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The Barnes Village Bugle

May 9, 2023

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Hammersmith Bridge: Summer opening expected for cycle access to road



Pedestrians, are you fed up with jostling with cyclists on the walkways of Hammersmith Bridge? Cyclists, have you had enough of wheeling your bike behind groups of friends chatting and stopping to see the view on the bridge? Well, unfortunately you are both going to have to exercise patience for a few more months as the anticipated May opening of the central span is going to be delayed. The bridge stabilisation work is still ongoing and once it is complete the pitted and bumpy deck is due to get a mini-spruce-up. After that, a trip across the bridge is going to get a whole lot more pleasant as the walkways once again become a pedestrian only zone and cyclists will no longer have to dismount to cross.

Bugle readers back the bridge-inside-the-bridge solution



Two thirds of those who took part in the poll in last month's Bugle have expressed their support for the [Foster Cowi temporary bridge-inside-a-bridge solution for Hammersmith Bridge](#). A further 7% of those responding said they wanted a brand-new bridge to replace the existing one, bringing the total of those who wanted a solution that will allow buses and cars across the bridge to around 74% of those polled.

The green electric buggy solution proposed by environmental campaign group [Possible](#) was backed by 26% of those who responded. There were passionate views on all sides as the quotes in the image above show (blue background in favour of Foster Cowi, green background backing the Possible buggy solution).

The 'Possible' solution was lauded as innovative and the right thing for the environment by its supporters. It was also marginally more popular for those living in the SW13 postcode area than for those who lived in Sheen or Putney. Those liking the Foster Cowi solution cited traffic congestion in Chiswick and Putney, the desire for ambulances to cross the bridge once more and, most of all, the hope of a seamless journey across the bridge by bus.

The poll had 361 responses with 270 of those responding living within the SW13 postcode area and the rest mostly in Mortlake, Sheen, Chiswick and Putney.

The team behind the electric buggy proposal will be on hand to answer questions at the Barnes Farmer's Market on Saturday May 20 between 10am and 2pm.



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Rain didn't stop play



Image of BCA team: Instagram

In all the years we've been writing the Bugle we've never once typed 'but rain didn't dampen the crowd's spirits', so we are very grateful to the organisers of the hugely successful Barnes Coronation street party on Saturday for allowing us to tick that particular box.

When the team set up the event in the midst of a rainstorm on Saturday afternoon the prospect of a washout was a distressing possibility, and empty tables and soggy tablecloths looked somewhat forlorn. However, what's a bit of rain when there's a fabulous street party to be had? When the Bugle returned a couple of hours later the party was buzzing with crowds defying the rain to dance to a series of bands on the stage that had been set up just south of Hammersmith Bridge. There was excellent food on offer too, with the Bugle's top marks going to the chicken biryani being sold in pots by Indian restaurant Postbox. The Bridge pub's barbecue was also a huge success.

The party was made possible by grants given both by Hammersmith & Fulham Council and Richmond Council as well as a donation made by engineering firm Conway.

Elsewhere in Barnes, street parties abounded and at FiSH they held a special tea where some rather wonderful looking hand-knitted teddies were on offer for just £5.

The Coronation weekend was rounded off in truly British fashion with jazz, tea and cakes outside St Mary's. There was free tea, scones and jam for all and the churchyard looked beautiful, festooned as it was with bunting. The event which attracted guests from toddlers to pensioners and everywhere in between was made possible by a community grant from Richmond Council.

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This month's featured property

Period detached house

Seven bedrooms

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We're honoured



Two Barnes luminaries have recently been honoured by the new King Charles and his Queen. Lord Patten of Barnes has been made a Knight of the Garter. It's an

exclusive club to join as only 24 Knights of the Garter can exist at any time. The award is chosen personally by the Sovereign to honour those who have held public office, who have contributed in a particular way to national life or who have served the King personally. With the appointment comes the requirement to dress in a velvet gown and plumed hat and parade through Windsor Castle on a day in June on the way to a special service at St George's Chapel.

Another hugely deserved honour has gone to the founder of the Barnes Children's Literature Festival Amanda Brettargh who was selected to be one of the 500 Coronation champions.

