



PROSPECT

Barnes Community Association newsletter

Charity No. 1156379

Spring 2024



*Step into
spring!*

Don't miss the
BCA's quiz night
26 April



THRIFTY THREADS

Local fashion guru who's transforming old into new



EASTER WREATHS

Inspiring ways to celebrate nature this spring



RUN, RABBIT, RUN

We speak to Barnes' White Rabbit about carrots and more...

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Season's greetings



Welcome to the spring edition of the BCA's Prospect.

The spectacle of spring this year has come at a very sad time for our Association. As this edition was going to print, we learnt of the tragic death of our much-valued staff

member, Leyla Hutchings. Our hearts go out to her husband and young family. This edition also marks the end of my term as Chair of the BCA.

I would like to thank most sincerely my Vice Chairman, Philip Thomas, who is also retiring. He has been so generous in his pro bono advice and help on legal matters over the last nine years that we have been on the board.

During the five years of my tenure as Chair, I have led the BCA and our community through some challenging times: following the shock of the closure of Hammersmith Bridge, we went through the dark days of lockdown - but I was so proud that that the BCA spearheaded many projects during those trying times: campaigning for the re-opening of the Bridge, the precipitator of the many street WhatsApp groups

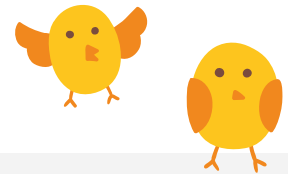
that continue to flourish today and the provider of the BCA cargo bike service delivering vital food and medicine to those who were housebound.

The Barnes community pulls together through difficult times but we also bloom in happier ones with the BCA Barnes Fair and Food Fair and our other events, the sponsorship of local groups such as the Barnes Community Gardeners, the Barnes Music Festival and FiSH. It has been a privilege to be at the heart of our community for these - particularly as the BCA enters its 50th anniversary this year. We are now looking forward to some new projects, including the garden bridge over the river, the regeneration of the top of Castelnau, and our celebratory birthday events.

We have also recently welcomed new Executive Director, Mike Taylor, who will use our stakeholder voices to grow the organisation, develop Rose House as a vibrant community-based asset and spearhead our fundraising.

I shall be bowing out at the BCA 50th Birthday Quiz on 26 April. Do join us for a fun evening of trivia - see page 3 for more details and booking info.

Nicki Urquhart
BCA Chairman



Contact us

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Celebrate in Barnes

As the BCA celebrates its 50th anniversary, the Prospect team look back at their own recent Barnes-based celebrations...

Charlotte Sharpe-Neal

Prospect Publisher and Head of BCA Events

"**The Crossing** on White Hart Lane is great for a summer private party. We started our celebrations with jugs of delicious cocktails in the pretty garden there with a group of friends and family for my husband's birthday. We then retreated upstairs for a sit-down supper - you can decorate the room and it has its own bar. We brought in a birthday cake and fortunately no one downstairs could hear the rather raucous speeches..."



Leyla Hutchings

Prospect Editor and BCA Events & Communications Manager

"The hall at the back of **Rose House** is ideal for children's birthday parties. A recent party welcomed an animal expert who brought a host of creepy crawlies with her - there was plenty of room for their travel kit, plus the audience, along with space behind the kitchen counter for those who were less keen on the guests! A small, enclosed courtyard proved ideal for those who needed to run off the birthday cake and the dishwasher perfect for clear-up of (the adults') Prosecco glasses."



Tünde Marton

BCA Office Manager

"If you live in North Barnes, **The Bridge** is your neighbourhood local with a friendly atmosphere, welcoming staff and a traditional pub menu. I have had memorable birthday celebrations (don't ask!) and Sunday roasts with friends and family there. Don't forget the 'secret' garden, a perfect hide-away on a sunny day if only for you, your laptop and a glass of deliciously refreshing Chablis."



Join the BCA's own celebrations

Join us to celebrate the BCA's 50th birthday at our first ever Quiz Night!

