



Prospect

September 2008

Price when sold £1

Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out with this year's Barnes Fair. From those ladies who spent ages ticketing tombola prizes to the team who marked out the site on Thursday night and to everyone who got caught in the rain when setting up, we are extremely grateful. Particular thanks go to the army of volunteers who manned the BCA stands on Fair Day – everyone turned up so cheerfully and so promptly and for that we are also extremely grateful. THANK YOU to everyone – we couldn't do it without you. And please will you help out again next year?!

It would be unfair to single out any particular individuals, but the Fair Committee would like to welcome on board Charlotte Sharpe-Neal, Assistant Fair Organiser this year, who will take on Liz Collison's role as Fair Organiser for 2009. Liz in turn will replace David Stott, who has been a splendid Chairman of the Fair Committee for over eight years – many thanks, David, for all your hard work. And last, but certainly not least, Barnes Fair owes a huge debt to Sally Holloway who, since the earliest days, has been responsible for all the publicity, ensuring **everyone** was fully aware of what would happen in Barnes on the second Saturday of each July. And should you need to know what was on offer in any particular year Sally tells *Prospect* that she has Fair programmes for most years since 1977!

Nor must we forget the many companies, particularly our principal sponsors Friend and Falcke, who have given so generously in so many ways – we really do appreciate both your financial and practical help.



Thank you, Sally

Stop Press : Stop Press : Stop Press

Congratulations to local sailor Sarah Webb on winning Olympic Gold!

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The Grand Parade



Congratulations to everyone who joined the Grand Parade this year.

The winners of the best float were the Castelnau Community Centre with Lowther School for their imaginative University Boat Race theme, for which they were awarded the Harroldian Shield (generously donated by The Harroldian School). In the mobile travellers section, sisters Isabella, Clemmie and Sienna Jones took first prize, with Max Owen and Tamsin Butcher, second and third.



Barnes Inter-School Quiz at Barnes Fair was won this year by Barnes Primary, represented by Year 5 pupils Milo Thursfield and Sienna Holmes, pictured here with quiz master Patrick Van den Bergh.



Rocks Lane Tennis Club

There is still no news of what the Club is going to do. Members have noticed the increase in commuter cars parked on Metropolitan Open Land. This has

been going on now for a year. We are to press Richmond Council to resolve this problem before another year goes by.

I Church Road, Barnes

An extension is being built in this conservation area. We are anxious that it will be in keeping with the attached small cottage in this key part of our village.

Environment Group Report

Barnes Vision and Barn Elms

Monies have been pledged and further funding is in place – see article below for more details.

Paving over Front Gardens

Many more front gardens are being lost as people pave them over for parking. This spoils the streetscape for neighbours and the road as a whole. But a more serious point is that with the prospect of climate change and more downpours of rain, paving over front gardens makes the water run off into roads rather than seeping into the ground. If members could dissuade their neighbours from paving their front gardens it would help both wildlife and gardens as well as retaining the attractive look of our roads, which is all part of our village uniqueness.

Buses

The unhappiness with the new arrangements at Hammersmith is still causing many people to contact us. The BCA Executive has agreed to a public meeting, possibly in October, with Transport for London and, hopefully, the Bus Station management, as letters and e-mails seem to be falling on deaf ears.

Finally – a plea to dog owners and walkers. Please do not leave dog mess in plastic bags on the common or by the Leg O' Mutton reservoir for somebody else to collect. This is in fact more offensive than leaving time to do its best. Remember, nature cannot cope with plastic!!

The next meeting is on **22nd September** when new members will be most welcome.
Susan Boyd, Chairman

Barn Elms update

Barnes Vision, the campaign group working to prevent part of Barn Elms playing fields being sold to a private health club by Richmond Council, has raised over £2.5 million to fund improvements at the site. The London Marathon Charitable Trust has pledged £500,000 (with more in the pipeline), a local independent junior school has promised £1m and the Football Foundation has indicated that it will provide a further £1m.

