



# Prospect

October 2009

Price when sold £1

## New shops brave the storm

Few people could have failed to notice the effect of the Credit Crunch and the world economic situation on Barnes shops. Many held out bravely but, faced with fewer customers and rising costs, some, inevitably, have been forced to close.

However optimism abounds. Five new shops have opened since January and we welcome them with great enthusiasm. **Nadia Ivanova** was the first, opening her dress shop in White Hart Lane in May. Nadia was born in Bulgaria and studied at the London School of Fashion. She designs and makes, by hand, all of her collection.

Next came **Froxy Bee** in the High Street. Veronica Pecikosa is local; her family all live in Barnes and she attended Shene School before taking a degree in Marketing at Westminster University. She then worked on TV and for Bulgari of Bond Street but her dream was to run her

own business and at Froxy Bee she does just that, bringing high fashion to our doorstep.

More recently Henderson Cisz from the Street Gallery opened **Henderson's** brasserie. Along with his artistic talents Henderson says he has always been a lover of good food and wine and it has been his dream to run his own restaurant. The brasserie serves breakfast English or continental (from 8.30am) but if you are a late riser you can have lunch, tea or dinner there.

**Le Provence** in White Hart Lane is also new. It is still run by the Ma Cuisine group but has had a face lift. Everything is new: the décor, the menus, the wine lists and even the staff! Jerome, the manager, welcomes you to try a new experience for lunch or dinner here.

Finally Matthew Wender has opened **Stanton Scott**, our newest estate agent. Matthew has 20

years experience behind him but this is his own business. He lives in the area and hopes to employ locally and to get involved in the community here. He is aware that we, as customers, might have preferred a bookshop or a new delicatessen but as he is filling the shop that used to be Hampton's he hopes you will feel that his occupancy is better than another empty shop.

If it wasn't for the ambition and courage of new retailers, who are prepared to "have a go" in the riskiest of times, we would all be the poorer. I am sure you welcome them and wish them luck.

Finally, we have a heartfelt word of thanks to the longer-term shops which have battled on and continue to serve us graciously. *Sue Nichol, Retail Champion*

## Things are looking good for Barn Elms! BCA Christmas card

Barnes Vision is very pleased to report that on Monday 7th September, in a Cabinet meeting, the Council approved the pitch and pavilion improvements proposed for Barn Elms. They also agreed to enter into a conditional deed of dedication with Fields in Trust and provide £250k of essential capital funding towards the cost of the scheme.

Just prior to this meeting the plans for Barn Elms received unanimous support at a Barn Elms User Group meeting on 3rd September.

This is tremendous news and means that the scheme can now go forward to planning, hopefully as early as February 2010. The Deed of Dedication, once signed, will protect the playing

fields for public sports use for the next 199 years. Barnes Vision have also set up Barn Elms Sports Trust (BEST), a charitable trust dedicated to ensuring the future of Barn Elms. Currently there is a fundraising target of a further £350k needed to secure all the facilities on the wish-list. BEST will be promoting various local fundraising activities over the coming months and hope everybody will join in with these.

There is still a lot to do but Barnes Vision would like to thank everyone for their support and commitment to saving Barn Elms for our children's great grandchildren!

*Candice Streeter-Jewitt  
Barnes Vision*

## BCA Christmas card

We are delighted to announce that this year we will be selling our own Christmas cards at Rose House. Local photographer Caroline Silver Lewis has produced a fabulous wintry scene snapped on the Green when we had our 'Snow Day' in February. The scene includes lots of happy local families enjoying the snow – rather reminiscent of a Bruegel painting. I think you will be as pleased as I am with the design. We are hoping to accompany the card with a cheery red envelope and this year the size will be smaller than usual.

*Julia Bebington*

## Don't miss the Jumble Sale of the year!

Kitson Hall, Kitson Road

Friday 9th October 7-9pm, Admission £5

Saturday 10th October 10am-2pm, Admission £1

- Excellent good-as-new and designer labels aplenty
- Brilliant electrical goods and fab bric-à-brac

**Help wanted to sort and to sell** – please participate in this major community event; just an hour of your time would be helpful and it is fun too. Phone 020 8878 2359

Good quality jumble urgently wanted. Collectors are available between Thursday 1st October and Tuesday 6th October or jumble may be delivered to Kitson Hall from Wednesday 7th October.

**PLEASE NO JUMBLE AFTER THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER**

# BCA



## matters...

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## News from the Executive

The BCA Executive met on September 10th after a summer break and we had a full agenda.

The Executive decided to run another, larger party for all our volunteers and helpers on Thursday November 19th at the Barnes Green Centre. So all of you who so kindly give us your time for the many BCA activities please keep that date free and watch out for an invitation. The new members' party will be held separately in the New Year.

We approved the plans for the refurbishment of the hall and servery of Rose House. We will be sanding and revarnishing the floor and putting in new units at the servery end. We plan that this will be installed over the Christmas period when the hall is closed. It should really brighten up the hall and be a more pleasant environment.