The awards were organised by the Royal Voluntary Service and chosen with the support of Her Majesty the Queen Consort. They celebrate 500 inspiring volunteers from across the country from a wide range of causes who have made an exceptional difference in their communities. Over 5,000 nominations were received.

Amanda who in recognition of her service received an invitation to the special Coronation concert says ***"It's an absolute honour to have been chosen by Their Majesties as a Coronation Champion and I feel humbled to have been recognised because it takes a village to deliver the UK's largest children's literature festival and it just couldn't happen without the commitment of more than 150 heroes from every Barnes school, charity and community organisation. They continue to inspire me every day with their dedication to providing every child in London with the opportunity to experience the power of live literature."***

Music fit for a King



One of the crowning glories of the Coronation ceremony was the music, and Barnes had a small role to play in that too. Roxanna Panufnik was one of 12

contemporary British composers to be commissioned to produce a piece for the Coronation. Six of the composers had their pieces played in a concert that preceded the King and Queen's arrival at the ceremony but a select six had their music performed during the ceremony itself. Roxanna Panufnik's Sanctus was one of the pieces played during the ceremony and received a thumbs up from critics with the Times' Richard Morrison saying that he 'loved' the piece.



Also adding to the music of the Coronation weekend were the bells of St Mary's which rang out at 9am on Coronation Day as part of a nationwide Ring for the King. Bell ringing is a dying art but at St Mary's they are trying to buck the trend by running bell ringing classes. Anyone of any age can come along to learn how to work together to make a joyful noise and the efforts of the team at St Mary's were highlighted by BBC London News in their pre-Coronation coverage. You can see the lovely film they made about bellringing in Barnes by clicking the link in the image above.

Ten swans a swimming



Picture: Andrew Wilson

Oh how we love a happy ending. After our resident male swan (cob) died suddenly of bird flu last year we were all dismayed by the prospect of a May on Barnes pond without the arrival of a fluffy band of cygnets. However, our female swan (pen) is no slouch when it comes to romance and, having found herself a new partner in the swan singles bar that is the Small Profits Dock swan colony, she has now hatched out a bevy of eight beautiful cygnets. According to the [Barnes Pond Instagram](#) account the new cygnets hatched on May 1 and were first seen on the pond on Wednesday May 3. The proud parents have already taken the little ones for their first trip along Beverley Brook, so dog owners are advised to keep a look out for the swan family and keep their dogs on leashes in the vicinity. You can [see footage of our lovely new swan family here](#) on the photographer Andrew Wilson's Instagram feed.

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Extinction threat extinguished



When Extinction Rebellion encouraged some of its members to use Barnes Common as a campsite during their weekend of action in April the team of volunteers at Barnes Common became very worried about the damage that could be caused.

Barnes Common is an extremely rare habitat with rare lowland dry acid grassland some of which has been undisturbed for over 150 years.

The prospect of the precious land being used by hundreds of campers led the team at Barnes Common to make a plea to the protestors in an [open letter](#) explaining the importance of the Common to local ecosystems.

The plea worked and our Common was reprieved with XR protestors choosing to camp in other sites such as Clapham Common.

SONGWRITERS

WEEKEND WORKSHOP - MAY 27 & 28

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www.songcentre.co.uk

Love bugs?



Creepy crawlies may not be the most loveable of creatures, but they are as essential to our wellbeing (as part of our ecosystems) as the most beautiful wild birds. They are also about to make Barnes Common even lovelier. The reason? Our common has been found to be a site of national importance for saproxylic invertebrates – the type of insects that are dependent on dead or dying trees as their habitat.

The team at Barnes Common allow dead or pruned wood to rot away naturally providing a perfect habitat for a wide variety of beetles and they are also encouraging the growth of wildflowers such as wild carrot and cow parsley as a nectar source.

The bluest blue



While the beauty of beetles is perhaps in the eye of the beholder, our Common has also been attracting some more dazzling species of wildlife, and the team at Barnes Common have posted a stunning video of a kingfisher battle on Beverley Brook. Who needs to move to the country with all of this on our doorstep?

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"A greener Notting Hill"



Web site My London News has been singing Barnes' praises dubbing it "a **greener Notting Hill**" and interviewing many of our local business owners in a piece that depicts Barnes as a crime-free paradise.