Barnes Vision estimates that this sum will be enough to pay for huge improvements at Barn Elms, including two new pavilions and a MUGA (multi-use games area). However, the Council still insists the total cost will be closer to £4 million, while steadfastly refusing to provide a cost breakdown. On 22nd September the Cabinet will meet to decide whether to adopt the Barnes Vision proposal. Pat Newton, Chair of the campaign group, said she felt the Council



Pat seeks support for the Barnes Vision scheme at Barnes Fair

was being "more co-operative than we have experienced in the past". But there is still a risk the Council will dispose of the land.

For further details visit the group's website www.savebarnelms.mfbiz.com.

Lisa Reed

Potential pong?

Prospect has learnt of plans by Thames Water to dig a 30-metre wide crater on the left bank of the Thames as part of a £2billion 'super-sewer' from west to east London to help deal with storm water, at present often pumped into the river along with raw sewage. Whilst the exact location is not yet certain – we understand Furnival Gardens in Hammersmith or Dukes Meadow in Chiswick are both being considered – a nasty smell wafting over the river to Barnes seems a distinct possibility. The BCA Environment Group will be keeping a close eye (or should it be 'nose') on developments.

Can you help?

Many thanks to our large team of *Prospect* distributors who do a sterling job, come rain or shine, especially David and Margaret Minch, Mike Dixon and Paula Mortimer. However, we are seeking new deliverers and have vacancies for the following areas:

Sussex Court and Carmichael Court
Verdun Road, Barnes Avenue

We also need a batch distributor with a car to deliver bags of *Prospect* in the Madrid Road and Byfeld Gardens areas.

I am always astounded at the wonderful response we get from requests such as these so please contact me at Rose House, 8878 2359. Don't let me down!

Julia Bebington

BCA Jumble Sale

It may seem a bit early to be thinking about the October jumble sale but here at the BCA we are already planning for this mega event. This year it's on **Friday 10th and Saturday 11th October** so please clear out your cupboards in readiness.

We are short of space this year for storing the jumble, so if you have any spare room, perhaps in garages or garden sheds, please let us know.

We are also desperate for helpers. If you have a few hours to spare, please call Hilary at Rose House, 8878 2359. We are a friendly team and have a lot of fun organising the sale.

Car vandalism

Have you suffered damage to your car whilst it has been parked in Barnes?

The BCA has learnt of several occasions earlier in the summer when cars in the vicinity of the Nassau Road and Church Road had their wing mirrors broken off. Any similar incidents should be reported to the police so that they can assess the extent of the problem. Contact them on 020 8607 9199 or

www.met.police.uk/reporting_crime. The Barnes Community Support Team, 07768 178 731, is understood to be producing leaflets to encourage the reporting of criminal damage so they know when and where to patrol and whether CCTV is warranted.

Help the police to help YOU.

Salon des Arts

Four years ago the Salon des Arts was founded by Stevie McGarrity-Alderdice as a way of bringing artists from Barnes and Le Pecq together. This year some thirty-five Richmond artists – professional, semi-professional and amateur – including more than twenty Barnes residents, exhibited their work, together with eight from Le Pecq. The pieces on show were in many different media: oils, acrylics, watercolours, screen prints, lithographs, photographs and textiles, and the judges, who were not necessarily looking for technique but for what took their breath away, had a difficult task. The Mayor of Richmond, Cllr Helen Lee-Parsons, presented prizes to the winners, who included Patricia Howard, Keith Graville, Edward Dallal, James Derwin and Sophie Harris-Taylor.

As a measure of its success, and partly as a result of help from the BCA and funding from the Barnes Workhouse Trust, this year, for the first time, there was a special section devoted to the work of children, replacing the art competition formerly held at Barnes Fair.

Stevie not only organised both exhibitions but involved himself in workshops with groups of children from local schools and the Castelnau Community Centre, spending two days in each school and four evenings at the Community Centre encouraging the children to try new ideas and techniques. The experiment was an enormous success.

One could be forgiven for thinking that a series of framed and mounted photographs was part of the adult exhibition, but it turned out that they were the work of under-13s from Colet Court. 11-year old Sam Leung explained that the theme was 'self-portrait' but Stevie, who is himself in the middle of a four-year Fine Art course, had encouraged them to give this a broad interpretation. The result was a sophisticated, witty and very accomplished set of pictures.