The event takes place at the OSO at 7pm on Friday 26 April. The OSO is treating everyone to a celebratory cocktail on arrival with a delicious supper (with wine) included in the price. There will be some Barnes questions, a music round and all guests will be entered into a raffle. See barnes-ca.org for booking details, we look forward to welcoming you!

Farrah & Pearce

*Sophie Farrah & Tom Pearce
Prospect designers*

"We love the food (and cocktails!) at **The Waterman's Arms**, and the friendly team that run it. We're planning a party later this year and we're eyeing up the pub's private dining room. It's upstairs and separated from the main dining space by a curtain so it offers privacy but it's not completely cut off. It seats up to 16, but if the guest list gets out of the control you can also hire out the entire first floor, with its fabulous river views. Tempting..."



Emma Robinson

Town Centre Manager

"The Suffolk Road Playground team met at **The Red Lion** for a catch up earlier this year. Having worked closely together for a number of years to deliver the new playground and sensory garden at Suffolk Road recreation ground, we haven't met up properly since the official opening in February 2019! We enjoyed a proper chat over a delicious meal, watched over by an attentive team. The food and wine were excellent, as was the company and the pub has lots of larger tables which makes it especially good for groups. We are all proud of what we achieved at Suffolk Road which has become a much loved facility for younger and older members of our community."

Meet Mike, the BCA's new Director

Mike Taylor has recently joined BCA as its new Executive Director. Before coming to Barnes, he ran the Ace of Clubs (Clapham), a day centre for the homeless. We caught up with him to see how he was getting on so far...

You are joining BCA in its 50th year! What are your first impressions?

I have been impressed by the team of committed and hard-working staff and a very supportive board of Trustees. My workplace is Rose House - the beautiful 17th century former inn on Barnes High Street. However, this was not built to accommodate a man of 6ft 2in so I have to remember to duck every time I walk through a doorway - otherwise it hurts!

And what about Barnes?

Compared to the hustle and bustle of London, Barnes is a green oasis of calm and tranquillity.



Have you had a chance to explore much?

I have thoroughly explored the village and area between the two railway stations and have been struck by the variety of shops and services, especially the independents.

What are you particularly looking forward to doing?

Participating in the BCA Barnes 2024 Calendar of Events. There is so much to choose from.

What are your hobbies?

I'm a big foodie, so I like not only to eat but also cook on a regular basis. With Barnes' vast array of food shops and hosteleries, I'm going to be able to eat and cook very easily! I'm particularly looking forward to the BCA Barnes Food Fair in September.

How do you relax away from BCA activities?

When I'm not working, I like to read - so I'm definitely looking forward to Barnes BookFest. I'm also a film buff, so love to relax by watching a good independent, art-house film.



BCA NOTICE BOARD

All the latest from in and around Barnes

Take a pic for BCA!

As part of the BCA's 50th celebrations, we've joined up with Colour Your Streets to produce a Barnes colouring book! And we'd like you to get involved by helping us to select 16 memorable images of Barnes that we can include. Please send us a colour photo of your favourite Barnes landmark and you could see your photo included (with a credit) in the BCA Barnes Colour Your Streets book later this year. Closing date 1 May.



Credit: Andrew Wilson

Barnes' favourite detective is back

Fans of local crime author Bernard O'Keeffe will be delighted to learn that his endearing Detective DI Garibaldi is back in Barnes to solve a new case in the recently published 'Every Trick in the Book'. Once again the book is set locally and this time the victim has connections to Barnes Book Festival! The book is available - together with O'Keeffe's earlier books - from Barnes Bookshop which even features on the new bookcover.



Credit: @aaberggen

Barnes Fragrance Fair

Barnes Fragrance Fair returns on 18 May, 10am - 5pm with more wonderful, independent fragrance brands, local perfumers and inspiring talks and workshops to explore. You'll find a selection of beautiful fine fragrance and home-scenting brands at the Barnes Green Centre and you can join talks with perfumers and industry insiders at St Mary's Church. At The Olympic Studios you can even make your own perfume at local perfumer Sarah McCartney's fragrance-making workshops. See barnesfragrance-fair.com for more info - access is free but workshops and talks are ticketed.