While the Bugle might take issue with the contention that people in Barnes can leave their doors open and not be burgled, the piece does sum up the passion that we all have for supporting our local independent businesses and the Barnes community spirit. You can read the article by [clicking here](#).

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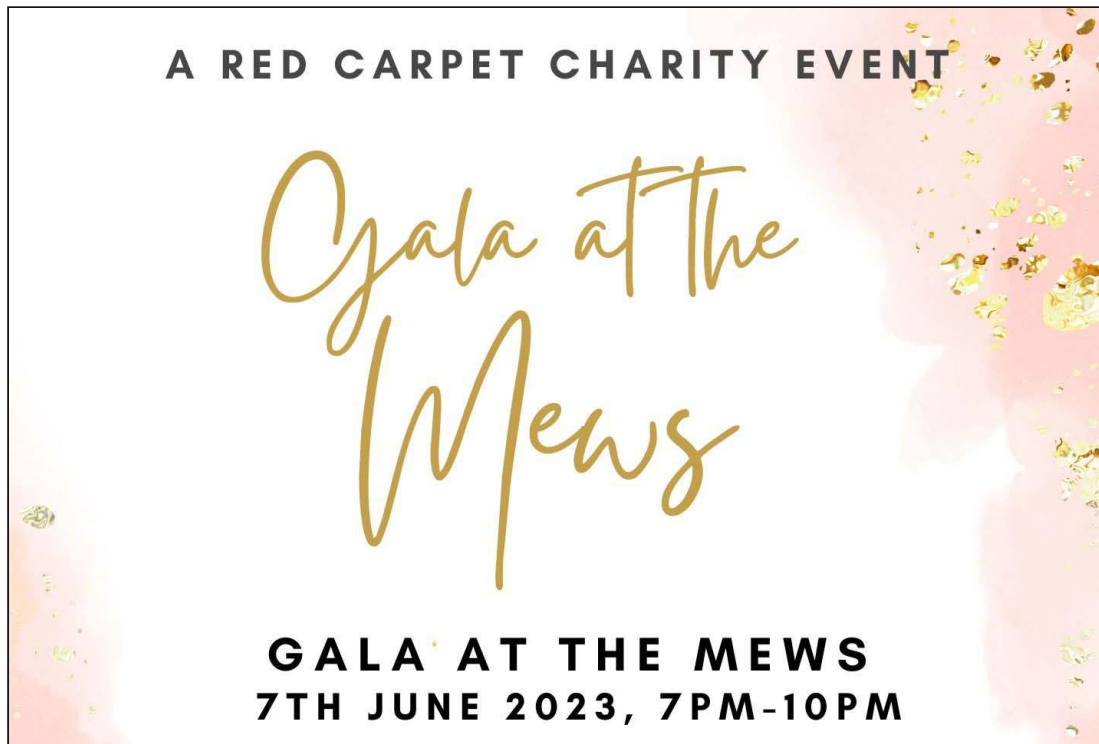


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Call us on
07827 968 485

A feast of festivals

Station with the hope of emerging with a delicious new perfume. After all, we can't wear Tweed by Lenthaleric forever.

The Gala at the Mews – June 7



The lovely mews almost opposite St Mary's Church is one of Barnes' hidden gems. There are all sorts of wonderful small businesses plying their trade from a series of small workshops. You'll find seamstresses, bookbinders and a stained-glass maker in this pretty lane. It's the perfect spot for a party and we don't know why nobody has thought of throwing one there before.

For one night only on Wednesday June 7 the mews will be transformed into a party venue promising a magical fairy-lit evening of cocktails, canapés and live music. There will be catwalk shows and a tempting selection of stalls and treats. It's all in aid of raising funds for the Bowelbabe fund. It is being organised by milliner extraordinaire [Anne Gretton](#) (whose hats graced Westminster Abbey on some of the best dressed attendees at the Coronation) and party planners par-excellence Mrs SW13.

Tickets cost £30 each and include a welcome drink, canapés and a late-night snack plus hours of entertainment, live music and lots of fun. You can buy yours here on the [Mrs SW13 website](#).