Each group had its own individual theme. The children from Barnes Primary and Lowther had created exciting collages; St Osmund's produced Jackson Pollock look-alikes, which would have received acclaim had they been done by the artist himself; and the paintings from Castelnau Community Centre were a lively and vibrant mix. The Le Pecq schools, however, held their own: both St Dominique and Félix Eboué produced work of an exacting standard.



Codie Burden of Lowther School with Castelnau Community Centre paintings

Jan Pieńkowski, well-known artist, author and illustrator, opened the children's part of the exhibition. He spoke in part about his career and said that the creative process is 'not a bowl of cherries' but requires time and energy. He draws all the time, even sketching in his notebook whilst travelling, and encouraged children to keep drawing, painting and creating so that "when the muse comes in through the window you are ready".

Trudie Martin, Gill Spillane

School's farewell

Prospect was invited to a lunch at the Harrodian School marking the end of nine years of service from Dave Boulton, the driver of the 609 bus who featured as 'The Hero of the Buses' in a recent Prospect article. Dave will continue to be seen on the 209 route but pupils will no longer benefit from his experience and care. The Metroline Bus Company has re-scheduled the 609 as a general duty by drivers in rotation. Why a community success story, specifically an authority respected by youngsters, should thus be treated is impossible to say.

Many of the children came to wish their old friend well. Lunch was low-key and devoid of ceremony, a quiet and reflective end to Dave's contribution to the success of the school's early years – parents had independently marked their appreciation with gifts on his last day driving the route earlier this year. "It was a sad day for us but we were glad to have the opportunity to say a fond farewell to Dave," said a member of staff.

William Mortimer



Harrodian School students Riley and Archie with, l to r, Mrs Heather Locke, Deputy Head/ Director of Studies; Mrs Irena Marchenko, Assistant House Manager; Mr Peter Thomson, Principal and Dave

Coffee and home bakes at Julian Court

Home-cooked apple pies, sausage rolls, scones and cakes will be among the delicious food on sale at a Coffee Morning in Julian Court (sheltered accommodation) in Grange Road on **Saturday, September 13th, 10am – approx 3pm.**

Funds raised will go towards restoring the garden at the house.



Barnes Literary Society Fifth Successful Year

BLS closed its season with a 'sell out' event of musical entertainment with songs from opera and musicals with a literary background. The Society, which is now entering its fifth year, is pleased to announce its programme for 2008-2009. Membership comes up for renewal in September, and current members will be mailed with next season's membership brochure early in September. The society has been so popular that membership had to be closed earlier in the year and there is now a waiting list. Current members are therefore encouraged to renew their membership promptly. Those who are not already members and are interested in joining should contact the Membership Secretary on 020 8748 2558. For further information see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk

Events in 2008-9 Season

Wed 15th Oct 2008 ¹

Michael Frayn/Christopher Cook: In Conversation

Wed 19th Nov 2008 ²

James Naughtie: Writing about Music

Wed 21st Jan 2009

Anne Sebba: Women of Influence

Wed 11th Feb 2009

James Barr: Setting the Desert on Fire

February/March 2009

National Art Library Visit

Wed 18th March 2009

Christina Lamb: Dispatches from Foreign Lands

followed by AGM

Sat 26th April 2009 ³

Literary Walk

Wed 20th May 2009

Tatyana Kinsey: Great Russian Writers

Wed 24th June 2009 ³

Summer Event

¹Meeting at Methodist Church ²Members Only ³Additional cost
Events and speakers may be subject to change without notice



To the amusement of all, *The Barber of Seville* 'shaves' an unsuspecting BLS member at the end-of-season party

Support your local bookshop!

Independent Booksellers Week is an initiative organised by The Booksellers Association and sponsored by *The Times* to draw attention to independent bookshops, recognising what they add to their local community and why they are important. Across the country authors spent time recently to support their favourite local independent bookshop.