Katie Gent gave us an update on the pond and Common. New smart wooden bollards have been installed round the Barnes Green Centre. These have replaced the rather unsightly

broken concrete bollards. We were able to do this as we were kindly given a generous legacy from the O'Regan family. We often get comments about the state of the pond and its surrounding area which are mostly very complimentary about the work done by Russell, our Commonkeeper. However one comment asked why some of the areas were rather 'unkempt'. The response is that we have asked Russell to keep a balance between a pristine environment and areas sympathetic towards a variety of wildlife.

For a rather complicated legal reason we will have to vote four new trustees for the BCA. The Executive have taken this opportunity to consider the role of the Trustees. We propose to modify and clarify their role making them similar to non-executive directors, looking at the strategic direction of the BCA, its overall financial arrangements, etc.

Isobel Woolf  
BCA Chairman

## Joyeux Noël!



There are two events on the horizon: one in Le Pecq and one in Barnes.

Firstly, our friends in Le Pecq, along with the associations involved with their twin towns in Spain and Germany, are holding a *Marché de Noël des Jumelages*, or Christmas market, on Sunday 29th November. A group from Barnes is invited to join in this and other social events planned around the weekend. This could possibly be of interest to artistic BCA members wishing to sell their work, as well as those who might like to purchase unusual Christmas gifts from France, Spain and Germany.

Secondly, a weekend visit from Le Pecq to Barnes is planned for 11th–13th December for a programme that will include the Barnes Choir's Christmas concert. If you would like further details with a view to joining in either of these events, please contact me at [lepecq@barnesvillage.org.uk](mailto:lepecq@barnesvillage.org.uk)

Mike Spillane



## Environment Group report

By the time this issue of *Prospect* goes to print the Environment Group will not have met. Our meeting after the holiday will be on Monday 21 September, in

Rose House and a report will be submitted for the November issue. Meanwhile:

### 1. Barnes Railway Bridge

After extensive consultation by Network Rail and English Heritage it has been agreed that two shades of grey will be used, which was the original colour scheme for the bridge. The colour cards can be seen in the BCA office at Rose House.

### 2. Rocks Lane Tennis Club

The Club has been granted permission for its application, in which many problems have been addressed. We hope that the Club will stick to the conditions of this application and that we will see a tidier corner of Barnes Common.

### 3. CPZs

We had been notified that the changes which the Council wants to make, including the merger of zones and parking at Small Profits gardens, would start in August and be in operation by 26th October 2009 – nothing has been seen so far!

Susan Boyd, Chairman

## Prospect deliverers

We have vacancies for *Prospect* deliverers in the following roads:

- Treen Avenue
- Westwood Road/Gardens and Leconfield Avenue
- Lillian Road, Glenthams Road, Glenthams Gardens, St. Hilda's Road, Few in Castelnau near Hammersmith Bridge
- Hillersdon Avenue

Julia would be thrilled to hear from you if you would like to take over one of these areas – 8878 2359

## Leg o' Mutton Reservoir

By the time this *Prospect* has come out, it is hoped we will have been able to put more water into the Leg o' Mutton reservoir. It has become very low again this year. In the past we have used both the high Spring and Autumn tides to open the valve between the river and the reservoir. Also we have seen the birds breeding on the reservoirs earlier and earlier. So, for the past few years we have just hoped that the Autumn equinoctial tides would be high enough. We may have to do another filling at the highest tides in October this year. If this proves necessary I would be grateful for volunteers to help. We volunteers on the Management Committee are getting older and older and we really do need some younger people to help, particularly if we are having to do some of it in the dark!

Susan Boyd, Leg O' Mutton Management Committee

## Glebe Road Surgery update

Flu clinics will begin on Tuesday 6th October for Glebe Road patients who are entitled to a jab. (Note that this does NOT pertain to swine flu, which will be advised separately.) This includes:

- Anyone aged 65 or over, including patients who will turn 65 before the end of March 2010;
- Patients aged over 6 months who have a serious illness, including: serious heart or respiratory conditions (including asthma if on regular medication), kidney or liver disease,

diabetes or lowered immunity due to disease or treatment;

- A resident in a long-stay residential care or nursing home;
- A main carer for older or disabled people deemed to be at risk if the carer falls ill.

Please contact the Surgery for times and dates of clinics, telephone 020 8748 7398 or pop in to 1 Glebe Road SW13 0DR and pick up a leaflet.

## Can you reduce your water bill?



As from 1st April this year if you are a single person household, and DO NOT have a water meter, Thames Water have introduced a new payment plan with a maximum cost of £165 per year. This is usually a big savings on the old rate and well worth contacting them for a revised assessment.

Not a lot of people know this!!!

## West London Churches Homeless Concern

### An Ecumenical charity

For the last couple of years Barnes Methodist Church on the Common has been the venue for this project, every Saturday night between mid-November and Palm Sunday. This coming winter from November 14th to March 27th 2010, their doors will be open again. But this time around, Barnes itself is being asked to provide the volunteers as well as the venue.