Barnes Pond Festival – June 10



Tickets for this year's Barnes Pond Festival are already selling out so you better be quick to secure your place for a brilliant series of outdoor events by the pond all organised by the team at the OSO in collaboration with the Barnes Community Association.

The day kicks off with a charming show for children, Elmer's Walk, there will be Opera on the Green from 2pm and in the evening there's Supersonic Queen on the Green, a brilliant Queen tribute band. What could be more fun than picnicking under the stars enjoying some of Queen's greatest hits?

Buy tickets on the [OSO website](#).

Wellnergy Festival – June 17



The following weekend over at Barn Elms there's a huge new festival in the offing - [Wellnergy](#) - which mixes wellness focused activities with music. The organisers promise a day of mindfulness, food, fitness, music and laughter.

Wellness experts taking part include Dr Alex George, Grace Beverley, Maude Hirst and Wim Hof's daughter Laura Hof who will be talking about breathing techniques.

There will be over 75 talks and workshops featuring sound healing, ice baths, yoga classes and much more.

In the early evening the focus switches to music and the organisers have teamed up with [The Gardens of Babylon](#) to put together a [chilled](#) roster of artists including festival favourite Francesca Lombardo (Burning Man, Tomorrowland, Circoloco), Parallele and Patrice Bäumel.

The organisers suggest a dress code of fitness clothes during the day and festival clothes during the evening. We're obviously going to have to dig out our tie-died flares from the back of the wardrobe.

The festival will run from 8.30am to 9pm so we can even get an early night afterwards. For more information see the [festival website](#).

Barnes Children's Literature Festival – June 24 & 25



Finally (for June at least) comes the biggest festival of them all, the Barnes Children's Literature Festival, tickets for which - will go on sale on May 13.

The festival, which was founded by local families in 2015 is the only national literature festival to be entirely organised and delivered by over 150 unpaid volunteers and is also the home of the largest free literature festival Schools Programme in England. This year it is providing over 13,000 free places on its programme to schools in Tower Hamlets, Kingston, Wandsworth, Twickenham and Barnes.

As ever, the organisers have laid on a stellar line up including Sir Lenny Henry, the bestselling author of the How to Train Your Dragon series Cressida Cowell and master storyteller Sir Michael Morpurgo.

They'll be joined by Gruffalo illustrator, Axel Scheffler, renowned cartoonist Chris Riddell, superstar space scientist Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, the award-winning historian, author and co-host of the popular The Rest Is History podcast, Tom Holland who will introduce his new children's book, The Wolf Girl, The Greeks and the Gods.

This programme is packed with family friendly theatre performances including a brand-new event based on the stories of Roald Dahl, a magical Pippi Longstocking show and a trip to the wacky world of the Wizard of Oz.

There are shows for the littlest book lovers too with The Tiger Who Came to Tea by

Barnes' beloved Judith Kerr, Paddington Bear's First Concert and everyone's favourite patchwork elephant, Elmer.

Children can also get creative with comics, poetry writing, a Japanese Manga illustration masterclass, clay-mazing workshops with Aardman Animations, and there are lots of free things to do too.

The full programme will be available before tickets go on sale on Saturday 13 May

Bus stop plan for 419



TfL is proposing to convert the Lonsdale Road hail and ride section of the 419 bus route into fixed stops. Currently on a specific stretch of Lonsdale Road you can get on or off the bus by signalling to the driver. It is now suggested that this arrangement should be replaced with the installation of four fixed bus stops. You can [read about the proposed changes here](#) and come along to a consultation meeting at Barnes Sports Club on Saturday May 13 between 10am and 1pm

Happy Birthday to the Wetlands Centre



The Barnes Wetland Centre celebrates its 23rd anniversary this month and to mark its birthday there is a very special offer for one day only. On Saturday May 20 you will be able to visit the centre and only pay £6.50 for the privilege – the price that visitors will have paid when the centre was first opened by Sir David Attenborough back in the year 2000.

The centre is one of Britain's most important 21st century conservation projects, not to mention a fantastic place to introduce children to the concept of biodiversity, or to spot wonderful, rare, birds or just to sit and take in the extraordinary beauty of the landscape.



LOVE ROWING?

