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The Barnes Village Bugle

October 8, 2023

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Tying ponder ribbons round the old Barnes trees



If you are wondering 'what's with the bows on the trees on the Green?' look closer and you will find that each gift-wrapped tree comes with an invitation to attend 'The Big Barnes Ponder 2' a major community consultation exercise being held next weekend (on Saturday October 14).

It's an exercise backed by the Barnes Community Association in which everyone

in Barnes is being asked how things could be better, and how we as a community can plan for what life may throw at us over the next 10 years.

The seeds for a surprising number of community initiatives were sown at the last 'Ponder' ranging from the building of a new playground in Suffolk Road rec to the recent changes made to Barnes High Street.

The organisers want as many people as possible to join in the conversation and to discuss topics such as transport, our high streets, making Barnes more liveable for the young, for families and for the elderly and facing issues that might affect us such as flooding. Whatever your views the organisers want to hear from you. As an event it should be a forum for everybody (not an echo chamber) where everyone will be listened to, and hopefully new ideas will emerge from collaboration.

You can pop into the event just to view exhibition boards or stay for a workshop. The timetable for the event can be found on the [BCA's website](#).

You can also get a feel for what will be discussed from the videos below. If you're not able to attend, you can let the organisers know what you feel about local issues by contributing to this [interactive map](#).



Videos made for and donated to the BCA by local company Mindplan productions. Kate Levy at [Mindplan Productions](#) creates both both corporate and promotional marketing videos for every budget. She's an ideal collaborator if you're looking to support local businesses.

**£10 tickets at the Olympic to celebrate its
10th anniversary**



The Ponder wasn't the only transformative event in Barnes in 2013, as October 2013 saw the opening of the Olympic Studios. To celebrate, the Olympic is planning to hold a year's worth of celebratory events including offering tickets at only £10 each during the anniversary week of October 13 to 19. Also watch out for offers for £10 cocktails and 10% off the bill for dinner in the restaurant on Saturday October 14..

There will be screenings of ten films that mean something special to the Olympic team and the first will be Gravity. It's been chosen as it was the first film shown to really put the state-of-the-art Dolby Atmos sound system through its paces. The Bugle can remember going and marvelling at the sound back then, so it's a must re-visit for us.

The Olympic is now such a vibrant social hub that it's hard to believe that the cinema is only ten years old, but the story of how it was transformed from an empty shell is quite something.

This month we caught up with co-founder Lisa Burdge to look back on the last 10 years and the journey before then that led to the Olympic's transformation.

When EMI decided to sell the building that had housed the iconic Olympic recording studios back in 2009 they stripped out the building without a care in the world. Years of recording artefacts were taken away and all that was left was a darkened husk, with walls thick with sound insulation obscuring all the windows.

The beautiful turn-of-the-century building that had previously been a music hall and then a cinema between 1930s and the mid 60s was destined to become a supermarket with flats on the upper floors. That was until a fateful restaurant night out when Stephen and Lisa Burdge (who in their day job run a film promotion agency) and friends decided that they could do better than that and

make the venue a cinema once more. By the morning their enthusiastic friends had dropped out, but Stephen and Lisa made the idea a reality by selling their house to raise the funds to buy the building. With the aid of a bank loan and the contribution of 250 Olympic founder members, who endowed £5,000 each, enough money for a multi-million-pound restoration was raised.

From the start, the Burdges wanted to create something more than a run-of-the-mill cinema, and their aim was for it to be re-instated as an entertainment centre for the community. The attention to detail they employed in creating the restaurant, members club, cinema auditoria and reception area is remarkable, as was the help they got along the way from some of the stellar artists that had recorded at the Olympic. Lisa says the contractors they worked with, who had installed cinemas for other clients, *“thought we were barmy”*.

“We took a year to find the most comfortable chairs possible and eventually I found them in Norway. When we decided to upholster them in warm red wool felt, rather than wipe clean vinyl or leather, people said we were mad” she says.

The couple also tested the rake of the main cinema five times before getting it right and made sure that the aisles were wide enough for latecomers not to trip over those people already seated.

The beautiful members room was designed to have a 70s vibe redolent of the heyday of the recording studios and the opulently enormous chandelier that hangs above the bar was bought from an old hotel near Hyde Park and painstakingly hand assembled by the couple.