Castelnau Community Centre

Local charity, Castelnau Community Centre, situated on Stillingfleet Road is part of a growing conversation around 'third places'. These refer to places that make it easy to meet new people outside of those you live or work with and encourage public relaxation. The Centre has a thriving café to visit and also runs a monthly programme of activities and opportunities for all ages. It is open Monday to Friday or for more information - including volunteering opportunities - email info@ccproject.org.uk



Musical thoughts

We are lucky to have so many different classes and opportunities for children to learn in Barnes and these include group keyboard classes run by Funky Monkey Keyboard Classes at St Michael's Church Hall on weekdays after school. Ali Edwards, the founder, was brought up surrounded by music and believes there are

tangible benefits for children to learn to play an instrument. These include improving and enhancing social skills, aiding academic ability, encouraging discipline (and patience!), learning to listen, boosting confidence and helping physical dexterity. Why not try them out with a free face-to-face keyboard class. See funkymonkey.info for details.

Retreat and recharge

Escape the demands of everyday life and join local Pilates teacher Lauren on a luxury wellness break in Paxos from 19 to 26 May. Based in the beautiful hillside Villa Marina (with Studio and Pool House) all a few steps from the beach, this relaxing break includes daily Pilates and stretch classes and evening meditations. You'll also learn about the healing power of Reiki whilst enjoying healthy and nutritious meals each day. The all-inclusive cost is from £1,275pp - for more info see the Retreats page at pilatesinbarnes.co.uk

Barnes Children's Literature Festival returns!

The countdown has begun for the huge 10th birthday celebrations of the beloved Barnes Children's Literature Festival which takes place on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June. Literary legend Michael Rosen, the superstar creator of the Tom Gates series, Liz Pichon, the 'Horrible' historian, Greg Jenner and Gruffalo illustrator Axel Scheffler are just a few of the big names on their way to the Festival which features more than 100 family-friendly readings,



Credit: Axel Scheffler

workshops and free activities taking place beside Barnes Pond. It is the UK's largest dedicated children's book festival and the full programme will be released before tickets go on sale next month at barneskidslitfest.org



In loving memory



Just as we were going to press, we received the devastating news that our dear colleague and friend Leyla Hutchings had passed away. Leyla worked with the BCA for 6 years as part of our close-knit team supporting membership and communications, our calendar of events, website and social presence. Leyla wrote and subedited every issue of Prospect since its re-launch in December 2020 and we hope that she would have approved of this issue. She will be so greatly missed by us all and our hearts go out to her family and friends. We will be fundraising at BCA events over the coming months in memory of Leyla and have chosen Annabelle's Challenge, a charity that was close to her heart.



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CHESTERTONS

White Rabbit

Barnes is known for its sense of community so we are introducing a new regular feature where we will speak to notable Barnes residents to find out a little more about them and what they enjoy about living here.

With Easter almost upon us, it seemed appropriate to start off with the one and only Barnes White Rabbit! White Rabbit has been hopping and cycling through Barnes since 2011 but we didn't realise how instrumental BCA was in his development! Rabbit fans, who are based all over the world - can spot him sitting on the wall by Barnes Bridge on the first day of every month from 7am to 8am. We took along a few carrots and went to find out more about Barnes White Rabbit from his alter ego Stevie, aka Spike McLarrity.

Prospect What are the origins of the Barnes White Rabbit?

BWR "As a BCA volunteer I used to be involved with the friends of Barnes, supporting artists from Le Pecq, to show artwork in Barnes alongside local artists.

