard@hotmail.com.

Come on ladies, kick-start your Sundays and become a founding member of your local netball team!

Jump into the unknown



BeYond Theatre, based in Barnes, runs workshops in improvisation and acting techniques that are fun, creative and confidence building. For over thirty years the group has

created original productions with no script, building on the imagination and cooperation of its members.

BYT represented the UK at the Cairo International Festival of Experimental Theatre in 2001 and 2005, and has been invited back. The company has already created three commissions for Kew Gardens in 2007 and 2008; their tribute to the painter Marianne North whose gallery is in Kew was a notable success.

BYT Experimental Theatre Group offers a unique opportunity for anyone between the ages of 16 and 80! If you would like a chance to play with theatre, visit the website www.byt-etg.co.uk or contact the director, Ed Cottrell, 07976 718 142, byt@hotmail.co.uk.

A unique sound

Under the direction of their choir master, boys of St Paul's Cathedral choir bring their unique sound to the concert platform of the Wathen Hall, St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road, Barnes in a varied programme of both haunting and joyful musical styles interspersed by readings. For tickets, £15 adults and £10 concessions, for the concert on Wednesday 25th November call 0208 746 5424 or go to www.wathenhall.com. This concert forms part of the 2009-10 season of Music at St Paul's.

Art Retrospective

Nancy Fletcher is a classically trained painter recently returned to Barnes after studying and working in Florence and New York. With over fifteen years of experience in Fine Art she specialises in portraiture as well as figural and still-life paintings. Thanks to Raj and Colette of The Tree House Restaurant, 73 White Hart Lane, a one-person exhibition of her work **Art Retrospective** will be held there from 17th November to January 2010, daily 11am-11pm. All welcome!

St Osmund's Christmas Bazaar
St Osmund's Church Hall, Castelnau
Saturday 21st November, 11am-4pm

Santa's Grotto, festive music, Christmas gifts, jams, books, decorations and much more.

Tickets for the Grand Draw from Clare Hagan, 0208 876 6173 or hagan801@btinternet.com

Work Experience opportunity

Are you looking for some voluntary work experience and want to pursue a career in the law? Or are you thinking about what to do next in life and seek a fulfilling role in a friendly but professional environment?

The Personal Support Unit (PSU) needs a volunteer Senior Manager to help coordinate its service to people without legal representation in civil cases at Wandsworth County Court. They will report to and interact with the director and staff at The Royal Courts of Justice.

Ideally, you can offer:

- 2/3 days per week
- An enthusiastic and organised working style
- Education to degree level
- Basic computer skills
- A commitment to delivering a high quality service to vulnerable clients
- The ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people

Find out more at www.thepsu.co.uk. Expenses paid and, if preferred, office facilities set up in your home. If you are interested please email a brief CV and a letter explaining what you could offer to support@thepsu.co.uk or write to Director, c/o PSU, Room M104, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL.

Personal service

Last month in my article about shops weathering the recession I omitted Kokos, who seem to be so much a part of our High Street I had forgotten that they actually arrived only last February. Christopher, the manager, says the company (which has been in business for thirty-three years) likes to give personal service to customers, whether fitting shoes or repairing our much loved leather bags or luggage and they don't feel that they can do that effectively in the faceless anonymity of the average high street. They came here because we are a community and have not been disappointed – they love it here.

Two of our shops have recently achieved accolades. The Flower Room in White Hart Lane was voted one of the ten top florists in the whole of London by *The Independent* and Natson's in Church Road became finalists in the Retail Industry Awards, but were pipped at the post for the top prize by a newsagent in Derbyshire.

I would also like to mention that many of the Barnes shops and restaurants plan to open for business on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas, so there is no excuse for not shopping locally! Look out for posters in their windows.

Sue Nichol, Retail Champion

Dick Whittington and his Cat

Director Susan Conte and co-designer Annie Collette recently accepted a Richmond Arts Swan Award for Best Overall Design for the Barnes Charity Players' production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The judges were impressed by the overall design concept, including imaginative use of a forestage, lighting, costumes and particularly the 'magic mushrooms' which formed the fairy ring.