An eight-person Team is required from 6pm to 10pm, when the paid staff take over the night and breakfast shift. The Team will set up the tables, cook supper (plain cooking) and then eat with the Homeless and chat to them. They then clear everything away and leave the kitchen ship-shape for the night shift. Luckily, there is a highly efficient dishwasher. Since this timeline comprises 20 consecutive Saturday nights, we propose to run three different Teams, from St Michael's, St Osmund's and St Mary's (to include individuals from the other three churches in Barnes).

About 18% of the Homeless are female, the rest male. It is particularly desirable that there are a fair number of men amongst the volunteers. If you feel that this is something that you could commit to please contact Jane Sherwin on 020 8876 3231. Non-churchgoers are invited to participate.

## Shene Academy

After consulting the nine primary schools which are seen as 'feeder' schools for the current Shene Comprehensive, Richmond Council have chosen a new lead sponsor for the proposed Shene Academy. ('Academies' are, very briefly, independent state schools, designed to give a new lease of life to struggling secondary schools.) The organisation chosen as 'lead sponsor' is the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET), which now is due to work up more detailed proposals in conjunction with local people.

AET is an educational charity and thus is unaffected by the very recent changes in financing requirements for individual sponsors.

*Katie Gent*

## Views of the Common and its denizens

For over 40 years June George has chosen Barnes Common as the main subject for her paintings. June trained at the Slade School of Fine Art in 1950, moved to Barnes in 1963 and brought up her family here. As a long-standing Barnes resident it is perhaps not surprising that her paintings are so true to the area. She captures the unique romantic wildness of the Common, using rich greens and golds which evoke exotic fabric or tapestry. And yet, again staying true to the area, the reality of modern urban life is never far away; it may be present simply in the clothes people are wearing or perhaps there will be a steely office block just visible on the horizon.

Many of June's landscapes include people and, for those of us who know the Common, they immediately seem familiar. They are the dog walkers and, of course, their dogs, the older residents meeting and chatting, parents hurrying to catch up with toddlers – in other words, the daily life of Barnes as we see it being lived around us. But despite this familiarity, the paintings are also like dreams, gently surreal and with a decorative beauty that lifts them out of the everyday. For anyone with an appreciation of the delights of the Common, June's forthcoming exhibition at The Old Sorting Office is a must.

June George – retrospective exhibition including oil paintings, watercolours and drawings of Barnes Common and other landscapes. The Old Sorting Office, Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October 10-5pm. A selection of works will be for sale.

## Extension to the Surgery

Glebe Road Surgery has been awarded a prestigious grant from the London Deanery, which is responsible for the training of GPs. It is proposed that a first floor extension will be built on the part of the Practice which is currently single storey, to provide much needed additional consulting rooms. It will also significantly improve the appearance of the building and dispose of the ugly, grey-felted flat roof. Plans are currently with the Council ([www.richmond.gov.uk/environment/planning](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/environment/planning)) and there is a display in the Surgery. The Partners would like to welcome all to come and have a look and make suggestions. They are very excited about the project which, they feel sure, will improve access for patients.



## Accommodation needed for visiting Japanese students in March

Following the successful visit to Japan by three students from St Paul's School in July, a return visit from the Japanese students is planned for March. Home-stay accommodation in Barnes is being sought for the return visit, 21st-28th March 2010. If you can offer a warm welcome to a pupil of Jishukan High School (specially selected by the school to be a good ambassador!) on a paying guest basis, please contact Hilary Hawken 020 8878 8893.

Dear Editor,

You may be interested in the litter pick on Barnes Common by 13 pupils from Year 10 of Ibstock Place School on Friday 3rd July. As part of the school's Community Service Day five Barnes residents were joined by school friends from Putney, Sheen and Roehampton in a grand clear-up from around Barnes Station. With equipment supplied by the Friends of Barnes Common, the children amassed a pile of rubbish. As well as the usual drinks cans and bottles, their haul included a large wooden pallet and a leather office chair, all the worse for wear. I enclose a picture of the happy litter pickers at the end of their three-hour scour of the Common.

Regards

*Michael Murison*





*Dynamic duo 'Bang On' in action.....*



*.....and leading Year Two in a group performance*



*Susan Kramer MP addresses the children*

## Early Years provision and Children's Centre at Lowther School

Lowther School is the Community School of North Barnes and has taken enthusiastically to its status as an Extended School and leading partner in the local Children's Centre. The new building, was officially opened on September 17th by the children in the presence of the Mayor of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr Celia Hodges, the Member of Parliament for Richmond Park, Susan Kramer MP and many other friends and neighbours of the School. It provides facilities for the Children's Centre and much-needed improved Early Years provision for the school.

Visitors to the opening enjoyed a percussion show such as we had never seen before by *Bang On*, entertainment by the children and tours of the school – both old and new – also with the children, and finishing with afternoon tea. Visitors particularly enjoyed being shown round by children, whose enthusiasm and candour could not ever be matched by more senior guides! A particular attraction in the new building was the play wall, which divides Nursery and Reception areas and provides extensive play facilities unique amongst Early Years facilities.