Le Pecq is a small town outside Paris that is still twinned with Barnes. One summer, I was asked by the Chair of Friends of Barnes to join their Mad Hatter's Tea Party (pictured above) as the White Rabbit. The day before my university graduation, I happened to pass by Angel's fancy dress shop and found the perfect rabbit outfit, so the deal was done, and I travelled to Le Pecq as soon as my graduation was over! As a performance artist I seized on the opportunity to take White Rabbit to Paris and was delighted by the positive and joyous reception I received - and to this day I continue to receive from people wherever I go."

Prospect Ah! So the BCA is behind the origins of Barnes White Rabbit...?

BWR "Yes, definitely! After the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, I became part of

BCA's Duck Race at Easter each year and even though that event is not taking place this year, I plan to continue with the tradition of handing out Easter eggs - kindly provided by BCA - at several venues through Barnes on Holy Saturday (30 March). I will be walking down Barnes High Street and up Church Road as far as The Red Lion so please say hello!"



Prospect Is Easter a particularly busy time of year for Barnes White Rabbit then?

BWR "It certainly is! My other tradition is to participate in the Family Mass service at St Michael's All Angels Church on Easter Sunday where I also hand out chocolate eggs to the children."

Prospect We know that your fame has reached many British newspapers but is it true that White Rabbit is also well known abroad?

BWR "Yes, you can read about that in my book - see below for details. And each September I go to Odzaci, a small village in Serbia which celebrates The Day of The Rabbit as part of International Multimedia Art Festival. The Day of the Rabbit, which started years ago, has become an increasingly popular event with local villagers which is why you won't find me by Barnes Bridge on 1 September, however you can catch me in the early hours on 1st April so please stop and say hello - carrots not necessary... though Easter Eggs welcomed!"

The book White Rabbit: Celebrating ten years of Barnes' White Rabbit can be found at Barnes Bookshop or online.



Barnes Town Centre Update

Both Emma and Raphael have been working hard over the last few months on local projects big and small.



Barnes Ponder 2

The highlight of the past few months has been announcing the results of the Big Barnes Ponder 2 which was held in October last year. Over 1,000 residents took part in the Ponder 2 exactly ten years after the original Ponder of 2013. This time we also consulted online and a whopping 600 residents offered their thoughts and ideas as well as in person at two events at the Castelnau Community Centre and the Barnes Green Centre. The results took weeks to collate but we are proud to announce that we have a fabulous, refreshed vision for the next ten years! This vision will be delivered by six project teams and we have been actively recruiting volunteers over the last few weeks. It's not too late to get involved so do get in touch with Emma if you would like to help shape the Barnes of the future.

One Barnes

This is about bringing our community together so that wherever you live in Barnes, whether it's by Hammersmith Bridge or in Little Chelsea, you feel well connected and well informed with access to new and creative social opportunities as well as to information about everything that is going on locally. The One Barnes projects include a digital hub platform to improve communication, a banking hub, the Men's Shed and the skate park at Vine Road.

High Street Barnes

This theme recognises the critical importance of all our shopping parades to our community and is about working with local businesses to ensure they thrive by supporting the introduction of a digital high street to Barnes, re-visiting a weekly spend campaign and supporting improvements to the look and feel of our parades.

Green Barnes

This is about ensuring that we maximise green spaces across our community taking every opportunity to repurpose space that is not being properly used to support our community's environmental needs. It is also about ensuring that we are a community that leads the way in sustainability. Projects will include exploring the concept of the green village, supporting Barnes Common with their flood resilience project, Plastic-free Barnes and greener streets, as well as work on the new rain gardens and front gardens maintenance.

Placemaking Barnes

This theme is about improvements to the public space in Barnes capturing ideas to maximise space and to improve the look and feel of our village including a graffiti wall at Barnes Station, improvements to Small Profit Dock and the green walkway project at Barnes Bridge, The View.

Travel Barnes

This theme is all about how we move around as a pedestrian, a cyclist or a user of public transport and the services that are provided to help us get about. Projects include improving crossing outside Essex House and on Station and Mill Hill roads, improving cycle routes and our towpath, providing a rickshaw service over Hammersmith Bridge and addressing the Howsman bus loop challenges.

