



Prospect

September 2009

Price when sold £1



John Barnett

A BIG thank you

After another very successful Barnes Fair on 11th July it is time once again to thank all those volunteers without whose help this amazing event could not happen. So thanks to every one of you, whether you got up at crack of dawn to marshal traffic, helped with the Inter-Schools Quiz or the Fancy Dress Competition, worked on the tombola, sold tickets for Smiley the

Happy Train, manned a BCA stall, or helped with another of the many activities going on at the Fair. The result was a great day for our many visitors and your efforts are much appreciated – THANK YOU.

We are also most grateful to all our sponsors, with a special mention for our principal sponsor Friend & Falcke. The generous

support of all these sponsors, along with the many local businesses who placed advertisements in the programme, made a great and much valued contribution to the success of Barnes Fair 2009 – THANK YOU.

Liz Collison
Chairman, Barnes Fair Committee

Jumble Sale 2009

Cleaning out your cupboards? Why not donate your unwanted items to the BCA Jumble Sale. This year's sale will take place on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th October. Leaflets will be distributed throughout Barnes in late September with details of collections and where to deliver.

At present we have very little storage space so please hold onto your jumble until October. The only exceptions to this are electrical goods which need to be checked by

Bob Glover and his team; you can contact him on 8748 7050.

If you know of any space in a garage or garden shed we could use we would be most grateful – just contact Hilary on 8878 2359.

Have a few hours to spare? Why not come and help us sort or sell the jumble. We always need helpers, so if you can help please ring Hilary on the number above. Believe it or not we always have a fun time and you could make some new friends!

Painting of Barnes Bridge

Anyone viewing the southerly-most span of Barnes Bridge recently, from The Terrace footway, might have been wondering about the splodges of colour appearing there. These were samples applied to the unprepared structure simply to give an indication of what the two alternative colour schemes would look like. By the time this edition of *Prospect* is distributed no doubt decisions will have been taken.

We understand from Network Rail that in order to advance the works the footbridge will be closed between 9.30am and 3.30pm from Monday 24th August to Friday 4th September and from Monday 28th September to Friday 9th October. Measures will be in place to reduce disruption to users of the bridge.

If you have specific questions regarding the work please contact the Hotline on 0800 389 5901.

Bric-à-Brac and Homemade Cakes

Saturday 26th September

Methodist Church Hall

10.30am-12.30pm

Enjoy a cup of coffee while you are there!

BCA



matters...

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News from the Executive

The July BCA Executive meeting covered many topics. Firstly Sue Nichol gave a review of *Shop in Barnes* week which was a new initiative held during June. Sue has gathered feedback from the retailers and much was learned from the experience. It was generally agreed that the retailers were keen to use all the opportunities that Barnes presents for them, such as activities on the river and also to try introducing new events like a repeat of the summer solstice late night shopping and others such as a Barnes Arts week and so on. Further ideas to promote Barnes shops would be welcome (retailsue@barnesvillage.org.uk). Sue has written below about the winners of the competition running during *Shop in Barnes* Week.

The next shopping events in Barnes will

be linked with Late Night Shopping on 4th December. Sue is also trying to start an initiative with retailers and residents to reduce the use of plastic bags which continue to blight the environment. You are invited to view the showing of *Message in the Waves* in early September, which shows the detrimental effect of bags on wildlife. Contact Sue if you would like to attend.

As with all charities the BCA has to work harder and harder to maintain income and contain our costs. Micky Forster outlined some exciting ideas for fundraising which we hope will dramatically improve our finances. Most of the ideas involve lots of member participation and socialising, such as an auction, quiz nights, a Barnes curry club and a cricket match. Keep a look out for more details in *Prospect* and we

hope you will join us for these fun events. We also welcome new ideas and offers of help.

Julia Bebington gave us a break down of BCA membership. We currently have 2000 members although 500 have not yet renewed this year. Chasing up lapsed memberships takes Julia a lot of time and costs money, so, please, if you have forgotten to renew do contact Julia ASAP. I recommend using a standing order and then you don't have to remember each year.

Finally Bob Glover outlined the list of maintenance work due this summer on Rose House, our wonderful HQ, a Grade II listed building. It's so good to have a magical historic facility in the heart of the village, but such an old building provides a daunting maintenance overhead.

Isobel Woolf, Chairman



Environment Group report

The following topics were discussed at the July meeting:

Barnes Bridge

It is proposed that the walkway for pedestrians and cyclists on the Chiswick bank should be extended. The group thinks this would be very beneficial to the Barnes community. We also discussed the idea for a smooth ramp by the side of the steps to the walkway and to Barnes Bridge Station for cyclists to push their bikes rather than having to carry them up and down, which would be useful to those on both sides of the river.