Both the Community and the Borough can be proud of this new building, modern in design yet in perfect harmony with the 1920s design of the original school. Exciting curves, colouring and lighting accentuate high quality construction and state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and community use. Children are our future and must be given the best possible start in life. With the excellent teaching quality, of which the school is justifiably proud, this building will permit the very best possible educational start in life for Nursery and Reception children. Winston Churchill believed that, "there is no finer investment for any community than putting milk into babies". Lowther School cannot quite achieve this, but it is not too far behind!

The school is grateful to Richmond upon Thames for funding the project to such a high standard. The Architect, Sam Selenky of Patel Taylor, has excelled himself, designed a gem of contemporary architecture and has become a great friend of the school, enthusing with staff and governors over plans for the next phase of the school's development. The contractors, Lakehouse, have likewise been excellent; keeping to schedule and caring for the health and safety and welfare of everyone at the school and the neighbours too. The school is grateful to everyone who has worked as part of the team to ensure such a magnificent outcome.

*Stuart Thorne – Chair of Governors, Lowther School*



*The Mayor of Richmond  
Cllr Celia Hodges*



*Ethan, Yousef and Joanna read a poem*



*Part of the Reception area (below left) and a view of the Children's Centre from the road (below)*



## The market on the pond

The experimental market on Barnes pond-side of recent weeks is the result of an initiative between the BCA's Retail Champion, Sue Nichol, and local auctioneer, Simon Danciger of Barnes Auctions, who says, "Our aim is that Barnes regain a reputation as the place to visit when buying antiques and collectables." As to trading permission, Simon went on to say, "We are grateful to the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames for their support in making the market possible." Sue Nichol adds, "The village has lost shops in the High Street and Church Road catering to antique lovers and collectors. Our hope is that by attracting them back into the village the increase in 'footfall' (a lovely allusion to an increase in people walking the shopping pavements) will benefit all the retail outlets, cafes, and craftsmen working in Barnes." She goes on, "Their patronage of places of entertainment such as the theatre and cafe at the OSO Community Arts Centre or the jazz studio at the Bull's Head would also be most welcome."

The stalls provide a new revenue stream for the BCA and therefore contribute to the community. Judging by the attendance of local people when our photo was taken on 5th September, Barnes residents are pleased and excited by the initiative. A form of recycling is going on when an entrepreneurial group of local people is selling to others in the community. That element of the activity alone is good news for the environment. Eventually, as with all enterprise, it will be the quality of the items on sale that attracts the visitors.

The market does not expect to run continuously through the winter, and weather conditions will always play a part in the turnout. But careful attention to standards will



Lively interest in pondside activity

ensure that the market does not become little more than another car boot sale.

William Mortimer

## Playbuilder... what's in a name?

This winter, the Council will update the Castelnau Recreation Ground (between Washington Road and Barnes Avenue) with money from the Government's national Playbuilder scheme. Next year, the Council is likely to install a new Playbuilder feature on the Barn Elms playing fields.

So, does this mean anything much more than a few new swings and roundabouts? Although 156 pages[!] of Government guidance may make us feel more negative than not, the basic ideas sound hopeful. "Play takes many forms," we are told, "Doing nothing in particular; doing lots; being boisterous; showing off; being contemplative; being challenged; being thwarted; overcoming difficulties. Through play, children explore the world and learn to take responsibility for their own choices."

Current playgrounds, even with quite new equipment, are really quite 'samey', you could say almost institutional, now. They attract fewer mums and kids than they used to do. Then, half-

used, they begin to look tatty and attract even fewer users, falling into a vicious cycle of vandalism and neglect. What is needed is a wider range of features to attract children, both young and a bit older, inviting more imaginative play for either groups or individual children.

### Learning to deal with risk

In the last few years, unease has built up about the strategy of always, always protecting children from danger. We see that all of us need to learn the acceptable boundaries of risk, rather than hiding behind Health and Safety. 'Playbuilder' playgrounds try to take this common sense on board without, of course, throwing kids to the metaphorical wolves.

So what does this all add up to? Attractive spaces, more natural materials, less metal and more wood, "Grassy mounds, planting, logs and boulders..." We must all get involved if we can.  
Katie Gent

## Down on the allotment



People say to me "Your plot's looking good." I think they are impressed because it is relatively weed free and the

crops are in neat rows.

The self-seeded nasturtiums and marigolds lift the heart

with their bright optimism, the grass paths give a garden feel and the raspberries are abundant and succulent. These ones fruit from mid-summer hopefully to the first frosts. Then you cut them down to the ground, keep the old canes for pea sticks and the next year they grow new fruiting canes which don't need staking.

I've stopped worrying about the plot being too big. I have a brilliant low-maintenance plan for next year: one third will be given over to soft fruit – raspberries, black and red currents, rhubarb and blackberries; one third to permanent beds of asparagus, herbs and dahlias and other perennial flowers; and the remaining third for rotating the vegetables, plus a strawberry bed.

Being now a person of leisure, I fear that the Council's suggestion of "a phased retirement system allowing allotment holders a gentler end to their tenure by either dividing their plot or trading it for a role in the communal area of their site" is aimed at me. What a cheek! It sounds like euthanasia. I will never want to be 'phased out' or look after the pathways. I'd rather carry on till I drop even if I have to go down in my electric wheel chair like the man on our site, still one of our finest gardeners.