The award-winning Players' next production will be the musical pantomime *Dick Whittington and his Cat* at Kitson Hall, Kitson Road, Barnes from Tuesday 1st to Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm, with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

With a witty script by Stuart Ardern, the show is directed by Fergus O'Kelly and features Jason Bennett as Dick and Alexa Bushell as Alice-Esmerelda, together with a multi-talented Cat. The motley cast of characters includes pirates and, naturally, several small rats, recruited from the talented pool of child actors in Barnes. With plenty of singing and dancing, this is a traditional show for all the family. Book early to avoid disappointment. Tickets at £10 and £8 will



Jason Bennett, Alexa Bushell and Zoe Prokopiou with Cat

be available from mid-November via the Ticketline, 0208 748 9825; from the BCA, Rose House, 70 Barnes High Street (mornings); or William Thomas Hair Design, 66a Barnes High Street (afternoons).

For further information contact Robin Eastwood, Barnes Charity Players Press and Publicity, 07977 539654.

Shene Academy moves closer

The following update is a shortened version of one by Matthew Paul, Deputy Head of Commissioning, Delivery and Service Improvement in the Children's Services and Culture Department, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, Ed Balls, has approved the Council's choice of the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) as sponsor of the proposed academy at Shene. That means that ... the proposal is now in the 'Expression of Interest' stage, in which the high-level vision of AET and the Council as co-sponsor for the proposed academy will be outlined ... A public meeting will be organised [to give] further information, and answer questions on ... [what] the distinctive ethos and the objectives of the academy would be.

Both the Council's Cabinet and the Minister for Schools would have to approve the

'Expression of Interest' document before the proposal could enter the next phase, 'Feasibility', in which details of the proposal would be developed and formal statutory consultation would take place. It is proposed that, subject to the consultation and decision-making processes, the academy would open on 1st September 2010.

AET ... has an excellent track-record of school improvement. [They] are also very willing to work with the Council as co-sponsor, so that the proposed academy at Shene would stay firmly within the local family of schools, with the same admission arrangement as at present and with the continuation of many current local arrangements regarding special educational needs, 14-19 partnership working, community use of sports facilities, etc.

For further information, ring 0208 891 7588 or email m.paul@richmond.gov.uk.



Star cellist to play in Barnes

Winner of the prestigious Pierre Fournier Award at the Wigmore Hall in 2007, Gemma Rosefield made her concerto debut at the age of sixteen, when she won first prize in the European Music for Youth competition in Oslo. Numerous other awards and prizes followed.

She studied at the Royal Academy of Music and then with Ralph Kirshbaum at the Royal Northern College of Music, where she won the coveted Gold Medal. She has also participated in master-classes with Steven Isserlis and Yo-Yo Ma. She returned to the Wigmore Hall to give the Jacqueline du Pré Memorial Concerts in 2008 and 2009 and has just returned from a very well-received concert tour of Japan.

Gemma's concert for Barnes Music Society (with Michael Dussek, piano) on Wednesday 11th November, 8pm at the Methodist Church, Barnes Green is a very special occasion, not to be missed. The programme features Beethoven, David Matthews, Mendelssohn, Schumann and Brahms.

Further details and tickets, £10 from 8876 1563 or see www.barnesmusicsociety.or.uk

Partygoers excited by future plans for the OSO Community Arts Centre

The OSO Community Arts Centre was privileged to host some eighty people at its recent re-launch party. The Centre's patron from its inception in 2001, Gyles Brandreth, hosted the evening and entertained with stories of great actors of his day before unveiling a concept for new OSO signage. The signs, creating a unique identity, are soon to appear outside the building so that the emergency services as well as the audiences can find the OSO quickly. For too long people have referred to the Centre as 'that place behind ASK restaurant'.

Gyles paid tribute to the founders of the Centre, Anne Carroll and Coeks Gordon, and made the case for local theatre in the life of the community. "Without enthusiasts" he said "such enterprises never get off the ground"



Gyles Brandreth with co-founder of the OSO Community Arts Centre Coeks Gordon

and went on to encourage partygoers to support initiatives by the trustees to sustain a vibrant and secure future for the home of artistic enterprise in Barnes. As example of the creative energy of the Centre, guests were entertained to a cabaret of songs from the new musical *Handbag* (an adaptation of *The Importance of being Earnest*) by Douglas

Livingstone with music by Adam and Zia McGuinness before its premiere at the OSO.