Cygnet is a friendly rowing club based on the tidal Thames. We have a competitive men's squad who train and race regularly within a programme that accommodates a busy work/life balance



Cygnet Rowing Club   

Civil Service Boathouse W4 2SH (next to Barnes Bridge)

Contacts and more details at www.cygnet-rc.org.uk



Finishing touches to come for Barnes High Street



The upgrade to the High Street - the aim of which has been to make the High Street more beautiful and welcoming - is nearly finished. The latest element to the

plan – a build-out of the pavement by Terrace Gardens is now complete and still to come is the addition of some greenery.

Let's do brunch



For the longest time a good brunch wasn't one of the things Barnes offered. Then Orange Pekoe and the Olympic arrived on the scene followed by the wonderful Nest on the High Street, Alma on Rocks Lane and Cafe 66 & No40 on White Hart Lane. Soon though, we will be even more spoilt for choice when it comes to brunch in Barnes with the arrival of brunch specialists The Farmer's Mistress.

Barnes will be the second site for the team behind the brunch spot whose original restaurant is in Battersea. They are taking over the old Camille Thai/Annie's site on White Hart Lane and if their first restaurant is anything to go by expect gorgeous décor and a really imaginative take on brunch dishes.

Their granola is not just any granola, it comes with hung yoghurt, rhubarb, lemon curd and thyme, and their take on an English breakfast has a healthier twist for those of us whose bodies are temples.

It's no wonder that Condé Nast Traveller named their Battersea branch one of the Top 50 Places to Brunch in London.

The new restaurant is currently being refurbished and there is as yet no confirmed opening date but keep an eye out on the Farmer's Mistress Instagram feed for news.

New Chair for FiSH

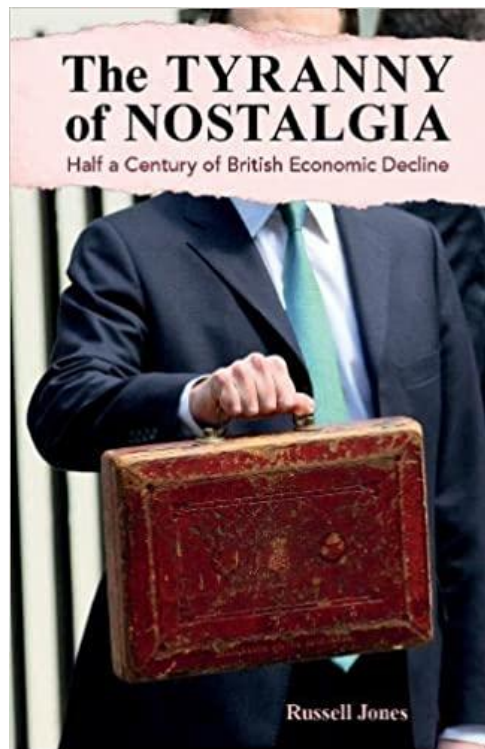


Richard Williams has become the new Chair of Trustees for FiSH Neighbourhood Care. The charity has said goodbye and a heartfelt thank you to its current Chair, Liz Wall, who's led the Board of Trustees since 2021.

She has given a huge amount of her time during a challenging period for all charities. Liz says she's found it a very rewarding experience. ***“I'm full of admiration for the team, the FiSH drivers and the volunteers who all work incredibly hard to support and enrich the lives of the elderly living independently in our community. I will really miss being part of the FiSH family and although I will retire as a Trustee I will stay on as a volunteer. I wish Richard and everyone at FiSH all the very best for the future, especially this year when we are celebrating 60 years of Friendship, Independence, Support and Help. It's a fantastic achievement”***.

The new Chair, Richard, is also a FiSH volunteer driver as well as current Trustee. He is a Chartered Accountant and retired banker. Most of his career was spent in the city, with a three year stint in Hong Kong which included witnessing the historic handover to China. He's very much looking forward to stepping into his new role. ***“I'm honoured to become the Chair of this amazing charity during this, its Diamond year. I'm also very conscious that I'm following in the footsteps of someone who's put her heart and soul into the role. I only hope I can live up to expectations!”***.