Safe Barnes

Safety and security was a common theme from the Ponder and this group will explore what more can be done to ensure residents feel safe in their homes and when out in our community including initiatives to improve awareness of how we can protect ourselves and our premises, improving safety perception on the route to Barnes Station and delivering a safe haven approach across the village.

New businesses come to Barnes

As ever, Barnes continues to be a sought-after destination for new businesses and we have been delighted to welcome some new offerings in recent weeks. The Quarter Kitchen restaurant has opened at the former Grill Bar site on the Castelnau Parade by Hammersmith Bridge offering fabulous Mediterranean cuisine. On White Hart Lane we are soon to welcome a new deli, coffee shop and wine bar called Harty's at the long-empty China Chef site. Also on White Hart Lane, the Indian restaurant Chakra has closed and rumour has it is soon to be replaced by an Italian restaurant!



Get in touch

Emma Robinson
Town Centre Manager
emma@barnes-ca.org
Raphael Zachary-Younger
Environmental Lead
raphael@barnes-ca.org



BCA rickshaw service update

Over the past few months, we've been working with our MP Sarah Olney to introduce a new licensed, regulated pedicab service on Hammersmith Bridge when the stabilisation works are complete. The concept has already received support from the Mayor's office and both Richmond and Hammersmith and Fulham Councils. We hope this work will open up some funding opportunities which will enable us to re-introduce this vital service to help our most vulnerable residents to cross the bridge.

Hammersmith Bridge Closure

While the Hammersmith Bridge SOS campaign group has been less active in recent months, we are still working together as one group. Letters were sent recently to the leaders of both Richmond and Hammersmith and Fulham Councils, asking them to support short-term measures to alleviate the issues that concern the community. On security, following a number of incidents of drug dealing and muggings, we want more to be done to keep walkers safe, especially at night time. We also asked for the approach to the bridge on both sides to be made less cluttered with unused construction equipment, unnecessary traffic cones and signage. We are also pushing for a solution for the less able in our community in the form of light public transport provision as some residents simply cannot afford to wait 5 more years for the political stalemate to be resolved.



Barnes High Street

After a long wait, the final elements of our High Street are being installed with new planters for the buildouts at Terrace Gardens and outside Cook and seating cubes at key locations including near bus stops and outside business premises. We continue to work with Council officers and councillors to see how we can tweak the scheme to ensure that it delivers the best results for us all.



Churches Together in Barnes (CTiB)

We wish you a very blessed Easter 2024
You are warmly welcome to any of our services

The Good Friday Walk of Witness, with all churches will commence at 11.15 am with a simple Prayer Service opposite The Red Lion. Barnes Methodist Church has again generously invited us to coffee and hot cross buns in their Hall at the end of our Walk of Witness.

Maundy Thursday: 28th March • **Good Friday:** 29th March • **Easter Day:** 31st March

Barnes Baptist Church Lonsdale Road SW13 9QL • www.barnesbaptistchurch.com

Palm Sunday: 11am Service

Good Friday: 10am service for Good Friday

Easter Day: 11am Easter Day Celebration

Barnes Methodist Church Station Road SW13 0NH • www.barnesmethodistchurch.org.uk

Maundy Thursday: 10:30am Holy Communion

Good Friday: 10:30am Reflective Service

Easter Day: 10:30am Holy Communion

Holy Trinity Barnes (C of E) 162 Castelnau SW13 9ET • www.htbarnes.org

Good Friday: Midday All-age Service

Easter Day: 6am Dawn Holy Communion, 12pm (Midday) Worship for All with Baptisms

St Mary's Barnes (C of E) Church Road SW13 9HL • www.stmarybarnes.org

Palm Sunday: 10am Procession from Kitson Hall with donkey; Eucharist with distribution of palms, 6pm Barnes Music Festival Choral Evensong

Maundy Thursday: 8pm Eucharist with washing of feet; prayer watch till midnight

Good Friday: 10am Short all-age service in the churchyard,

12pm (Midday) Good Friday reflections on the cross, 2.15pm Good Friday Liturgy

Easter Day: 6am Dawn Eucharist of Easter and breakfast, 8am BCP Holy Communion.