Olympic Studios

There has been interest in the Studios from leisure centre and exhibition centre companies, and independent studios, amongst others. The best news so far is that they want to keep the existing building.

Small Profit Dock Gardens

The Council is to replace the path with smaller aggregate than the present surface. The PLA will probably be working on the trees on the wooded towpath this autumn.

Rocks Lane Tennis Club

An application from the Club, with conditions negotiated with the Council, will be discussed at a Planning Committee meeting this summer. They deal with design specification and orientation of floodlighting; screen planting; colour of fencing and surfaces; and vehicular access.

Local Development Framework

At a public consultation meeting on Flooding, Leisure and Sport provision and Boundaries a member of the Environment Group reported on Barnes aspects. The LDF will replace the Unitary Plan, a guideline drawn up by the Council, inspected and passed by the Government. This group will try to get the area of White Land (buildable land) on Barn Elms, which was previously Metropolitan Open Land, returned to MOL status. Twelve years ago, in the last Unitary Plan, in spite of our efforts, the designation of this land was changed.

The next group meeting will be on 21st September, 8pm. at Rose House. All BCA members are very welcome.

Susan Boyd, Chairman

Shopping in Barnes

Our *Shop in Barnes* promotion in June inspired Wendy Kyrle-Pope to spend, spend, spend: enough to win first prize in our competition that week. Wendy not only spent the most money but she also had the most diverse expenditure, buying from eleven of the sixteen suggested categories. The prize was a voucher which entitles Wendy and her family to a week's full membership at the Esporta Chiswick Riverside, just over the water on the riverbank opposite Barnes Terrace. The second prize, a meal for two at Nuay's Thai Restaurant, went to Pat Bacon who has lived in Barnes for over forty years. Pat tells us that she does all her shopping in Barnes and walks everywhere. Barnes residents please note!

Late Night Shopping on 18th June attracted many customers to central Barnes but the road works seemed to give the impression that White Hart Lane was inaccessible which left it very quiet. North Barnes was somewhat neglected too. Now that the road works are finished at last, I hope you will celebrate with the retailers in White Hart Lane, survey their new stock and do some belated shopping there. And please don't forget North Barnes.

The next exciting event in Barnes is the *Great River Race* (www.greatriverrace.co.uk) on Saturday 5th September. This year the start will be at 11am in Docklands and three-hundred boats of all sizes, colours and styles will travel upstream, passing here to reach Ham some three to five hours later. This is a great fun day for spectators so plan to spend it here in Barnes; browse through our shops in the morning, have lunch in one of our cafés or pubs and then enjoy the 'London River Marathon' relaxing somewhere along the river bank in the afternoon. *Sue Nichol, Retail Champion*

Seats go 'walkies' on the Common

Earlier in the year, the Council installed a dozen new seats on the Common, of good quality and traditional design. There was considerable approval.

Alas, in the middle of the night, six were stolen. Then the other six disappeared! However, this was actually the Council removing them for

temporary safe keeping.

A better system of securing the seats to their bases has now been designed and the six from the Council are back. But there are still six empty bases, a sad commentary on modern crime.

Katie Gent



Bonjour Matelot!

Members of The Friends of Le Pecq were delighted to be given the opportunity to attend the annual ceremony commemorating the call by General de Gaulle in 1940 to the people of France.

The reason for the invitation? Le Pecq, the BCA's twin, in common with many French towns, is 'godmother' to a naval vessel, whose company was taking part. Therefore the *Eridan*, a *chasseur des mines*, sailed from Dunkerque, with the mayor of Le Pecq on board, and moored downstream from Tower Bridge. Following the moving ceremony in the presence of the French ambassador at the statue of de Gaulle in Carlton Gardens, when decorations were presented to a French soldier serving in Afghanistan and to a member of the French resistance, and when the youngest crew member of *Eridan* reprised *L'Appel*,

we were able to see de Gaulle's headquarters (now part of the offices of a law firm) which remain much as they were during World War II. Alpicois and 'Barinois' then visited the Cabinet War Rooms with Ian Glennie.

In the evening we were invited to a reception on *HMS President* where the *Eridan* was moored. Gifts were exchanged and everyone, particularly Jack Bebington and Ally Collins, was most interested to meet the crew on a guided tour of the ship, which regularly finds and destroys mines whilst on patrol in the Channel, the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

Continuing the maritime theme, a trip to and from Greenwich on a Thames Clipper (from which we were able to wave to crew members on the *Eridan*) was arranged for the following day before our French friends departed for home.
Gill Spillane



Captain Ally, the ship's new commander!