Barnes resident Gyles Brandreth went to the **Barnes Bookshop** for a morning to try his hand at bookselling. Isla Dawes gave him a lesson on how to operate the till and the computer before letting him loose on her unsuspecting customers! He managed to sell several copies of his crime books starring Oscar Wilde as a detective, along with other books by less high-profile authors.

Barnes Bookshop also hosted a launch party for a wonderfully quirky new book, *Tate to Tate*, an illustrated walk along the South Bank from one Tate to the other, by local authors Tommy Penton and Brian Parker.



Sarah Arthur, regular patron of the bookshop, buys from Gyles

Music at St Paul's

Concerts

The King's Singers can be heard at the Wathen Hall, St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road, Barnes on Thursday 25th September at 7.30pm. This is the first event in the new concert season, which will continue with Leslie Howard on Wednesday 26th November.



Percussion Workshop

All Bluff and Porterage, "the most musically satisfying percussion group you are ever likely to hear" will appear at the Wathen Hall on Sunday 28th September, giving a recital at 3pm and master classes from 4.30pm. Tickets £10.

Strings Day

St Paul's is running a Strings Day on Saturday 4th October for string players aged 8 to 15, approximate standard grades 3 to 7. Specialist string coaches will work on aspects of orchestral string playing in small groups according to ability and it will culminate in a short concert. The day aims to be hardworking but fun for all those involved. The cost is £25 per player.

For further information on all events and to book please call the Music School at St Paul's, 020 8746 5424, or e-mail kmm@stpaulsschool.org.uk

An Evening with Aled Jones

The singer, actor and Barnes resident will be presenting an evening of songs, music and talk at St Mary's Church, Barnes, on Friday 19th September at 7.30 for 8pm, in aid of Hope House Children's Hospices and The Friends of St Mary's Barnes. Tickets are £25 (front rows) and £20 from office@stmarybarnes.org or 020 8741 5422.

Shene School to become an Academy?

Once upon a time, Shene School was our local grammar school while Barnes Secondary Modern was sited in Lonsdale Road. The Eleven-Plus exams were designed to give the best education to the brightest 20%-25% of children. But in Richmond far more than 25% of parents thought their children were good enough for Shene!

There was therefore general goodwill when Shene Comprehensive opened, and the school did well for a number of years. However, over time the catchment area for Shene changed to take in more out-of-borough children. (The Greenwich Judgement enabled children to go to a nearby school even if that meant crossing borough boundaries and taking priority over local families.) This made for problems, which sadly have got worse over the last decade.

Many attempts have been made to help the school make a fresh start but none seem to have worked. OFSTED put the school in 'Special Measures' and the government threatened it

with closure. Now Richmond Council is working with local people to transform the school into an 'Academy'. The firm Edutrust is to work towards this goal, stressing particularly the involvement of the local community.

Over the next year, there are going to be many issues to resolve and *Prospect* will be reporting regularly.

Katie Gent (MA, Oxon; I1+ failed)

Kate Poll, Paul Mason and Clare Durling, all with children at Barnes Primary, take up the story:

"Concerned local parents have formed a campaign group, **Campaign4NewSchool** with the status of Parent Promoted Foundation, which will help enable us to become productive partners in the development of a new Academy on the Shene School site. We believe that this proposal provides a unique opportunity for our children as the school has been left to decline for too long. Edutrust has been chosen to take responsibility for turning Shene around.

We can help ensure the Academy's success by taking an active and productive role. If we take a 'wait and see' approach, or worse, actively try to obfuscate the process, it is our children who will suffer. We will work with Edutrust, and indeed with any individual or organisation to ensure the success of Shene School in its new academy form and appeal to all parties to take a positive role in helping to shape our future school for the sake of our children and community.

We are working on a document that will clearly outline what the community is looking for in its secondary school provision. If we help Edutrust identify the school model that would best serve our community, and then hold them accountable for making the necessary changes, we believe that real change can happen.

We invite you to read the information provided at www.campaign4newschool.com and email us at: campaign4newschool@gmail.com with your ideas."