10am Easter Eucharist, 11:30am all-age celebration with Easter eggs in the churchyard

St Michael & All Angels (C of E) Elm Bank Gdns/Charles St SW13 0NX • www.stmichaelbarnes.org

Palm Sunday: 9:45am Palm Procession from White Hart lane crossing, 10am Sung Mass and Reading of the Passion, 10am Children's Liturgy in the Vicarage Garden with donkey

Maundy Thursday: 8pm Sung Mass of the Last Supper, Washing of feet, Stripping of the Altars, Watch of the Passion until Midnight

Good Friday: 9am Morning Prayer and Litany with meditations, 10am Liturgy of the Passion, 3pm Children's Liturgy followed by Hot Cross Buns, 9pm Tenebrae

Easter Day: 5:45am Dawn Vigil and First Mass of Easter followed by champagne breakfast! 8.00am Low Mass 10am Sung Mass of Easter Day with giving of easter eggs

St Osmund's Catholic Church 79 Castelnau SW13 9RT • <https://stosmunds.parishportal.net/>

Palm Sunday: Masses 8.30am, 10:30am (Sung), 6.30pm, 5pm Stations of the Cross

Maundy Thursday: 8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with washing of the feet followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until 11pm

Good Friday: 3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion, 6.00pm Stations of the Cross,

Holy Saturday: 10am Confessions until 11.30am, 8:00pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Easter Day: Resurrection of the Lord Masses at 8:30 am, 10:30am (Sung), 6:30 pm

Join Barnes Community Association as a Trustee and make a difference



Barnes Community Association

infusion of fresh and unique perspectives that make our community vibrant. We are actively seeking dynamic individuals with expertise or experience in Finance, Law, Governance, Business Management and Volunteering.

Explore this opportunity further by visiting barnes-ca.org/vacancies for detailed information about our Trustee roles. Alternatively, to express your interest, email us at info@barnes-ca.org.

Feel free to share your relevant experience, skills, and the innovative ideas you can bring to our community association.

We eagerly anticipate your contributions.

Thank you.

If you have a strong passion for community engagement and are enthusiastic about making a positive impact, we invite you to consider joining the BCA as a Trustee. Embark on a journey where your role is pivotal in sculpting the future of our community, ensuring its continuous growth and well-being.

At our core, we celebrate diversity and welcome individuals from all walks of life, valuing the

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Choco-frolics

Keen to celebrate Easter but want to branch out from chocolate eggs? These local businesses offer a bevy of ways to satisfy your inner chocoholic.



If you're looking to drink your chocolate, look no further than **Orange Pekoe**. Yes, they are renowned for their stunning collection of loose-leaf teas but did you know they also offer a decadent hot chocolate? Using the finest Rococo's chocolatier signature 65% single origin Colombian dark chocolate flakes and enjoyed with your choice of milk, it is truly a luxurious chocolate treat!



If you need a speciality chocolate - perhaps organic, paleo or dairy-free - **Dahlia** on Castelnau should be your destination. A huge display of all types of chocolatey treats greets you at the door - all you need to do is choose!

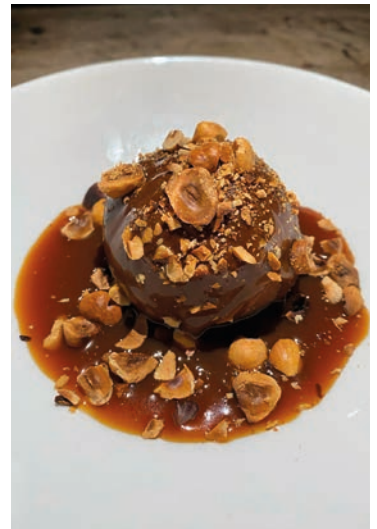


Perhaps savoury and sweet is more your thing? In which case, head to **Base Face** and order their dough sticks and Nutella dessert for a decadent but substantial end to your meal.