September at Barn Elms

As *Prospect* goes to press, the Council plans to have the refurbished running track open for the autumn and to make a start on important interim drainage works for all pitches. Also planned is a meeting of the Barn Elms User Group, Barnes Vision and the Council to look at the updated site layout, so that a planning application for major improvements can be made later in the autumn.

Unexpectedly, the Council is putting in a further £150K from its Youth Capital Fund for the creation of a BMX/Skate Park (site and size to be decided). This facility was proposed by young people in Barnes, Mortlake and Kew apparently, and in June received the highest number of votes out of all the projects suggested for the area. Barnes Vision was informed of the vote just a couple of weeks before it took place. People will be pleased that Council money should go towards solving the problem that young people 'have nothing to do', but less pleased at being left out of the loop at an important time.

Now, however, the important thing is to move the larger, multi-financed, scheme forward as quickly as possible.

Katie Gent

Flamenco

Flamenco classes will take place on Wednesday evenings, 6.30-7.30pm (beginners) and 7.30-8.30pm (intermediate) at the British Ballet Organization at Woolborough House, 39 Lonsdale Road in Barnes. Other workshops are planned for the autumn. Anyone interested should contact Antje, 07853 195 529 or email a.gern11@web.de.



Honour for Honor

Honor Bailey, the driving force behind setting up the BCA in 1974 and its first Chairman, was awarded the MBE in the Birthday Honours List for 'services to heritage and to community in Richmond-upon-Thames'.

Honor Bailey left Barnes to live in Richmond very shortly after the BCA's founding but Barnes residents have cause to be grateful for her vision and determination. She was able to inspire a host of able local people to join her in battling the considerable obstacles to the establishment of a new association. By thinking big – and sometimes pushing her colleagues to the limit (for example by insisting that posters should go in every shop, flyers to every household), she created the enthusiasm which got the amazing number of three hundred people to come to a meeting to agree the BCA constitution. This enthusiasm later made possible the fight to save Rose House and the raising of the money to purchase it, as well as the creation of the Association's multifarious activities.

I believe that one of Honor's most important legacies was to insist that the term of office of chairman, officers and executive committee should be strictly limited. While the terms have been slightly lengthened since, it is the limits that have ensured that new blood continues to flow into the Association and it remains dynamic and clique free.

Honor went on to initiate the Mortlake Community Association and then, in 1984, the Environment Trust for Richmond-upon-Thames. This organisation, also still vital and active, has been successful in restoring, beautifying and finding new uses for many buildings and landscapes of historic interest and character in Richmond.

It is certainly appropriate that Honor Bailey's enormous voluntary contribution to making the borough a better place to live should be so recognised.

Janet Falush

Barnes Arts and Craft Market

A new Arts and Crafts market will be coming to Barnes on 3rd October at the Barnes Green Centre by the pond. The market will be held on the first Saturday of every month from 10am-4pm.

The venture will be managed by Chrissie Penfold who has been working in Barnes for many years in her role with Age Concern. Chrissie, who is also a keen artist with an interest in handmade crafts, feels that the Centre, with its beautiful surroundings, will be a perfect location and an added attraction for both visitors and local people. One of its aims is to encourage local artists and craftspeople to participate and there has already been a very positive response. Visitors will be able to browse around the craft stalls and buy original pieces. There will be jewellery, photography, art, hand-made cards to name but a few. A range of refreshments will also be available.

For enquiries regarding a stall please contact Chrissie on 07863 562 956 or email: chrissieartsandcrafts@live.co.uk.

Everyone is welcome to wine and nibbles on the opening day, Saturday 3rd October.

FiSH Sunday



4th October, 3pm

St Michael's Church Barnes (Elm Bank Gardens). "FiSH Gifts of Love" – Service of thanksgiving for the work and people of FiSH, followed by tea and light refreshments.

All welcome! Transport available – please ring the Busline on 8876 3765.

Exploring cultural differences

In July three students from St Paul's School and their Japanese teacher, Paul Collinson, were invited to visit Japan at the kind behest of Mr Takayoshi Matsuzaka of Gotokuji, a long-time friend of the BCA, and Mr Genichi Obayashi. Barnes student, *Peter Teverson*, writes:

"The visit was centred around a stay in Toyohashi, a town on the Pacific coast of Japan. We attended Jishukan High School, one of the largest public schools in Japan, and stayed with families of pupils there. The differences between Jishukan School and St Paul's were certainly extreme: for example all students were taught how to cook – a very alien experience for three London teenagers. The fact that there were no discipline issues, no late submissions of homework and the students cleaned up after themselves so thoroughly that the school did not employ cleaners highlighted the stark contrast between the two cultures very early on in our stay.