The remembrance of things past



If you are interested in politics or economics and can brace yourself for what sounds like a fascinating but somewhat depressing read, then a new book by a Barnes-based economist Russell Jones might be just the thing for you. He posits that the current problems with our economy - stagnation, poor productivity, under-investment and more - are a result of a political mindset that is unwilling or unable to let go of the past where Britain was an economic superpower. His story commences in the 1970s and traces the bad decisions made by successive governments.

Bugle Classifieds



THE OSO IS LOOKING FOR...

A VENUE TECHNICIAN

Do you have experience with theatre tech? Are you looking for an exciting new job in a professional Fringe Theatre environment? We're recruiting at OSO Arts Centre for a full-time Technical Manager. You'll be working alongside our dynamic management team as our in-house Theatre Technician.

Starting June 2023.

THEATRE ADMINISTRATOR & MARKETING COORDINATOR

Do you have skills in marketing? Are you good at managing office administration? Do you enjoy writing exciting and compelling copy? Well why not apply for our 'Theatre Administrator and Marketing Coordinator' role at OSO Arts Centre?

You'll be joining our dynamic management team to help market shows, handle day-to-day administration, and ensure the smoothest possible running of our gorgeous Fringe Theatre!

Starting July 2023.

Job descriptions for both roles can be found at 'opportunities' under our 'about' tab at www.osoarts.org.uk. For more information please contact info@osoarts.org.uk or call us on 020 8876 9885.

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What's on in May?

Check out our guide to What's On in Barnes this month, and remember to double check dates on venues' own websites as although we check information to the best of our ability sometimes dates and other details are subject to change.

Films at The Olympic



Sometimes films envelop you with a warm hug of familiarity, we know the boy will get the girl, the baddies will get their just desserts and that a tearful ending

will provide resolution. Sometimes we want to be challenged with new perspectives. Or perhaps we just want to experience pure sublime beauty. If you're in the mood for something comfortingly familiar and maybe even a tad formulaic there are lots of films to embrace at the Olympic this month - for swashbuckling action there's **Guardians of the Galaxy** or how about **The Three Musketeers: D'Artagnan**? Similar plot, different timezone. It's one of the most expensive French films ever made and apparently looks sumptuous. On the gentler side there's **The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry**, from the cosy, national-treasure-starring genre of British films. The cosy national-treasure-starring (Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton) American counterpart this month is **Bookclub: The Next Chapter** which offers glamour in contrast to understated British dowdiness and perhaps a little less emotional authenticity. Sometimes the familiarity we seek is in revisiting the sheer artistry of classic films and if that's the case the Olympic is showing Michael Mann's riveting **Heat** - a masterpiece of acting (de Niro, Pacino), storytelling and directing. Alternatively, for pure joy, there's Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers on the big screen in **Top Hat**.

However, much as we normally love the familiar, this month the Bugle will be seeking out films that challenge. The NT live broadcast of James Graham's **Best of Enemies** fits the bill here, as does **The Night of the Twelfth** a César winning dark French crime thriller that doesn't follow the familiar path for a second.

Finally, for sheer beauty there's the Royal Ballet's **Sleeping Beauty** and the truly wonderful film of the Rijksmuseum's **Vermeer** exhibition. Like the painter's work, the film is meditative and all seeing.

What's on at the OSO?



The line up for this month at The OSO is a mixture of comedy and tragedy with a little bit of tragi-comedy thrown into the mix.

If you like your comedy to be stand up or sketch based there are two shows that are right up your alley - [Finlay & Joe's Perpetual Hype Machine](#) and a double bill of two of the best young comics on the stand up circuit [Huge Davies & Eleanor Tiernan](#). For more wry tragi-comedy there's a revival of Alan Ayckbourn's [Absent Friends](#) and the Olivier Award nominated play [My Brilliant Divorce](#). There's true tragedy too with [False Accounts: Exposing the Post Office Cover Up](#) a satirical play shining a light on one of Britain's worst ever miscarriages of justice.

Wetland wonders



Here's our pick of what's on at The Wetlands.

Drawn to Water: Quentin Blake- May 18 to September 10

Drawn to Water: Quentin Blake at WWT is a year-long partnership between Wetland Centres across the country and Quentin Blake.