Jack

## FiSH Tuesday Talks



### Barnes Green Centre at 11am

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

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>6th October</b>   | Moray Watson: <i>An actor's life....</i>                                       |
| <b>13th October</b>  | David Elford: <i>Cycling from Paris to Geneva to Save the Orangutan</i>        |
| <b>20th October</b>  | Nickesha Jones: <i>Improving your home to meet your needs</i>                  |
| <b>27th October</b>  | John Holmes: <i>Shenehom Housing Association and caring with the community</i> |
| <b>3rd November</b>  | Chris Payne: <i>A trip to Copenhagen</i>                                       |
| <b>10th November</b> | Pip Bevan: <i>Terminal illness and how to talk about it</i>                    |

## Wimbledon Music Festival

Wimbledon is known worldwide for its tennis. It may, in future years, be just as famous for its Music Festival, which aims to put Wimbledon on the map for the excellence of its music-making as well as its tennis.

The Festival is masterminded by Anthony Wilkinson, a Wimbledon resident and a talented musician who, in his own right, has already made his name as a director of both stage and screen. It aims at giving southwest London its own diverse and high profile but also *friendly* music festival because, he says, most concerts of this sort in London are exclusively central.

The first Festival runs from November 20-29th in assorted venues and brings together many well-known figures in the music world. Musicians like Rivka Golani (viola) and Raphael Wllfisch (cello) open the Festival performing alongside the well-known Dante Quartet. Others taking part include Christopher Maltman, currently singing with the New York Metropolitan Opera and shortly before appearing in the Royal Opera House's upcoming production of *L'Heure Espagnole*. In contrast, BBC broadcaster and singer Lucie Skeaping will be performing with the Burning Bush klezmer band.

For programme details and tickets see [www.wimbledonmusicfestival.co.uk](http://www.wimbledonmusicfestival.co.uk)

Sally Holloway



Barely a mile from Barnes at All Saints Church, Putney Common, the Dante Quartet, winners of the Royal Philharmonic Society Medal and this year's BBC Music Magazine Prize, will be giving a concert on Friday November 27th at 7.30pm

## Barnes and Mortlake History Society

The Barnes and Mortlake History Society Autumn-Winter season is under way, the next meeting being at the Sheen Lane Centre on 15th October at 8 pm, when Dorian Gerhold of the Wandsworth Local History Society will speak on 'Reconstructing Putney and Roehampton in 1665'.

The Society has produced a series of three leaflets, each selling at one pound, to guide residents and tourists around the historic spots of the old Borough of Barnes. The Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen Walk pamphlets can be obtained at Society meetings. A new edition of the long-out-of-print *The Alleyways of Mortlake and East Sheen*, an invaluable guide to the byways of the area, has also been published, price five pounds.

For details or other information about the Society, please visit the website - [www.barnes-history.org.uk](http://www.barnes-history.org.uk). And one for the distant diary: the highly successful series of annual Barnes events, held in the Methodist Church Hall, will take place at 2.30 pm on Saturday, 13th February, when Murray Hedgcock talks on the intriguing topic: 'A Barnes Saga - St. Ann's, The Lyric Club, and a Million Dollar Fraud'.  
Murray Hedgcock

## The Road to Remembrance

On Monday 9th & Wednesday 11th November at 8.00 pm, Shadow Road Productions will be staging a small show at the Old Sorting Office to raise money for Combat Stress ([www.combatstress.org.uk](http://www.combatstress.org.uk)), a charity that supports British veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental and psychological problems as a result of their service in the armed forces. *The Road to Remembrance*, directed by local writer Emma King-Farlow, will feature a mixture of poetry, prose, music and drama from both World Wars. All profits will go to the charity.

BBC historian and television presenter Dan Snow (an alumnus of St Paul's school, Barnes!) has very kindly agreed to write an article for the programme, while Tom Smith, who did such a marvellous job in 2007's *A Countdown to Christmas*, will once again be conducting the choir. After the Wednesday performance, as an added bonus, Isla Dawes from Barnes Bookshop

will also be running a book-stand selling a wide range of relevant books for all ages and generously donating 10% of her takings to the charity.

It would, of course, be fantastic if you could come along and see the production. For anyone who may not be able to do so but would still like the opportunity to show their support for Combat Stress, there is a page set up for online donations:

[www.justgiving.com/RoadtoRemembrance](http://www.justgiving.com/RoadtoRemembrance). No donation is too small!

At a time when British soldiers are once again serving with great distinction, laying down their lives and sacrificing their mental and physical health at the behest of a government that does not always appear either willing or able to offer them all the support that they deserve, it seems that charities like Combat Stress are needed more than ever.

Emma King-Farlow

## Painting in the afternoons

Fortunately the winter meetings of the Barnes and Sheen Painting Group do not depend on the vagaries of English weather as they are held in the comfort of the hall at the rear of Castelnu Library in Barnes. The new programme begins on October 7th on alternate Wednesday afternoons between 2pm and 4.30pm and is open to anyone who is interested, regardless of ability. Space is limited so early application is recommended to Derek Pendry, telephone 8876 4865 (please note that this number will not accept untraceable calls). The fee for the whole series is £27, a modest £2.08 a session, including fees for models and lecturers.