However the trip was not all work as it included visits to many famous Japanese landmarks, including Tokyo, Kyoto and Nara. In Kyoto, we were fortunate enough to stay in a

monastery, which meant waking at 5.30am to watch the monks chant. The large number of temples and shrines we visited were all stunning in their architectural complexity and variety, especially the Kinkaku-Ji, a Buddhist Zen temple covered with pure gold leaf.

Whether we were relaxing in a hot mountain spring or fighting our way through crowds of very friendly deer in order to see a magnificent 50ft statue of Buddha, we were always experiencing something new. Whether it was because we were in the Tokyo Disneyland Resort, or because we had just seen a live fish become our lunch, we always kept our eyes open in amazement. We greatly enjoyed our stay, and are extremely grateful to the organisers; we hope this marks the beginning of firm links with Toyohashi, and we look forward to the arrival of the Japanese students next March."



Peter Teverson, second from right, with fellow Paulines and Paul Collinson

Home-stay accommodation in Barnes is being sought for the return visit, March 21st-28th 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.

Currency for Cancer Relief

Rita Robinson, who in past years has raised a great deal of money for Macmillan Cancer Relief by collecting left-over foreign currency, tells us that although she had given up her collections the coins and notes still keep coming in.

She says "BCA members have been very responsive to my request for foreign coins following the introduction of the euro. Although I thought the contributions had ceased and I had handed over the last batch to Macmillan, the coins and notes still keep coming in. The total collected and changed into sterling since starting in 2001 has been a staggering £9,350. The whole success of this venture is due to the thoughtfulness and initiative of BCA members who searched out forgotten holiday money in summer pockets and purses, in desk drawers and other hiding places and bought them to Rose House. Thank you all for showing such community support and generosity.

SO... if you have any currency left over from travels abroad cluttering up your home, please take it to Rose House Reception (Mon-Fri, 10am-4 pm) and I will scoop it up and make sure that Macmillan gets it. It would be good if we could achieve the magic £10,000!"

Phyllis Norbrook

We are sad to report the death earlier this year of noted pianist Phyllis Norbrook. Phyllis lived in Barnes for most of her ninety-six years and was a well-known accompanist and teacher. She taught at the Royal College of Music, St Paul's Girls' School and Lady Margaret School as well as giving private lessons. During World War II Phyllis worked for the British Red Cross, linking families with prisoners-of-war by day, and fire-watching and organising fund raising concerts by night. Eventually ill health led to a move away from Barnes but she always kept a picture of Barnes Pond on the wall of her room as a reminder of home.

FiSH Tuesday Talks



**Barnes Green Centre
at 11am**

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

- 15th September** Judy Hill: *The Children of Henry VIII*
22nd September Charmian Boyd: *Seamless Relocation – doing legwork of moving house*
29th September Mary Clarke: *In court as a volunteer magistrate*
6th October Moray Watson: *An actor's life.....*



Music at St Paul's School

Artists of the **Royal Ballet** will perform at the Wathen Hall on **Thursday 24th September** at 7.30pm. Tickets: Adults £15, Concessions £10. Details 0208 746 5424, www.wathenhall.com.

the John Colet singers



Medium-sized choir with wide-ranging repertoire seeks members, particularly tenors and basses. Rehearsals, Tuesday evenings, re-start 8th September in the Wathen Hall, St Paul's School.

Next concert Mozart's *Requiem* on 22nd November.

If interested, please contact the Secretary on 07966 530 054 maryroddie@hotmail.com

Popchoir comes to Barnes!

Singing into your hairbrush can be a thing of the past from September as Popchoir starts up in Barnes. For anyone who loves singing this could be the opportunity you have been waiting for. There is no need to read music and no audition is required, just enthusiasm and commitment.

Popchoir will be rehearsing at the Barnes Green Centre on Thursdays from September 17th, with a free taster session on Thursday, September 10th, 8-9pm. For more information call 08455 190 890 or see www.popchoir.com.