Looking back on the debt and drama of the Olympic’s rebirth Lisa says there were turning points that helped the couple cope. The first was when the windows were revealed, after what felt like an archaeological dig, and light flooded the sepulchral rooms, and the second was when they invited members of the community in to ask them what they wanted for the venue and the couple were met with a wave of enthusiasm.

Early on, the sound engineer Chris Kimsey, who had recorded with some of the biggest bands and artists from the 60s to the 90s at the Olympic, came on board. Through him, the project gained the support of some legendary names. Rolling Stones guitarist Ronnie Wood was given a hard-hat-tour of the building during its transformation and on spotting two large holes in one of the walls where speakers use to be situated, he decided the best way to cover them was with some of his paintings. He gave the Olympic two Ronnie Wood original canvases and, now that the holes they once covered have been filled, they grace the wall of the member’s bar.

Even now, rock legends are contributing to the regeneration of the space and plans for a recording studio in the attic are underway. Keith Richards, Brian May and Peter Frampton have all donated guitars to raise funds for the project.

It's clear to see what a labour of love the Olympic has been and still is for the Burdges. And what's even more extraordinary is that despite its huge success the couple have re-invested every penny of profit that the Olympic has made back in the building. Now that's quite a story.

Taking back control



Richmond Council has announced that from October 16 controlled parking is to be introduced between 8am and 6.30pm from Monday to Saturday on Station Road. Parking, which until now, has been free will now only be possible for holders of a CPZ B1 permit or those who pay via the RingGo app.

A drop-off area allowing parking up to 30 minutes will be located close to the Barnes Station entrance and new extended lengths of double yellow lines will be introduced to create passing areas which will improve traffic accessibility. The measures will be introduced under an 18-month experimental traffic management order, during which the effectiveness of the scheme will be monitored.

The Barnes Community Association says it has been “working on these changes with local councillors and officers for over a year” and that it is hoping this trial will improve accessibility to the station for all residents. The changes will also allow the BCA to start working with the team at Barnes Common on improvements to footpaths leading to Station Road.

Gridlock strikes again



In the eleven years since we started the Bugle we reckon an issue has seldom gone by without us writing about transport issues. Typing endless stories about parking changes, low traffic neighbourhoods, bus routes, train strikes and, of course, bridge closures has worn down the keys on our keyboard to tiny little nubs. However, 2023 seems to have been the time of peak transport chaos as, piece-by-piece, our local traffic infrastructure has let us down. The only people who seem to be able to get around these days without hindrance are cyclists but try to travel anywhere by bus or car and things are getting increasingly difficult.

Last month we wrote about how the bridge closure, gas works and the sudden closure of Lonsdale Road for emergency water main repairs conspired to keep us trapped in Barnes during August. Back then we were hoping things would improve in September, but did they? Did they heck as like.

No sooner did the Lonsdale Road works finish than TfL started major works on the Manor Circus roundabout on the A316.

The works are designed to improve traffic safety in an area where there were 13 collisions on the roundabout and zebra crossings surrounding it during the 36 months before February 2023.

However, the introduction of phased traffic lights, which are currently preventing the junction being used as a roundabout, have caused chaos. When the changes were introduced, drivers affected were reporting that journeys that would normally have taken 20 minutes were taking up to two hours. Residents in local streets off the A316 also said that their quiet streets had become clogged with cars trying to avoid the main road.

After local uproar TfL has introduced measures to mitigate some of the problems caused by the works and say that as a result the initial delays for drivers have been reduced by up to a half. It's also likely that the traffic has been so bad that people are giving the area a wide berth.

A public meeting organised last week by Richmond Council gave residents the chance to vent their frustration and TfL the chance to apologise for the “disruption to everybody’s lives and businesses”. However, although TfL have promised to look into ways of speeding up the work – perhaps by 24-hour shift working, it looks like the current miserable state of affairs will last until mid-December.

You can read more about the roadworks and their effects [here](#) and [here](#). Local MP Sarah Olney also put a [video out on Twitter](#) covering her response.

A graphic for Winkworth real estate. It features a dark blue header with the word "Winkworth" in white serif font. Below the header, the tagline "for every step" is written in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font. The main body of the graphic is a solid dark blue rectangle containing the text "London's largest estate agent with over 60 offices" in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Winkworth

for every step

London's largest
estate agent with
over 60 offices

What the Dickens?