Representatives of Richmond Council's departments of Culture and Art enjoyed the opportunity to meet supporters and principal users of the Centre and were quick to appreciate the artistic quality of the theatrical experience. "The Old Sorting Office is an important centre for community arts and culture in Barnes and the wider borough, and the Council is keen to support it by helping develop its governance, business planning and artistic programme" said Ian Dodds, Head of Culture.

Next year the Centre will introduce an 'online club' to keep supporters informed of progress and to alert them to forthcoming events. There will be opportunities to make ticket reservations at advantageous cost ahead of the general public and the occasional opportunity to attend cast parties. They hope some *Prospect* readers will become subscribers.

This is an exciting opportunity for local people to engage in the future of the OSO Community Arts Centre, building on seven successful years. By helping a worthwhile cause, namely the involvement of more local people in the enjoyment of art, life gains a dimension. If your interest has been whetted or you would like to know more before offering your time, expertise or money please contact William Mortimer, 07717 293572, or email info@osoarts.org.uk



The Road to Remembrance: Part 2

With the casting for the upcoming show *The Road to Remembrance* complete, all the actors and singers are busy learning their various pieces of poetry, prose, music and drama from World Wars I and II. Tickets (£9, £7.50 concessions) can be booked at the OSO, 020 8876 9885 and all profits go to the charity Combat Stress.

One of the main questions that I have been asked is "Why did you choose to support Combat Stress?" Primarily I wanted to do something positive to prove that, regardless of people's differing views on the endlessly complicated conflict that Afghanistan has become, the vast majority of the British public greatly appreciates our armed forces and their service. I also wanted to raise money for a charity that soldiers themselves support, one which made a difference to their lives yet was not quite as well known as the Royal British Legion. Combat Stress more than fulfilled all those criteria.

The work that Combat Stress does is marvellous, although I cannot help but feel what a great shame it is that a charity such as this should be not only necessary but apparently also so overstretched.

The Road to Remembrance is on Monday 9th and Wednesday 11th November, 8pm at The Old Sorting Office, Barnes Green. I am extremely grateful to Anne Carroll and the OSO who, despite their own lack of funds, have offered the venue free of charge.

Emma King-Farlow

www.justgiving.com/RoadtoRemembrance
www.combatstress.org.uk

St Mary's Christmas Fair

Saturday November 14th, 10am-4pm
St Mary's Church and Kitson Hall

St Mary's Fair offers a mass of stalls with all the evergreen Christmas favourites such as cards, candles, decorations, advent calendars, stocking fillers, bulbs, plants, homemade cakes and preserves and top notch bric-à-brac. Alongside the Church stalls will be commercial stalls offering jewellery, belts, shawls, scarves, handbags, decorative homeware, silk flowers, toys, books, cashmere, children's clothing, organic cosmetics, wine, oils, cheese and even fresh bread. Something surely for all tastes!

There is plenty for children too: arts and crafts activities, games, a soft toy tombola and stalls especially for them selling second-hand books, toys, CDs and DVDs at knockdown prices so they too can Christmas shop.

Local shops and businesses have come up

trumps with wonderful prizes and a beautiful Christmas tree for the church. Judith Blacklock (now a TV celebrity!) will again be offering floral workshops; Joanna Parker, professional caterer, will be organising scrumptious food all day and Diva Ski, the Barnes based luxury ski company, has provided the top raffle prize of a long weekend for up to six people in a luxury chalet in Verbier.

Bidding has already begun in an expanded Silent Auction. Pop into St Mary's to see what is on offer.

All the profits from the Fair go to St Mary's Church or her associated charities. For further details visit the website www.stmarybarnes.org or email christmasfair@stmarybarnes.org.



Barnes Guides and Brownies

Christmas Fair

Saturday 21st November, 1-4pm
Guide Hall, Washington Road, Barnes

Stalls include:

- Unique Jewellery ~
- Seasonal cards and wrapping paper ~
- Fairtrade food and goods ~
- Spring Bulbs : Bric-à-Brac ~
- Books, CDs and DVDs : Tombola ~
- Raffle : Children's games ~
- Cakes and Refreshments

Contributions of bric-à-brac, books, CDs and DVDs, and prizes for the Tombola and Raffle would be gratefully received. Call 8748 9532.