Call for supporters: come to the OSO Party

After seven years of creative endeavour the OSO Community Arts Centre is reshaping itself for the future. There are two driving imperatives: firstly, to improve income to meet the unprecedented economic downturn and secondly, to provide meaningful artistic opportunities for a wider range of local people. There is a strong and successful record of theatre production, offering early employment for young professional actors. But household names like Timothy West, Stephanie Cole, Patricia Hodge, Isla Blair and Julian Glover have all trodden our boards. Training by Ross Livingstone and founder, Anne Carroll, for local youngsters set Robert Pattinson on course for his starring role in the Hollywood film *Twilight*.

The aim for the future is to extend the availability of master-classes for all-round professional experience in all the arts. The OSO is to enhance its capabilities so that people can explore talent of which they may be uncertain and find opportunities leading to new directions in their lives. The community space is ideal for visual arts, music, dance, poetry, prose, script writing, literature, film, music and the production roles that support them.

Our costs are low. With new funds for refurbishment and enhancement, together with a desire to embrace professionals in every discipline, more people may be inspired to engage in the magic of the arts. But to achieve these aims the OSO depends on the goodwill and generosity of the public. The original launch in 2001 was achieved on a budget of £0.25million. Annual turnover today is well in excess of £100,000 and all regular income to date has depended upon renting out the studio space or selling tickets for theatre productions. At times this has placed our operation in a precarious financial position and we are hugely indebted to assistance from the Barnes Workhouse Fund to smooth our cash flow.

Looking to the future, the organisation has set itself the goal of attracting grant aid to pursue the kind of work described in the original aims of the charity and summarised above. To do this will require improvement in governance, the best use of volunteers and separation of operational roles from trusteeship. We have won our first small grant from LBRuT and have identified various areas where specialist skills are needed. If you can bring relevant skills and time, for example as

treasurer, fund-raiser or teacher, please come and get acquainted with us.

We are very fortunate that our patron and fund-raiser at the outset, Gyles Brandreth, will speak at our re-launch party on 23rd September. Partygoers will be offered food, wine and entertainment comprising a short preview of the newly adapted musical version of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which will be premiered at the OSO later in the year.

Anyone willing to contribute time or money to ensure the survival of the Arts Centre is asked to call in person or telephone 0208 876 9885. Places are limited and you will appreciate actual invitations will go to people who intend to be serious supporters. Many celebrities from the arts scene plus original donors will attend the event so you will be in excellent and enthusiastic company. A feature of the evening will be the unveiling of our new logo and the signage soon to appear on the building exterior. We hope that will make it easier to find us. If you would like to contribute but cannot attend the party, why not visit the café and make an appointment to talk to us when it suits you?
William Mortimer, Trustee, OSO



Barnes Literary Society

BLS is pleased to announce its programme for 2009-2010. Membership comes up for renewal in September, and current members will be mailed with next season's membership brochure early in September. Non-members who wish to join should contact the Membership Secretary on 020 8748 2558 with their name and address, to be included in the mailing.

For further information see www.barnesliterarysociety.org.uk

Wed 21st October 2009

Chris Patten: *What Next? Surviving the Twenty-First Century*

Wed 18th November 2009

Ronald Harwood: *Taking Sides – Writing for Stage and Screen*

Wed 20th January 2010

Kate Williams, Tracy Borman, Alison Weir:

Scarlet Women – Mistresses in History

Wed 17th February 2010

Lee Langley: *The Lure of the Faraway*

Wed 24th February 2010 at 2.30pm

Visit National Gallery Library

Wed 10th March 2010

Andrew Graham-Dixon: *Writing about Art* (followed by AGM)

Sat 17th April 2010

Literary Outing: Dickens House

Wed 12th May 2010

Jenny Hartley: *Charles Dickens*

Wed 16th June 2010

Summer Event

Events and speakers may be subject to change without notice

Barnes Montessori Nursery celebrates its 40th Anniversary

The Barnes Montessori Nursery School recently celebrated its 40th anniversary with a party, themed around the past four decades. The celebrations included a pageant with children dressed in nostalgic clothing from the '70s, '80s and '90s singing popular songs from the decades. The Nursery started with twelve children in 1969 and moved to its current site at Barnes Sports Club, Lonsdale Road, in 1986. Around the same time, it was taken over by its current owner Mrs Anne-Marie True, whose three children went to the school. The roll has now grown to fifty pupils and the school has a record of 'outstanding' Ofsted inspections.

According to Mrs True the school puts its successful four decades down to "the happy and safe environment in which the children can develop and grow, fulfil their individual potential and express their characters. My wonderful team of staff are totally dedicated in what they do and the school prides itself on its homely, happy atmosphere", she said.