The programme is as follows:

Oct 7th	Still Life	Jan 13th	Still Life
Oct 21st	Model (male nude)	Jan 27th	Model (male nude)
Nov 4th	Still Life	Feb 10th	Still Life
Nov 18th	Demo and Tutorial by Judith Scully	Feb 24th	Demo and Tutorial by Jill Storey
Dec 2nd	Model (female nude)	Mar 10th	Portrait
Dec 16th	Still Life	Mar 24th	Still Life
Christmas break		Apr 7th	Model (female nude)



### CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, 14 November

10.00 am - 4.00 pm

in St Mary's Church and Kitson Hall

\*\*\* Save the date \*\*\*

More information from: [jpkingsmill@aol.com](mailto:jpkingsmill@aol.com)

## As 'scene' from my Windows

The scene is Barnes, as it used to be, seen through the window of an old photograph. This once cherished possession might appeal only to minority tastes. But could artefacts like our sepia photograph define urban society's transition from the mechanical to the electronic age? In my imagination the telephone pole in the far right of the image carries but few cables, their connections to exchanges with exotic names, such as Prospect (776) and Riverside (748), names long-buried in today's digital dialling codes.

Is one of our readers looking out onto this same garden today? The houses in the background, their solid construction suiting them to modernisation, date from the 1880s. The skyline might be little changed, unless by recent loft conversions camouflaging the humbler origins of these dwellings. But while residential streets in Barnes have been blessed with some sort of permanence, our picture, dated 3rd August 1925, is a lucky survivor.

The photographer was Kate Poole of 35, Fitzgerald Avenue, at the southern end of White Hart Lane. The scene, recording a wedding, fires another strand of conjecture. What hopes, fears, secrets and rivalries may have existed in the



lives of the participants? What emotions registered or concealed on those handsome faces in an instant of time? The children placed in the front rank might even be living today. What are their memories and what stories could they tell of lives that would have been ravaged by war?

The photo had already been consigned to a skip in 1993 when the old Essex Court flats were torn down to be replaced by the current,

better-designed structures. Its rescuer was Pete Tagg, whose house overlooks the Court. Pete, well-known stalwart of Scout and BCA jumble sales, runs a stall at the newly arrived antique and 'collectables' market on the margins of Barnes pond, opposite the Sun Inn.

In books and museums are to be found photos and drawings of architecture, the bucolic vistas of Barnes past and perhaps an odd 'character' or two – but it is far from certain that the essence of ordinary people is preserved. Perhaps 85 years into the future another imagination might be sparked

by 'finds' on a market stall – items that have stood the test from our own times. Better still, might an electronic copy of an old *Prospect* edition, discovered on the Internet, shed true light on today's goings-on? Any bets on the success of 'www.oldvillageantics.com', or will Microsoft's Windows even still be remembered? Perhaps I should register the domain name.

William Mortimer

### Age Concern Barnes Green Centre Open Day

**Monday 5th October 10am-3.30pm**

Age Concern Barnes Green Centre invites you to their **Open Day** on **Monday 5th October** at **The Green, Church Road, Barnes**

Tel: 0208 876 2377 Email: allanl@acrut.org.uk

#### Programme

10.00am – Chair exercise taster sessions	1.45pm – Afternoon Tea Dance
10.45am – Tai Chi taster session	3.15pm – Raffle
11.30am – Creative Dancing taster session	3.30pm – Close

12.15-1.15pm – Lunch time

*Selection of sandwiches, cakes, teas, coffees, juices to buy*

#### Other Events

Deputy Mayor Cllr Ben Khosa to visit the centre : Members' art exhibition  
Computer courses taster sessions : Arts and Crafts : Hand massages

**FREE ACTIVITIES : EVERYONE is welcome!**

### The Friends of Queen Mary's Hospital – Roehampton

Invite you to

#### Bridge and Afternoon Tea

from 2.00-5.00pm Thursday 5th November

**Roehampton Club, Roehampton Lane, London SW15**  
with raffle and prizes, £60 per table

For further details on how to reserve a table please contact:

Linda Dalling, 22 Shottfield Avenue, London SW14 8EA  
Tel: 020 8876 1034 or The Friends office 020 8487 6798



Barnes Literary Society

### Chris Patten

#### What Next? – Surviving the Twenty-First Century

At the start of the twenty-first century, the challenges facing the world seem complex and confusing. The Barnes Literary Society opens its season with a discussion on this major topic by distinguished local resident, Lord Patten of Barnes. In his most recent book, *What Next? Surviving the Twenty-first Century*, Chris Patten draws on his many years at the highest levels of national and international politics to tackle the big questions of our time. He considers such diverse problems as financial turmoil, climate change, weapons proliferation, international crime, energy, food, and water. His talk to BLS will cover these thought-provoking topics and no doubt raise lively discussion.