Visit to the National Archive in Kew

Barnes based teacher and family researcher, Terry Humphrey is organising a trip to the National Archive in November where *Family History* talks are planned for each Saturday at 2pm. Terry, whose company Barnes Ancestry specialises in family history, spends much of his time in Kew searching the archives for information about his many clients' families. "The National Archive at Kew is right on our doorstep and I am always astonished at how few Barnes residents know about it, let alone visit it and use it" he says.

If the talk inspires you, there will be an opportunity to 'grow your own family tree'. You might commission Terry to research your tree for you, or you might prefer to take his unique one-to-one course in how to do it yourself.

For more information about the date of the visit, please call Terry on 07968 800 172.

Rugby in Barnes

Newly promoted to division National Two (South), **Barnes Rugby Football Club** offers opportunities not just for five men's sides but also for minis and women's rugby. All residents in Barnes are welcome to lunch with us, watch with us and sup with us at each home match. We play on the Barn Elms fields and our clubhouse is just before the Wetlands Centre on Queen Elizabeth Walk, SW13 9SA. Should you wish to join the club in any capacity please visit www.barnesrhc.org or email honsec@barnesrhc.org. This season Barnes will be reunited with fixtures against local rivals Rosslyn Park, Ealing and Richmond. Preceding every home match the club hosts a lunch. For further details email lunches@barnesrhc.org or phone 020 8392 2566.

Barnes Minis Section has started a second season and is a key part of the club's growth and development plan. Over one hundred children signed up for 2009-10, with the club running three age group squads from U12 to U8 under the supervision of ten coaches. Barnes RFC Minis is the first club in London (maybe the UK) to offer Saturday rugby to local boys and girls and this differentiation, coupled with the section's manageable numbers and warm welcome to rugby enthusiasts of all standards, has appealed to local parents and got the minis off to a strong start. We welcome new players and parents – full details at www.barnesrhc.org.

Martin Conway



Mud, mud, glorious mud



Barnes Literary Society

Ronald Harwood

Taking Sides - Writing for Stage and Screen

Oscar-winning playwright and writer Ronald Harwood CBE has had a life-long fascination with the stage. After attending RADA, he joined Sir Donald Wolfit's Shakespeare company as the great actor-manager's dresser, a role that would later provide the basis of his acclaimed play, *The Dresser*. A busy and illustrious career followed as playwright, novelist and screenplay writer. He has written screenplays for some of the biggest stars, including Nicole Kidman in *Australia*, and won a BAFTA for *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*. One of the recurring themes in Harwood's work is the attraction of the stage and its performing artists and a strong interest in World War II, as seen in his recent West End plays *Taking Sides* and *Collaboration*, starring BLS patrons Isla Blair and Julian Glover. Ronald will take BLS members 'behind the scenes' to reveal the mystique of the world of stage and screen and its perpetual appeal for audiences. For further information see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ronald_Harwood.

This event, which is for members only, will be held on Wednesday 18th November in the OSO by Barnes Pond at 8pm. For membership details please contact 8748 2558 or see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk.

Carol Service

in aid of the local family support charity

Home-Start

**St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes
Thursday 3rd December, 7pm**

St. Paul's School and Colet Court Choirs

Readings from local celebrities

Susan Kramer, MP will make an appeal on behalf of the charity

Tickets, £20 (send sae and cheque, payable to Home-Start Richmond upon Thames) to Angie Ahmed, Home-Start Richmond, 211 Parkway House, Sheen Lane, East Sheen, SW14 8LS

Further information from 020 8487 8500
or info@homestart-richmond.org.uk

ST MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Saturday 5th December 10am-2pm
Church Hall, Elm Bank Gardens, Barnes**

~
Father Christmas – Children's activities

~
Hot food – Produce & other Stalls

~
Details from dbrocklebank@btinternet.com

Rare visitors arrive with the autumn migration



The London Wetland Centre has been full of activity and excellent bird watching recently. Following the surprise appearance of a purple heron in August, the sighting of a great white

egret in late September created another stir with staff and volunteers. This species is classified as a British scarcity and is a rare vagrant to the London area, with probably fewer than a dozen records occurring historically in London. The nationally rare spotted crane, a starling-sized rail seen at the Centre only twice before (1999 and 2005) amably stayed around the main lake delighting audiences for over three weeks in September and early October.

In addition to these rarities, migration time is in full swing with many exciting species dropping in en route across the country. This autumn has proved very productive for the reserve: birds of interest included the yellow-browed warbler, nightingale, Cetti's warbler and wood warbler. Wintering ducks continue

to arrive with the numbers of shoveler, gadwall, teal and wigeon growing rapidly.