For further information contact: Lucy Mason Pearson on Tel: 07767 830201 email: lucymasonpearson@gmail.com or Anne-Marie True on Tel: 07748 648945 or email: ambtrue@aol.com

For this relief, much thanks... continued

Last year, *Prospect* noted that **L'Amandine** in Church Road was part of the Community Toilet Scheme, whereby, in business hours, you could walk in without hesitation and use the loo without making a purchase.

As of July this year, the following Barnes venues joined the scheme: **Bull's Head, Rocks Lane Tennis Centre, Old Sorting Office, Ye White Hart.** They show the following signs:



HISTORIC BARNES



The theme of this year's fair was *Historic Barnes*. One can think of history as dusty books, faded paintings, sepia photographs and fragmented memories of past events, great and small and dry facts learnt in the classroom. But history is in the making, every minute of every day. Small happenings and everyday events combine with the grand occasions to make up the fabric of our past.

Barnes Fair has been taking place now for thirty-five years. Each Fair, though similar to the last, is unique. And whilst the participants in this year's parade all represented the past in different ways and in an exciting and inventive array of costume, history was made by a dramatic event: Jed, the beautiful shire horse who was leading the parade, stumbled and fell in Lonsdale Road. It was heartbreaking to see him lying across the road unable to get up. The procession was diverted and the children were led back to the Green. Fortunately a passer-by (some referred to him as a 'horse-whisperer') stroked the animal's nose and got him back on to his feet. Everyone will be pleased to know that Jed recovered fully and was taken back to his home in Richmond Park. As he is elderly, he will now retire and spend his old age in pasture; but he will not be forgotten.



The Mayor meets Jed and his team

Pictures courtesy of
John Barnett, Robert Martin,
Trudie Martin, Gill Spillane

The Grand Parade



The Mayor, Councillor Celia Hodges, pictured with Isobel Woolf, chairman of the BCA, opens the Parade



St Mary Barnes Scout Group



Historic cars....



...including this evocative Morris Minor 'Panda' car pictured here with our friendly local Police team

MAKING HISTORY

The Winners

Something for everyone



The St Osmund's float was awarded first prize of the Harrodian Shield



Sounds of jazz – Richmond Music Trust starts the day



A Special Envoy from the Wetland Centre



Castelnau Community Project combined with Lowther School won the Lonsdale Cup



Imaginative and vibrant art produced by young people from Barnes and Le Pecq was on display at the Salon des Arts in the Old Sorting Office



Camille and Barney, of Barnes Primary, winners of the Inter-Schools Historical Quiz, with the Question-master from the Museum of Richmond



Two old favourites that never fail to please

What a difference a day makes....



Romilly (left) won first prize and Alice (right) came second in the Fancy Dress Competition



Thanks to Mike Spillane and his doughty team, a few hours later the Common and Green were empty and immaculate as the last truck went on its way

Salon des Arts



Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ben Khosa, presents Georgia Kitty Harris with a Salon des Arts certificate

After the success of recent exhibitions the fifth Salon des Arts organised by Stevie McGarrity-Alderdice celebrated the wealth of young talent in Barnes. Local art students produced works on the theme of what Barnes meant to them, and included photography, 3-D installations and a 'house' for objects found discarded in the area.

For many weeks before the event Stevie, with fellow art students and recent graduates of Kingston University, ran art workshops with groups of children. In keeping with the theme of Barnes Fair, pupils at Colet Court painted wonderful portraits of historical figures, whilst St Osmund's and Lowther made fantastic replicas of their schools out of cardboard boxes. There were paintings, and even an animated film of a story about a princess written and created by members of the Castelnau Community Centre. The exhibition at the OSO also included paintings from a school in Le Pecq and black and white photographs by a young *Alpicoise*. In his speech at the opening of the exhibition,

attended by the Deputy Mayor of Richmond, Stevie thanked the Barnes Workhouse Fund and the BCA, without whose support and financial help the workshops could not have taken place.

On Fair day itself Stevie ran a painting workshop in the OSO which was attended by some forty children. Thus he says that over one-hundred-and-fifty young people were involved in the project. Congratulations, Stevie, on a very successful outcome!

Gill Spillane

The BIG LUNCH...bonding over the buffet

Puzzled when I noticed a slip of paper fluttering through my front door headed 'THE BIG LUNCH', I thought at first that it was some sort of private enterprise 'Meals on Wheels'. Reading on, I discovered that 'The Big Lunch' initiative was launched by the Eden Project in Cornwall. The idea was "to get every neighbourhood, every community across Britain to organise a lunch on Sunday, 19th July to eat, chat and rebuild that sense of community that seems to belong to a bygone age".