New Garden of Remembrance at St Mary's

Those passing St Mary's will have noticed a great deal of activity in the churchyard in July and August. The work is now nearing completion with a disabled-friendly ramp leading to the door to the church offices and the upgrading of paths.

For some time the church has wanted to enlarge the Garden of Remembrance where ashes are interred which, until now, has covered quite a small area under a magnolia tree by the East Gate. An extension of this will cover all of the area to the north of the East Gate and the east of the path leading up to the doorway of the church offices. There will be a new Yorkstone path leading to a bench, which will be

positioned to have a central view of the whole extended Garden. The scheme has been approved by both the Diocese of Southwark and Richmond Council.

In addition to the interment of ashes, it will be possible for people to have a memory of their loved ones with a simple inscription on the stone path. This service will be available to anyone connected to St Mary's and not restricted to those whose ashes are interred in the Garden. For more information, please contact office@stmarybarnes.org

Ross Collins, Rector

Barnes Primary School Arts Week

As well as participating in the Salon des Arts (see feature on page 3) Barnes Primary School held its own exhibition in June. Their arts week puts creativity into the spotlight, offering all the children an opportunity to express themselves in a variety of art forms and to be inspired by professionals. This is the third year that this has been held and was even more wide-ranging than before, including an exciting musical event in the Methodist Church before the visual exhibition at the OSO. Said the school, "We believe it is a crucial part of 'excellence and enjoyment' in our school life. Every child's work is represented in the exhibition, in which we celebrate their achievements and talent." There was certainly much achievement and talent on display for everyone to enjoy.

Leaving Barnes



The Revd Roger Hutchings retired as a Methodist minister at the end of August. Although he has been the official minister in Barnes for only two years, he and his family have been worshipping here for nearly twenty years, covering the time when he was in charge of the BBC's *Songs of Praise*.

His presence in Barnes will be much missed. He has been a very active member of Churches Together in Barnes and has been on the Barnes in Common committee for several years. His broadcasting experience has been significant to the success of joint church services, and last year on a cold winter's night, he conducted a packed Wetlands carol service with great enthusiasm. At the Methodist Church he

instigated *First Sundays*, inviting guest speakers, including our local MP, to answer questions on their work. With his extensive knowledge of Wesley hymns he conducted a special service to commemorate Charles Wesley's 300th birthday. His close involvement in the running of the church has been of huge advantage towards paying off the debt incurred due to the redevelopment.

We all wish him and Mair a long and happy retirement in Salisbury.



One of a series of mosaic tiles produced by Year 5

Barnes 'flair' behind the scenes



The Fair King and Queen
Fair King and Queen, Joseph Pederzolli and Martha Comerford of St Osmund's School, led the Parade in regal splendour. "It was really fun," said Joseph. "We felt like royalty. We waved at everyone as we were pulled along." Their duties over, Joseph and Martha were looking forward to enjoying the delights of the Fair with their friends.



Gillian and Iain Green, veteran stallholders
The Fair boasted many new stallholders this year, as well as several who have been coming to the Fair for many years. Gillian and Iain Green have been bringing their collection of antiques and collectables to the Fair for over 25 years.

Iain told *Prospect* how much the Fair had changed over those years. "There used to be a lot more charity stalls and local people and now there are stalls that look more like shops! Our stall has hardly changed though. I used to specialise in records and on Fair Day I would put out all the records for a pound each. I probably could have made more money if I'd priced them individually but I like to keep things simple. I'm still doing the same thing today, and the price hasn't changed in 25 years."



from left to right: Anya Witham, Aaron Clinton, Maddie Root and Ryan Dunkely

Mayor Cllr Helen Lee-Parsons

It was Mayor Helen's first experience of Barnes Fair and, although she had been warned it would be spectacular, it even exceeded her expectations. "I was totally amazed," she told *Prospect*. "It is so well organised. The floats were marvellous; so much effort had been put into them. Picking a winner was a very difficult decision."

As well as starting the Parade, the Mayor gave out certificates to children for their art work which was on display at the OSO.