The sheltered lagoon path has now been fully re-opened following the official opening of the Berkeley Bat House. Staff are working with the Bat Conservation Trust and London Bat Group to monitor movement of bats into the specially designed interior.

Following the final judging for the WWT Nikon Photography Competition, headed by Chris Packham, the winning photos in all categories are on display in the Gallery above the shop.

Throughout the year there are daily free guided tours at 11am and 2pm and a 'feed-the-birds' walk with the warden at 3pm. The next Wildlife Walk is on 7th November when members can learn about the different types of birds and plant life abundant at this time of year. Looking forward to the holiday season, mark 9th December in your calendars for this year's *Carols by Candlelight*.

Please note winter opening times are 9.30am-5pm, last admission 4pm

For more information go to www.wwt.org.uk or phone 020 8409 4400

Stasa Veroukis

A shorter bike ride

Earlier in the autumn, planning permission was given for a base for our Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) police, to be built alongside Lowther School in Stillingfleet Road. This base will *not* be a local police station, although it can welcome residents by appointment. Equally, it will *not* be part of the school, although "close links between the school and police will be encouraged".

When the Barnes SNT was first set up, it had to be based administratively in Richmond, in spite of its very local remit. So at the beginning of each shift, the team members had to touch base in Richmond and then get on their bikes and come to Barnes; *vice versa* at the end of the shift. All this cut into time when we would have preferred to have our own SNT to be patrolling our own streets.

The new accommodation is to consist of an office, waiting room and meeting room downstairs, and locker room, shower and lavatories upstairs. In addition, an enclosed courtyard will hold six cycle lockers. Design seems to blend in well with the red brick school buildings.

The search for self-contained premises for the SNT has taken years and it is great that both a site and the construction costs have been found.

Katie Gent

FiSH Tuesday Talks



Barnes Green Centre at 11am

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

- 3rd November** Chris Payne: *A trip to Copenhagen*
- 10th November** Pip Bevan: *Terminal illness and how to talk about it*
- 17th November** Katie Gibson: *The Pre-Raphaelite painters and artists*
- 24th November** Finn Jenk: *Yoga for everyone*
- 1st December** James Smith: *Adventures in banking*
- 8th December** Anne Marshall: *Interesting local history*
- 15th December** Elizabeth Manson Bahr: *The Aztecs of Mexico*
- 22nd December** Jonathan Bailey: *A Christmas Carol singalong*

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

Cards, calendars, gifts and more

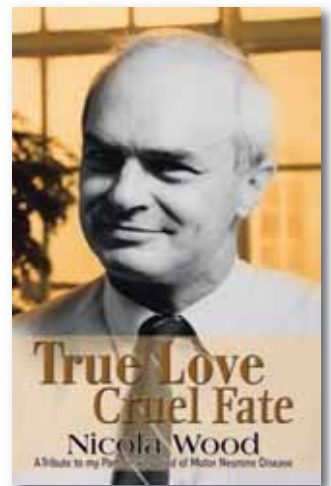
Barnes Methodist Church, Station Road

**5th November-17th December
Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm**



True Love Cruel Fate

New book *True Love Cruel Fate* has been brought to the attention of *Prospect*. It is a tribute to Nicola Wood's partner Alan who died of motor neurone disease (MND) in 2006. Alan lived with MND for two and half years. Following his death, Nicola felt compelled to tell their story, recording the



dignity with which he faced MND and to increase awareness of the need for appropriate support for those living with this hopeless degenerative terminal illness. Nicola says "I would like to think that our story, which is not simply a diary of events but a love story in which the disease becomes the enemy, can make a difference to others facing MND and similar illnesses".

The book published by Seven Arches Publishing is available to order from bookshops for £8.99 and attracts a donation of 50p per book; copies bought online at www.sevenarchespublishing.co.uk will attract a donation of £1 for the MND Association.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

I write with reference to the article in last month's *Prospect* about the proposed extension to the Glebe Road doctors' surgery. In my view, the piece was written as if planning permission had been granted, and the extension is not in dispute. However, it is in serious dispute because, for the houses that back onto it, the proposed extension is a blight. Building a large flank wall just three metres from the back of my house at 18 Church Road will absolutely destroy the garden and will be overbearing on all the houses between 20 and 24 Church Road.