And who knew that you could follow fish & chips at **Rick Stein** with a mouth-watering selection of Rick Stein chocolate, complete with tasting notes from Rick?! The collection is handmade in Cornwall using the finest single origin cacao sourced from Ecuador and Mexico, and comes in six sophisticated flavours - my faves are Rose or Gin & Tonic.

One of the stalwarts of the menu in **The Brown Dog** in Little Chelsea is the dark chocolate cre-maux - an indulgent play on a Rolo dessert pot and a fruit and nut bar, this pud's molten salted caramel centre is light enough just to melt in the mouth. A newcomer onto the spring menu is a play on an English trifle and a Milky Bar pot: think Yorkshire spring rhubarb compote, amaretti fingers, doused in a little pink rhubarb gin, topped with a creamy white chocolate ganache rather than custard and elderflower-scented cream rather than the whipped cream from a can of yesteryear!



With the ice cream season nearly upon us, visit **Arte Chef** on Church Road or **Dolce Crema** on The Broadway for a delicious and authentic gelato al cioccolato. You can also treat yourself to chocolate waffles and pancakes (particularly delicious with banana) at Dolce Crema, to eat there or to takeaway.



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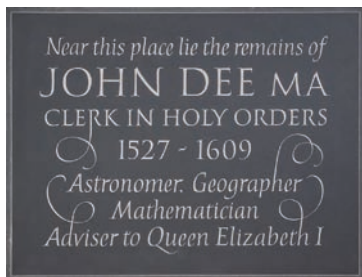
Secret Barnes

Even if you are a long-time resident of Barnes, you might not be aware of the following local history facts. Let us know if you have other points of interest to share.

It is claimed that Barnes Old Cemetery is haunted by a ghostly nun that would hover over the grave of Julia Martha Thomas, the victim of the “Barnes Mystery” or the “Richmond Murder”. This infamous Victorian crime involved a murder by her maid, a lady called Kate Webster (right). The intrigue came from the way Kate Webster disposed of the body: it was dismembered, the flesh boiled from its bones and the remains thrown into the Thames!



Ebenezer Cobb Morley (regarded as the father of the Football Association) is another well-known individual also buried in the cemetery.



If you wander through Mortlake, you may come across a plaque by St Mary’s Church on a wall separating the churchyard from the modern flats, which mentions John Dee. John Dee was an adviser of Queen Elizabeth on all astrological and scientific matters and was consulted over the best day to

hold the new queen’s coronation. His house was then home to one of the largest libraries in Europe. After John’s death, the house was adapted by Sir Francis Crane for the Royal Tapestry Works and then, early in the 19th century, it was used as a girls’ school.



Venture into the woods beyond Barn Elms and you may come across Barnie. Not a person, but a tree, Barnie is one of the largest Plane trees in London and is thought to have been planted in

the mid-18th century by Sir Henry Hoare when he was developing his garden - though there is a chance that Barnie may be of an even older vintage!



As you pass along Queen’s Ride close to Gipsy Lane, you might spot a shrine ornately decorated with flowers, posters and writing. There is also a memorial stone and a bust of Marc Bolan, who was in glam-rock band T.Rex, and who sadly died in a car crash here in 1977. Fans still flock to the location to pay their respects.

The Barnes Trail

For more info on local places of interest, why not follow the Barnes trail? It’s 2.3 miles long (with a 3-mile extension) and the route is circular so you can start at any of the silver ‘Barnes Trail’ discs set in the ground. As you wander, take time to read the info on the oar-shaped plaques placed along the route. For a map, scan the QR code or pick up a leaflet from Rose House.





Barnes Open Gardens

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Flower power

With spring definitely in the air, we have been speaking to some favourite green-fingered residents to hear about seasonal tips.