Robert Heane, the horse owner

The Parade may have looked like it was all glamour and finery but behind the splendour was a lot of hard work and a very early morning for the horse owner, Robert Heane. "I rolled out of bed at quarter-to-three this morning, and drove all the way from Lincolnshire for the Fair," he said. Robert has been providing horses for the Fair King and Queen's carriage for the last 14 years. "In 1995 the horses were in a pantomime at the brewery with Lionel Blair and he suggested that they draw the carriage for the Fair. I've been bringing them ever since. Melinda (the horse on the right) is actually one of the original pair."



Djohra Aberbour, Les Amis de Barnes

This was the first year that children from Le Pecq, the town with which Barnes shares a friendship link, were able to showcase their work at Barnes Fair. Djohra, the treasurer of Les Amis de Barnes, helped to organise the artistic exchange. She said: "We hope to create links between the schools in Le Pecq and Barnes so that the children can learn about life in each others' country."

Words and pictures by Rachel Rickard Straus



Caroline Markley and Ann Johnstone, Morris Dancers

Performers from all around Barnes came to showcase their talents at the Fair. However, for many, the pull was not purely artistic! Morris Dancers Caroline and Ann said: "Barnes is the best Fair we go to by far. There are always some good bargains." The pair was getting in some last minute shopping before their performance.



June plays 'It's a long way to Tipperary'

June Hodgson, pianist

June Hodgson, 89, treated frazzled Fair-goers to some old favourites in the Methodist Church while they recuperated with a cup of tea and a slice of cake. "I've played here for some years – whenever I come to the Fair," said June. "When I was younger I used to sing as well but not any more."

Chihiro and Yoshiko from Japan

Chihiro from the BCA English school was very impressed with her first ever Barnes Fair. "It's fantastic!" she said. "There are so many people." Although she has been to similar events in Japan, Chihiro was particularly impressed by the carousel and how many people showed up.



Charlotte Sharpe-Neale, Fair organiser

This is Charlotte's first year organising the Fair. She told *Prospect*: "The Fair went extremely well in the end and everything fell into place. There were a few low points, such as carrying piles of programmes to the welcome arches at six this morning, and scrambling for the tickets from the tombola, which went flying all over the road. I'm very excited about next year's Fair already!"

Evie Osborne

Evie, aged 2½, and many other children had great fun at the petting zoo at St Osmund's School. There were a goat, sheep, hens, rabbits and guinea pigs – as well as a tiny pony.



**Principal Sponsors
of Barnes Fair
Friend & Falcke**



Readers' letters

Dear Prospect

It is all too apparent that people experience great difficulties with the London Transport disorganisation of our Barnes buses at Hammersmith.

But a solution could easily be provided. Since the 72 and 283 already stop at the upper level on the way into town, why couldn't they stop there on the way back? In this way those with mobility problems who need one of the other southbound routes could change at a bus stop in Barnes instead of having to trudge from the lifts up the incline and across three bus lanes to get back. Yours,
Ayea Da Costa

*It's a good idea, but changing buses could prove expensive for those without a Freedom Pass or season ticket. Take a look at the Environment Group's report for news of a meeting, and please send any further correspondence to them rather than to **Prospect**.*

Dear Prospect

Referring to the comment in the July issue about the origins of the Old Sorting Office, I thought readers might be interested to hear from someone 'directly related' to the Chocolate Factory!

I am the granddaughter of Reg Hollingham who was a Director of Zeetas, the company who ran the factory, called Diseren's as shown on an old drawing of the site. When my maternal grandfather oversaw production at the factory they made Easter eggs to the tune of 50,000 a year. An extension became a modern factory for the manufacture of high class ice-cream and Christmas puddings. Yours,
Davina Benneworth

Dear Prospect

I enjoyed reading Irene Cockcroft's article about Centenary Ale and Hammersmith Bridge.