I cannot believe any fair-minded person would stand in our garden and argue in favour of this extension. We are fighting it with everything we can.

Mark Davies

The BCA was neither supporting nor opposing the plans but only bringing them to the notice of members who might be interested. We have received the following comments from Dr Jonathan Botting, Senior Partner, Glebe Road Surgery:

"All at the surgery are saddened by the opposition of so few to our plans to improve our service to them and to the rest of the community; we have been overwhelmed by support by those who know us for what we are, dedicated NHS doctors who have been granted a one-off, never to be repeated opportunity to invest in our service. The planners have rejected our first application on the basis of three objections thereby jeopardising the whole project."

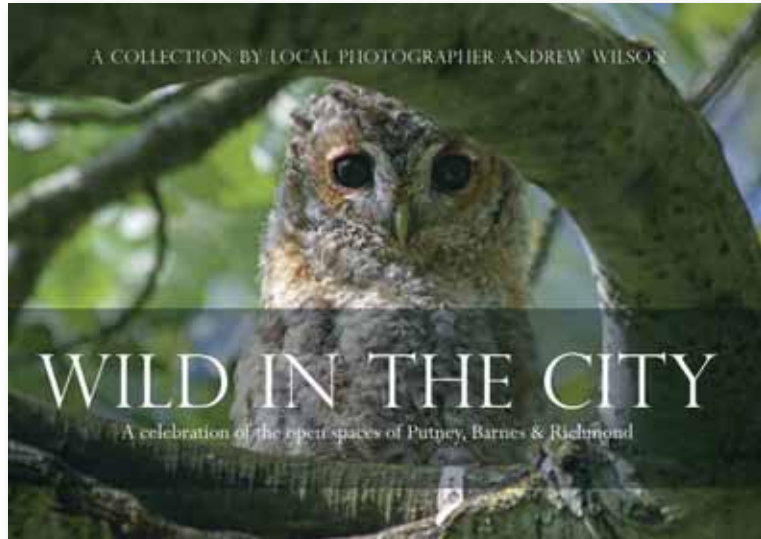
About us!

We know that Big Brother is watching us but what does he know about us? The findings of market researchers are fascinating.

What do you think is the largest age group in Barnes? There was a time when people used to joke that you had to be old to be able to afford to live here, but not any longer. Barnes has a young, vibrant community with the largest age group by far being 30-44 and the largest age band being 35 (30 in Mortlake). Perhaps another surprise is that more than half of the population is single (and most of those have never been married). More than 80% of us work, most of us in managerial or professional jobs. We are great fans of gourmet food and wine. We like the theatre, classical music, art, reading, history and current affairs. Our favourite sport by far is skiing, with rugby second.

And finally, in a report by Experian we are shown to be the internet shopping hotspot of Britain, with an annual average spend of £150 per head.

Sue Nichol, Retail Champion



Wild in the City

Andrew Wilson is a great walker with a lively springer spaniel to exercise. He has taken these walking opportunities to catalogue what he sees with his new digital camera. Covering local haunts from Richmond Park to the haven that is the Leg o' Mutton reservoir, his book is packed with the most beautiful images. Encouraged by his family, Andrew has had great fun compiling the book and remarks, "This experience has been one of the best things I have ever done and I only wish I had started years ago. I have always had a keen interest in nature and photography and this has been a wonderful opportunity to combine the two. Like many people, with my normal business taking a knock this year, I had a bit more time on my hands and decided to put it to good use. So I enrolled on an excellent photography course at Putney School of Art and Design, bought a new camera and it developed from there. It is somewhat ironic that I normally help other people with their print but with that suffering I have decided to produce some print of my own and great fun it has been too!"

It may seem a bit early to be thinking of Christmas but *Wild in the City* would make the perfect gift for local nature enthusiasts. Copies can be bought from Barnes Bookshop or contact Andrew directly for other stockists, 020 8487 2199 www.unity-publishing.co.uk

Riverside Gallery
36 Barnes High Street

Christmas Mixed Show

Wednesday 25th November until Christmas

Paintings by favourite artists including Rod Pearce and Colin Orchard, signed prints by Peter Brook RBA, plus fine art prints, cards, and handmade lacquer-ware *objets d'art*.



Going to see a man about a dog

© Peter Brook RBA