Chris Patten is probably best known as the last Governor of Hong Kong about which he wrote in 'East and West'. Both that and *Not Quite the Diplomat: Home Truths about World Affairs* were No1 international bestsellers. He has served as Minister for Overseas Development and Secretary of State for the Environment and was European Commissioner for External Relations. He is currently co-Chair of the International Crisis Group and is Chancellor of Oxford and Newcastle universities.

This event will be held on Wednesday 21st October in the Methodist Church by Barnes Pond at 8pm. For membership details please contact 8748 2558 or see [www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk](http://www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk).



## A new home for local bats!

The new Berkeley bat house was officially opened at the London Wetland Centre on 14 September, a fitting tribute on the centenary of the birth of Sir Peter Scott, son of 'Scott of the Antarctic'. Sir Peter was one of the most

influential conservationists of the 20th century and founder of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), which comprises nine UK centres of which the London Wetland Centre is one. The purpose of the bat house is not only to provide a roosting space for bats (although this is very important!); it is also a cutting edge project that blends arts, architecture, design and conservation. As part of the opening, the Centre urges artists, architects, builders and home-improvers to follow Sir Peter's lead and do work which benefits wildlife as well as people.

London's first architect-designed home for bats now sits proudly on the edge of the sheltered lagoon. The building results from a competition, initiated by the Turner Prize-winning artist, Jeremy Deller, supported by a partnership involving Arts Council England, the Bat Conservation Trust, the Mayor of London Authority, Plus Equals, the RSA Arts and Ecology Centre and WWT, and sponsored by The Berkeley Group.

The Berkeley bat house is based on designs by Jorgen Tandberg of Oslo, and Yo Murata of Tokyo, who met while studying at the Architectural Association's school in London. Their plan was chosen by expert judges from over 200 international entries to a competition devised by Jeremy Deller. Among the building's innovative features are its use of Hemcrete, a climate-friendly alternative to concrete, which is made from hemp and lime and 'breathes', thereby keeping the roosts at the right temperature.

It is hoped that the first bats will move into the Berkeley bat house this autumn when they begin looking for places to mate and hibernate. The house itself is a beautiful design that the Centre hopes will inspire its



*The appropriately named long-eared bat eagerly awaits a new roosting place. (photo by Adam Brokes)*

many photographers to capture on film, especially as the colours turn in autumn. Look out for our popular photography courses on 24 October and book early to secure a spot. And on 18 October at 2pm come in for a free talk in the AV Theatre with Dr Ernest Garcia, a regular birder and one of the Centre's 'Guides in the Hide', as he talks about his experience birdwatching and birding in Spain.  
Stasa Veroukis

## Richmond upon Thames LINK

Richmond upon Thames LINK is a local involvement network which was first set up in October 2008 and exists to support the community in improving health and social care services.

LINKs are independent networks of local people and groups who want to get involved in how local health and care services are commissioned, designed and delivered. They have been set up in every borough and county in England.

Here in Richmond, LINK now has over 130 individual members and 60 organisational members. LINK exists to find out what you – the local residents and users of health and care services – want from these services and will investigate issues and hold services to account with your help.

Most people would agree that health and social care services should respond to community needs but those in charge aren't always successful in finding out what these are and responding to them appropriately. This is where Richmond LINK can help – by asking local people, whether or not they are current users of services, for their views and experiences and by making recommendations to improve those services.

Richmond LINK will be holding its first AGM on 11th November and nominations are invited for membership of the LINK's steering committee. If you are interested in getting involved at steering committee level, please contact Mike Derry on 020 8255 8516. Nominations must be received by 15th October.

If you don't have time to sit on a steering committee but would like to join Richmond LINK as a general member, then please get in touch. You'll be kept informed about local health and social care matters with a quarterly newsletter and you can choose which projects you might like to get more involved with, depending on your interests.

The more people who join, participate in and contribute to the work of the LINK, the stronger and more influential it will become. It's entirely free to join so don't wait, sign up today and have your say. Remember, it isn't our LINK, it's YOUR LINK, so please join us and make your voice count.

### How to join

Visit the website at [www.richmondlink.org.uk](http://www.richmondlink.org.uk) to download the membership form or complete the online survey. Call 020 8255 8516 or email [info@richmondlink.org.uk](mailto:info@richmondlink.org.uk) for further information including fact sheets and membership forms.

*Hilary Davidson, LINK Coordinator*



*Mary Margret is second from the right front row, pictured with girls from our guiding county, Greater London West, and the County Commissioner, Christine Wicks*

## Buckingham Palace Garden Party

A Young Leader with 1st Barnes Brownies, Mary Margret Lay, was chosen to be part of the group who attended a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace at the end of July, hosted by Prince Charles and Camilla, to launch 'Project You'.

More than 100 Senior Section members, alongside eight other Youth Organisations, showcased a range of activities available to young people, running a great variety of activities: Sumo wrestling, henna art, parachute games, disability awareness, orienteering, pioneering, Japanese weaving, a GOLD display and badge making. Camilla and Charles both were spotted wearing 'I've met the Guides at Buckingham Palace' badges!