I was Chairman of the BCA Group involved in holding the celebrations, a joint BCA and NBRA party. It was a lovely day, weather perfect, and we sold masses of donated peaches and strawberries with cream to cover our costs! In the evening Hammersmith Council held an amazing firework display on a barge moored just upstream from the Bridge, which we watched from the Barnes towpath, raising our glasses to another centenary. Magic! Apart from the Centenary Ale there were limited edition Hammersmith Bridge engraved wine glasses and tumblers. I wonder if any still exist?
Susan Boyd

Courses on your doorstep

With adult classes becoming harder to find, the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) plays an increasingly important role in providing local arts courses.

Art History

Art and Social Change from 1900 – Tutor, Peter Harrison
From Sickert to Damien Hirst, from Music Hall to Big Brother, discover how British art reflected life in 20th century Britain. Beginners and those with some knowledge alike will be stimulated to learn more about the change from Bright Young Things (BYTs) to Young British Artists (YBAs).
Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm

Literature

Creative Connections – Tutor, Rose O'Sullivan
Enjoy discussing and gaining insight into some major novels, classic and contemporary, by linking them with writing from different periods and genres. A core of texts will be studied, including Sophocles, Austen and Ishiguro. Directions and areas can be explored according to class discussion.
Wednesdays, 2.15-4.15pm

Courses, £120 for 20 lectures, are held at Rose House, Barnes High Street and start on Wednesday 24th September. Enquiries to Kate Simpson-Young, 8876 1865.

BYT Experimental Theatre Group

BYT is planning its next bi-annual fundraising event. A 24-hour improvisation marathon will be held at the Old Power Station in Mortlake from 5pm on Saturday 4th to 5pm on Sunday 5th October, and they are looking for people to sponsor the poor actors working their socks off at 4am! The money raised will go towards the rent at the Castelnuo Community Centre where the group meets.

The group's most recent production was a reprise of *Marvellous Marianne*, starring Joan Salmon, celebrating the life and work of Marianne

North, a magnificent and feisty woman who, in 1870 at the age of 40, embarked on a solo painting tour of five continents. Performances took place in The Marianne North Gallery in Kew Gardens, home to all of Marianne's 832 paintings of plants, flowers and landscapes.

For more information on all the group's activities, call the director Ed Cottrell, 07976 718 142, e-mail byt@hotmail.co.uk or visit the website www.by-etc.co.uk. New season starts now and new members very welcome.



A date for your diary

Barnes resident Jane Gardiner, an authority on early European glass and ceramics, will be giving an illustrated lecture on *The Taste for Collecting Early English Pottery* at the Methodist Church, Station Road, on Wednesday 8th October, 8pm. She trained at the V&A, is a consultant at Sothebys and recently returned from a sell-out tour of Australia. Tickets, £10, are available at the church on Saturdays, 10am-12.30pm, or call 020 8876 2517 or 020 8748 2396, and will also be available at the door. Proceeds go towards the church's work with the homeless and its own charities.

New Mini Rugby Club

Barnes RFC is launching a Mini Rugby section for the 2008/2009 season, aimed at local youngsters, Under 6's through to Under 12's. The first session will be at Barn Elms on Saturday 6th September, 9.30-11.30am and all boys and girls are welcome. A unique feature of the approach will be training on *Saturdays*, unlike other local rugby clubs who play

on Sunday mornings. Of course, most tournaments are on Sunday but, with only six of those a year, they think that you (and the family) will appreciate the Barnes Saturday approach to mini rugby.

To join the club, or to help out as a Mum or Dad, please e-mail mini rugby@barnesrfc.org for more information.

Keeping fit for the over Fifties

Would you like to join keep fit classes for the over 50s at Rose House on Monday afternoons or Thursday mornings? For further information call Vivien Erricker on 020 8946 8651.



A Farewell to Barnes

It seems fitting somehow that I should have chosen this time of the year to leave the London Wetland Centre when the very best is on display.

The sun is lower in the sky in the evenings adding a little more spectacle to the theatre of summer wildlife, before giving way to the harvest moon when hoards of bats gleefully come to feed as dusk falls.