More than 2,000 areas and streets throughout Britain responded, among them part of Lonsdale Road, Barnes. Here, a young family, Fran and Greg Caplan and their children Theo and Anna, got permission from St Paul's School to use part of their playing field to hold our local 'Big Lunch'.

"We put leaflets through the doors of all the houses in our stretch of Lonsdale Road

explaining what the project was and inviting everyone to come" said Fran. "The result was heartening. We had 35-40 people on the day – each bringing a plate of food to share. Many more wrote saying that they were keen on the idea but would be away on holiday or working on that day".

The party brought together residents of many nationalities and occupations. The eldest, aged 83, had lived in the Road since 1953 and the youngest was seven-week-old Sienna, whose American family had just moved into their Lonsdale Road house and were delighted to meet so many of their neighbours.

'Lunch' which had started at 1pm was still going on at 5pm and the only question that the guests asked as they drifted away was "when can we have the next one?"

Sally Holloway

Love wine? Want to learn more about it?



A fun, informative and affordable wine group is starting in Barnes this September. Suitable for all levels, those who want to learn more or just taste and discuss. No

formal wine knowledge needed, just enthusiasm!

Autumn topics include:

- Is Sancerre the ultimate Sauvignon?

- Pinot Noir, why they call it the heartbreaker
- Bordeaux versus New World (with Super Tuscans thrown into the ring)
- Chocolate and wine matching heaven!

Meeting monthly on Thursdays 6.30-8.30pm, with seated tutored tastings or interactive walkabouts depending on theme, and a food matching party at the end of each 'term'.

For more information, price and dates or to book a place at the September session please contact Jenny, email thethirstybird@gmail.com or 07802 425 239.

Readers' letters

Tennis Centre

Dear Editor

In reply to the letter (July/August Prospect) from A.L.White about the Environment Group's concerns with Rocks Lane Tennis Club, I would like to make it very clear that the Group is not at odds with the Tennis Club. A number of members involved the Group when the Club started building, using common land without permission from the Council. Unfortunately the Club did not keep to the original permission as far as floodlighting was concerned so the Council has now negotiated conditions, incorporating some of the Group's concerns.

We have always been very keen for the Tennis Club to remain, knowing how important it is to a large number of the community, but the Club needs to keep to its agreements with the Council. The adjacent field is an important part of Barn Elms and much used by the public; this area of Barnes Common is very popular and in constant use.

We are trying to keep a balance between the various pressures that are put on this area and we welcome the improvements the Club has done and wants to do in the future.

If A.L.White thinks there should be a campaign to minimise the use of 'Chelsea Tractors' and excessive traffic then I suggest coming to a group meeting and we will do our best to help. We are open to all BCA members and try to help with all concerns, whilst keeping a balance between the many differing opinions within the community.

Yours sincerely

Susan Boyd, Environment Group Chairman

Aircraft noise

Dear Prospect

This summer we were finally told that 725,500 people suffer noise pollution from Heathrow, whereas previously the official figure had been less than half that, at 258,500 people. How come?

Measuring airport noise has always been controversial. The international measure, *Leq*, used until now, takes account of flights over a 16-hour period and averages out the peaks and troughs: an average noise of 57 decibels is considered to be 'the onset of community annoyance'. HACAN has long argued that this bears no resemblance to our experience on the ground and that our annoyance is more than marginal.

By contrast, the World Health Organisation says that people start to get 'moderately annoyed' when noise averages out at just 50 decibels and 'strongly annoyed' at 55 decibels.

Now we learn that the EU has taken part of our concerns on board, directing governments to prepare noise reduction plans starting from an average level of 55 decibels. The measurement now used for this, *Ldn*, takes account of all 24 hours, with weighting to allow for lower ambient noise in the evening and the night. It's a start.

So now it's official: there are nearly three-quarters of a million of us and we are 'strongly' annoyed. A moral victory perhaps, but of course nothing else has changed.

Katie Gent, HACAN

Barnes Choir stretches its musical horizons

Barnes Choir's summer concert at All Saints Church, East Sheen focussed on English and French Music.

Energetically directed by Andrew Charity, the choir warmed up with four contrasting English madrigals from the late 16th century. Lovely miniatures but perhaps the choir was rather large to achieve fully the precision, clarity and vocal dexterity which the works demanded.

Next a challenging 21st century work – Andrew Charity's own setting of Shakespeare's *Fear no more the Heat of the Sun*. The words were clear but this reviewer felt that the choir possibly needed greater familiarity with the notes for listeners to fully appreciate the musical distinction and intelligence of the setting and to understand the composer/ conductor's intentions to greater effect.