## The 21st Century garden shed

When my neighbour, Rajat Jindal, popped his head above the fence and asked me if I would mind if he built a shed at the bottom of his garden I willingly agreed. My image was of a wooden shed, with an overpowering scent of creosote where a man (or woman) could find peace and quiet.

The dimensions of the planning application puzzled me – it seemed to be a rather large garden shed – but permission was granted. I was even more puzzled, not to say apprehensive, when the builders arrived and mini-tractors rumbled down our side passage, loaded with bags of cement and huge coils of cable (for the under-floor heating) followed by enormous panes of window glass. This was no ordinary shed!

The builders finally left, and one morning I glanced out of my bedroom window and was amazed. From the rubble and mess of a building site had emerged a small, beautiful building with clean lines, seemingly floating glass walls protected by a series of smooth opaque panels and all with an air of calm and serenity about it. I loved it – even from the outside. Inside, the position of

the walls would keep out even the roar of the noisiest aircraft.

No wonder, when I received my handbook from the organisers of Open House, London\* I found the erstwhile garden shed had a name, 'Jindals' Pavilion', and was rubbing eaves with the largest, accepted good architectural designed buildings past and present from all over London. All are open and free to the public on one weekend a year under the scheme.

Details of 'Jindals' Pavilion' have appeared, among other publications, in *House & Garden*, *The Architectural Review* and on *Grand Designs*.

This is a building for calm, meditation and yoga. The architect, Paul Archer, explains: "Above all, we've created a real retreat from home, a modern version of the husband's traditional garden shed."

Sally Holloway



*Calm and serene...*

\* Open House, London was founded several years ago on the basis that "good architecture can capture the imagination, change the way we relate to our neighbours and fellow Londoners, create new employment, revitalise neglected areas and improve our health and well-being."

## A story of life, death and hope



Private James Nicol Beatson, provided for the book by May Beatson

"A very pretty countryside to spend a holiday in, on a bicycle." So commented Private Beatson, with typical Tommy wryness, in his diary which has just been published, covering his time in the trenches in Flanders at the start of the 'Great War'. He describes the nightmare of war: "Passing along the Menin Road into Ypres, we saw the hideous ruins, the result of the last bombardment. Words haven't been coined to describe the desolation."

He also appreciates, with great delicacy, the still surviving pockets of peacetime life: "The sun

is now sinking slowly and a cool breeze is stirring the trees. What horrible mockery that the peace of nature should be broken by the blast of cannon and whizzing of stray bullets and the thought of men having to die for the liberty to govern themselves." He lost so many of his comrades, picked off by snipers' bullets, blasted by shells or falling after 'going over the top' to attack the German trenches: "Now we advance a quarter of a mile and capture a ditch, or three miles and gain a heap of ruins. Seems all action and no motive." "I saw the wounded on all sides. I did what little I could but it is heartrending to hear the fellows asking for help and to see the dead lying so very still."

James Beatson came from a working class Edinburgh family, the oldest of nine. He and his next sister were largely brought up by their grandparents in the Highlands and managed to get a good education – he is clearly well read. He was starting a promising career as a surveyor when he enlisted in the 9th Battalion Royal Scots within days of war breaking out. It was the only kilted unit of the regiment, popularly known as the 'Dandy Ninth', and the first Edinburgh territorial unit to go to the Western Front.

James originally intended the diary for his fiancée, Carrie, but he decided it would be too gruesome for her: "Love and war are not fit to be mentioned together; love makes us friends with the world, war violates us. Only God understands us." The family kept the diary for 90 years until James's niece, now in her eighties, decided to sell it to raise funds for her granddaughter's education. One of the editors, Barnes resident Shaun Springer, an enthusiastic collector of Great War papers, bought it at

an auction at Sotheby's, outbidding another interested collector, Stuart Humphries. The two of them then got together and decided to edit the diary jointly, with a comprehensive background commentary. The diary stops at the end of 1915 when James went home for a short leave for his 'khaki wedding' to Carrie.

He had survived for 15 months when his time came. On 23 July 1916, aged 23, he was killed at High Wood in the third week of the Battle of the Somme in what one survivor from his unit described as "a stupid action, because we had to make a frontal attack on bristling German guns and there was no shelter at all." In one entry, James had quoted from the French poem: *La Vie est brève* (Life is short). The last verse reads: *La vie est vaine, un peu d'espoir, un peu de haine et puis bonsoir* (Life is vain, a little hope, a little hate, and then good night) only he changes *haine* to *peine* (pain). As the editors say, a fitting end.

John Greenwood

*Private Beatson's War: Life, Death and Hope on the Western Front* edited by Shaun Springer and Stuart Humphries, published by Pen and Sword Military (Hardcover £19.99) with an introduction by Henry Allingham, the oldest living survivor at the time who died this July, aged 113. All proceeds go to two charities – St Dunstons and Starlight. Signed copies are available from Barnes Bookshop.

Another celebrated surviving veteran also died this year – 111 year-old Harry Patch, subject of the book *The Last Fighting Tommy* co-authored incidentally by another Barnes resident, Richard van Emden.