To have been at the helm of the Centre for the past eight and a half years, since before it opened, was an incredible privilege. The wonderful vision of Sir Peter Scott is now a maturing and incredibly

beautiful wetland, transformed by the project creators, land staff, volunteers and by time itself. Peter Scott wanted to bring wildlife to people in an urban environment, to engage not just wildlife enthusiasts but also people who might not normally visit a wildlife reserve – the Centre has provided that opportunity. Over a million people, including urbanites, school children from inner London, and families from high rise estates, have now visited.

I am very proud to have been involved in the Wetland Centre's development and success and part of the community that has given so much support, for which I thank you most sincerely. My hope is that you will continue to enjoy a place of exquisite beauty and recreation in the heart of the village.
Stephanie Fudge, London Wetland Centre Manager

Tail-piece

Our feature in July/August *Prospect* about the lost and found West Highland terrier attracted much interest from readers, not least from the kind lady who facilitated Honey's return to her owner, Henry.

After the article appeared Henry received a letter from a lady who lives in Castelnau telling him what had happened. Apparently Honey had been picked up by a motorist who found her wandering in Castelnau but, unable to do anything himself, had carried her to the nearest house, asking the owners if they would look after her. Honey spent a pleasant day in their garden being cared for and was in due course taken to Battersea Dogs' Home. WWII veteran Henry was thus able to make contact with his Good Samaritan and thank her personally in the time-honoured way with a floral bouquet.

Shenehom Housing Association

Shenehom is an independent association operating within the auspices of the Richmond Churches Housing Trust through a management agreement. It was founded in 1982 as an initiative of a local GP and a group of parents seeking to develop high quality accommodation and support for members of their families.

Shenehom, which opened in 1990, is a registered care home in Barnes for thirteen people with enduring mental health problems, supported by a permanent staff team of eight and a Board of Trustees. It has developed a strong reputation for the quality of accommodation and support provided, enabling the resident group to achieve a significant quality and independence of life in the community.

The Board of Trustees seeks to recruit further trustees to ensure the long term continuity and continuing success of the project. For further information please contact John Holmes, 020 8876 3027, jtedh@hotmail.com.

Down on the allotment



Thank you to the man who answered my appeal (*Prospect* May issue) and offered me an old secondary glazing window for next year's cold frame. He kindly delivered it to my door together with two

plastic bags full of gardening publications including a lively little BBC vegetable guide from the early 70's, *Dig This*, which I have added to my collection.

That's the funny thing about gardening books: every now and again a classic appears. They become delightfully old-fashioned with the years but remain as useful as ever.

I have a few I would not part with. *Week by Week Gardening* by Adam the Gardener, price 5/- in old money, is one, with its quaint woodcuts of a stern, be-whiskered old gentleman labouring on his allotment. You can feel the pain in his back. Another perennial is the Royal Horticultural Society classic *The Vegetable Garden Displayed*, first published in 1941 as part of the war effort, a bit austere as you would expect, but brilliantly to the point. Regretfully, it was allowed to go out of print fairly recently. My favourite, and doubly useful, is the more elegant *Your Kitchen Garden* – the complete guide to growing what you eat and cooking what you grow (1975) with large pages and a laminated soft cover. It is beautifully laid out and illustrated with timeless line drawings and delicate water colours. It is well thumbed and food-stained and I have not found a better one.

Jack

FiSH Tuesday Talks



Barnes Green Centre
at 11.00am

Coffee from 10.30am, Talk 11.00am (40 mins)

- 9th September** Christopher Payne: *Travel to Pompeii*
16th September Sue Boyd: *Hampton Court Palace Gardens*
23rd September Caroline Tack: *Self-Directed Support - is it for you?*
30th September David Elford: *Saving the Orangutan: cycling from Paris to Geneva*
 Raffle of a magnum of Champagne

An ancient tradition in the modern world

Beginners and experienced meditators are invited to join a Christian meditation group, which meets in central Barnes on Wednesdays, 4-5pm.

This ancient tradition of silence and listening, for contemporary men and women, is a form of contemplative prayer using a mantra or prayer word. It originated with the early desert fathers of the fourth century and is rooted in the gospels. An Open Day to mark the group's fifth anniversary will take place on Wednesday 24th September.

Contact Sylvia on 8563 2641 for details.