Susie Pugh, Barnes Community Gardeners, a local group funded by BCA, Barnes Common and FiSH

“Isn’t it lovely that it is lighter later? Barnes Community Gardeners don’t stop gardening in the winter months but we do appreciate the lengthening days that are now evident. This period of the year feels like a gully between winter and spring but there are signs everywhere of new life. Our increasing band of volunteers worked hard planting bulbs at the end of 2023 and the fruits of their labours are to be seen all over Barnes. We strongly believe in the power of community and that by connecting with others through gardening we are increasing the bonds that bind us together and support us all.

Could you help us do more for nature and for our community?”

Please contact Susie (susiebcg@gmail.com), often seen pedalling along on the BCA cargo bike.



Mark Spriggs, local tree surgeon

“Anybody who has recently been past the St Mary’s Church may well have noticed the wonderful old yew tree has sadly lost a major branch. At the time of going to press, there is a specialist survey being undertaken to see how we can preserve this thousand year-old tree! Yew trees are immensely important as a natural habitat and are culturally interwoven within the history of British Isles. Compounds from yew leaves are used to treat forms of cancer, and birds will thank you for the berries! If you need a new garden tree, the yew is well worth a thought.” *Contact Mark on 07950 254425 with any tree, landscaping or fencing requests.*

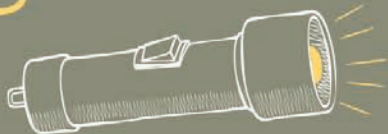
Caroline Marshall-Foster, BCA trustee and founder of Good Florist Guide

“Why not add a splash of Spring to your front door with a bright and fun Easter door wreath? How you make them is completely up to you. You can buy a base and cover it with faux flowers and paint your own eggs... Alternatively, you can go au naturelle and create a circle by twisting ivy trails or ‘just in bud’ branches and insert moss-wrapped mini Narcissus ‘Tête-à-tête’ plants into the framework interspersed with tulips to echo the curves. The options are limitless but whatever you do, it’s a fab way to welcome in the new season!”



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Seasonal style

Local personal stylist Nicki Peplow specialises in secondhand designer fashion and since she is hosting a pop-up sale in Barnes in May, we asked her for some thoughts on dressing and accessorising for the summer season.



Do you really need a wardrobe overhaul, or could the key simply be a case of giving some overlooked items a bit of TLC? Whatever your outfit, accessories are essential for personalising or refreshing a look without spending heaps of cash.

Changing a strap is an easy and impactful way to give new life to an old bag, and The Wos in Barnes High Street has a great collection that are perfect for this. Try tying a scarf around a strap, or - if you're feeling adventurous - painting or dyeing the material can work wonders, whether you want a touch-up or a full colour transformation. If you're not one for DIY don't worry, there are plenty of companies out there that will do this for you. Shoenique (below) in Church Road also has a wide selection of summer handbags with detachable straps to choose from and if your favourite handbag needs re-pairing (eg a new zip) Alex is the person to visit to give it - and also much-loved leather shoes - a new lease of life.



Hats are always good a way of adding interest to an outfit (and can also mask a not-so-great hair day). Bucket hats, Fedoras and Panamas all featured on the catwalks this year, styles that can easily be revitalised with ribbon or even a necklace to replace an old hat band. Feathers and brooches are an easy way of adding a little flare, and if you don't have jewellery to repurpose then the charity shops in Barnes - Mary's Living and Giving, Boutique by Shelter (above), to name a couple - have an impressive selection. Bazar in White Hart Lane has a good selection of new accessories, including scarves and jewellery for summer or to give a new look to an existing outfit, you could look at a new style of shoes - Schuberts Footwear on Church Road offer lots of choice.



In essence, don't automatically revert to buying new when it comes to accessorising your summer wardrobe - look at what you already have and give it the second chance it deserves.



Nicki from And After is hosting a pop-up event at Rose House, Barnes High Street on Saturday 4 May, 10am-3pm, offering a wide range of pre-loved designer womenswear.

There's no entry fee, just exceptional quality pieces at a fraction of the original price.

Follow Nicki @andafter_preloved

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