The final choir item in the first half was *Summer Fallow*. Commissioned by the choir in 2007, Michael Zev Gordon's setting of a poem by Lavinia Greenlaw received its second performance. Obviously more at home with the work than first time around, the choir projected the beauty of the words well and coped admirably with the difficulties of singing this a *capella* style of music, the altos being particularly solid and well focussed.

After the break, we had a chorus from Frederick Delius. Born in Bradford but spending most of his



© Mairie du Pecq / Communication

Andrew Charity conducting Barnes Choir at a recent concert in Le Pecq. The local paper admired 'his look so British' and his 'mains en volütantes' (mesmerising hands)!

life in France, this work formed a bridge between the English music of the first half of the programme and the wholly French music which was to follow. An appropriately sustained lyrical tone was achieved for this short piece *To be Sung on a Summer Night on the Water* but the choir was slightly less in control in the two Debussy *Chansons* which followed. However, three choral songs by

Berlioz brought the programme to a satisfactory conclusion with the final *Sara La Baigneuse* producing some of the best singing of the evening. The Barnes Choir obviously enjoyed the unusual combinations of voices for which Berlioz wrote and these worked well. This time the men deserved a special mention!

Interspersed with the choral items were harp solos by Daniel de-Fry. A former prolific winner at the Richmond upon Thames Performing Arts Festival, Daniel has gone on to great things, culminating in the award of the Royal College of Music's most prestigious prize, the Tagore Gold Medal in 2008. His delicate and almost ethereal playing of the *Interlude* from *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten held the audience spellbound.

This was another musically varied and interesting concert from the Barnes Choir, which continue to expand their repertoire, set real challenges and stretch themselves and their musical horizons.

Pam Frazer, Artsrichmond

Artsrichmond, the Richmond upon Thames Arts Council www.artsrichmond.org.uk, is a voluntary organisation and registered charity whose objective is to 'assist cultural organisations make the most of the extraordinary cultural assets in the borough'.



The new Berkeley Bat House, a winter refuge

Hatchings seem to be the theme of the summer and London Wetland Centre was delighted to welcome seven pochard broods (a particularly successful

summer because of their scarcity), two great crested grebe broods, seven juvenile common tern, seven juvenile lapwing, and three juvenile little ringed plover. Chiffchaff, garden warbler, blackcap and lesser whitethroat have also bred meaning the population of young at the Centre is high. Not to be outdone, the water voles also have new additions, with several young water voles being spotted.

Wildlife is abundant at this time of year with regular summer visitors back including curlew,



A six-spot burnet moth photographed by Derek Evans

little ringed plover, greenshank, green sandpiper, common sandpiper, and black-tailed godwit. Also visiting were little egret, Mediterranean gull, garganey, buzzard, hobby, peregrine, kingfisher and the Centre's highest count of swift numbering two hundred. Exciting species of butterfly have also been seen gracing the skies including the marbled white, white-letter hairstreak and the purple hairstreak; in July large numbers of six-spot Burnet moths offered visitors a unique photo opportunity.

The London Wetland Centre is very excited about welcoming more regular bat visitors. Mid-September sees the launch of the Berkeley Bat House which, it is hoped, will become home for at least two species of bats that frequently visit the Centre: the pipistrelle and the daubetone. Funded by Berkeley Homes, the Bat House has been designed and built with two things in mind – an ideal environment for the bats and a building with the best sustainability and environmental effect. Therefore it is being created using Hemcrete, a renewable hemp material and an excellent resource for encouraging sustainability. This material is designed to create a breathable space which should be perfect for bats, providing them with their ideal climatic environment. Do schedule a visit to the Centre in late September to view this spectacular structure, which could provide roosting space for any of London's eleven bat species. The Bat House comes at the right time as in late autumn/early winter bats look for somewhere safe and warm to hibernate. Bats are protected by law; however their numbers are steadily dwindling, partly due to the lack of secure, unlit roosting space for them to hibernate



Berkeley Bat House, while under construction, seen across the Sheltered Lagoon

and raise their young. The Centre hopes that the new Bat House will help rectify this problem.

Don't forget that 7th September is the deadline for entries into the WWT Nikon Photography Competition. Show your support for WWT and send a shot showing what WWT means to you. You'll have a chance to win amazing Nikon prizes worth over £5000.

Call 0208 409 4400 or www.wwt.org.uk for more information or call to book an event.

Emma Rive