Now aged 90 and still working, Quentin Blake is one of the UK's best-known and well-loved illustrators. He is probably best known for his illustrations for Roald Dahl's children's books but the scope of his work is much wider. To celebrate the wonders of wetlands there's a panoply of events for the family to enjoy ranging from a series of illustrated guides to collect and keep to a whole host of arts and illustration activities and crafty competitions with lots of Quentin Blake goodies up for grabs. There is even the chance to win a one-off special edition Quentin Blake print.

[More info here.](#)

Smartphone Photography

An informative and practical workshop on how to take striking images with your smartphone. The workshop covers composition and lighting, focus and sharpness, as well as how to manage contrast and make the most of the available

light. You will also learn how to edit images beautifully and effectively using a smartphone.

[More info here.](#)

Classical music



Rokas Valuntonis

Tuesday, May 16, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church

Music from the brilliant Lithuanian Pianist, Rokas Valuntonis.

A laureate of more than 20 international competitions, Valuntonis has performed all over Europe.

He will play a variety of pieces from Grieg (4 Album Leaves, Op.28), Debussy (Suite bergamasque), Mendelssohn (Rondo capriccioso, Op.14), Falla and Chopin.

[Find out more here.](#)

Music at The Bull



Our first choice of gigs at the Bull's Head this month is a free gig by French singer Numah. Expect wistful gallic singer songwriter stylings. You can check her out here on YouTube.

Revvng things up a bit more is a performance by Ruby Rushton - a band lauded as one of the most forward thinking of the current new wave of British jazz. See gig details here.

Finally, our last gig has a real party vibe with Richie Milton and the Lowdown treating the Music Room audience to a driving R&B sound mixed up with a touch of Southern Soul, Chicago Blues and New Orleans funk.

Talking the talk



May 9, 8.00pm

Barnes Literary Society

St Mary's Church

Charles Cumming talks about the second book in his thriller series surrounding BOX 88 - a covert intelligence organisation that operates beneath the radar. Drawing on his own experiences of the UK's Secret Intelligence Services (MI6), Charles' latest work is a layered and seamlessly constructed story with all the hallmarks of the finest spy thrillers.

[Find out more here.](#)



May 9, 7.30pm
Barnes Philosophy Club,
The OSO

The pressure to change our bodies is constant - whether to to defy ageing, build our biceps or cure our disabilities. Clare Chambers will argues that the concept of free choice is inadequate when it comes to our bodies. Instead, she supports the philosophically complex and politically significant concept of the “unmodified body”: one that is good enough, just as it is.

[Find out more here.](#)



Every Tuesday, 11am
FiSH Talks
The Barnes Green Centre

Please check for availability in advance.

- **May 9:** Coffee Concert with Musicians from St Paul's School
- **May 16:** Jennifer Wearden: Gentleman Peacocks
- **May 23:** Christine Rowe: The Faroes

[Find out more here.](#)

About the Bugle

The Barnes Village Bugle is an independent publication. People often think it's produced by the Barnes Community Association, but no, they have their own excellent email Prospect Plus.

At the Bugle we endeavour to simply report what's going on in Barnes in as comprehensive and entertaining a way as possible. We have no agenda apart from spreading the word about the huge number of genuinely interesting things happening in and around Barnes and sharing information about local campaigns and news events.

If you have a story you would like to see featured in the Bugle do email us by clicking [here](#).

We can't guarantee that we'll run it, but if we think it's going to be interesting to our readers then we'll publish your information.

If on the other hand you want to publicise a commercial venture then it's easy to advertise with us. Our mailing list has well over 4,000 subscribers so you'll reach lots of people in Barnes very inexpensively.

The Bugle is a labour of love, not a profit-making venture. We pay to send it out and our mailing costs are covered by the fantastic support we get from Winkworth and our other advertisers. We'd love to get more advertising as that would at least go some way into covering the costs of our time, so if you advertise with us you'll not only be reaching a large audience you'll be keeping a local resource going.

At the Bugle we endeavour to check information for accuracy to the best of our abilities. However we are reliant on information provided to us by third parties. On occasion, dates and times of events may be subject to change and we would urge Bugle readers wishing to attend events, or use a service mentioned to verify information in advance. Where possible we provide links to websites to allow readers to double check the most recent information available, as details can be subject to change.

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