Barnes has been the home to many notable writers from Henry Fielding to Dodie Smith to Barbara Pym, but did you know that Dickens used to visit Barnes during the 1860s?

It seems he and his 'frenemy' William Makepeace Thackeray (author of *Vanity Fair* and *Barry Lyndon*) were occasionally to be found at soirees held in one of the new Stucco fronted houses on Lonsdale Road. The house in question is now for sale and is featured in the Winkworth advertisement below. The property details include a wealth of historical research.

Winkworth

for every step

**This month's
featured property**

Victorian villa

Six bedrooms

Designer kitchen

Landscaped garden

Best of the BookFest



A whole raft of contemporary writers followed Dickens' example last month and came to Barnes as part of the now hugely successful Barnes Bookfest. All four of the talks the Bugle went to were excellent and our bedside table is now groaning with new books to read.

As ever, newspaper diary writers haunt literary festivals hoping to pick up funny stories and it seems the Times (or one of its stringers) was in attendance at least one event.

In his interview with Robert Peston, Chris Blackhurst – the former editor of the Independent revealed that he was told by Theresa May's aides that the only topic she would engage with him on was questions about her shoes. The Times' write up of the revelation came with the headline 'A toe-curling interview'. Elsewhere at the Bookfest the journalist Matt Frei revealed that he almost convinced Donald Trump not to run for president by pointing out to the famously germ phobic wheeler dealer that he would have to shake lots of hands. It's fair to say that the most important word in the sentence above is almost.

Taken for granted



Perhaps one of the superstar writers gracing the BookFest in the coming years will have been helped along the way by a little-known local initiative. As a charity, the Barnes Literary Society wants to inspire future writers and be involved in local projects that encourage reading. It offers bite-sized bursaries and grants (up to £500) to fellow charities, schools and organisations in Richmond that promote literature.

Last year they helped the Mortlake Community Association by providing books for their Christmas Santa's Grotto event and for an adult literacy course. Arts Richmond received funds to film the Young People's Writing Competition Festival afternoon and to provide prizes for the competition. The society also funded a book group for children in care and care leavers and Lowther School received funds towards the school library.

To apply for a grant interested organisations can visit the Barnes Literary Society's website and [fill out a short form](#).

Return of the natives



Picture: Alasdair Arthur

The swans are back on the pond and all's well with the world (well, as much as it could ever be). Barnes Pond has its own [Instagram account](#) and it's fair to say that the comings and goings of our swan couple receive as much coverage on the account as Posh and Becks do in The Sun.

Having spent the summer with their seven remaining offspring down on the Thames, the Barnes Pond account reports that our mating pair returned to their home turf on September 19 a few weeks earlier than they returned last year. It is hoped that the pair will once again mate and if they do expect to see the mother swan sitting on her nest from March onwards and the arrival of a new brood of cygnets at the end of April or the beginning of May.

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A photograph of two women in blue uniforms standing on a staircase. They are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a building with a white door and a black railing.

Is it cheaper to send a rocket to the moon than it is to repair Hammersmith Bridge?



It is a truth universally acknowledged that no issue of the Bugle is complete without a story on Hammersmith Bridge. This month is no exception, but we'll do our best to make this month's coverage short and snappy.

Drilling

There have been some very obvious ground excavation works going on under the west side of the bridge with a moveable drilling rig in place, leading some local wags to joke that perhaps Hammersmith & Fulham Council is drilling for oil in the hope of finding some way to pay for the repairs.

In fact, the rig has been a platform for pile drilling with engineers checking the terrain under the bridge to test load bearing capacity. As we wrote in last month's Bugle ***"If these investigations give the bridge's foundations a clean bill of health it paves the way for the Foster Cowi temporary bridge installation and eventual repair of the bridge (funding allowing). If they reveal anything untoward who knows what will happen – more delays and costs as the foundations are underpinned? Or, in the worst-case scenario for those wanting traffic to return to the bridge, the decision that the bridge can't after all be repaired?"***

House of Lords Debate

Questions raised in a House of Lords debate on September 18 have led to an admission by the government that the Hammersmith Bridge Task Force which was convened to ***'knock heads together'*** hasn't met since November 2021 and that there are no plans to hold any further meetings until ***"there is either an issue***

that requires unblocking between members, or a significant milestone that needs discussion or celebration”.

The government minister given the job of responding to questions was Lord Gower leading us to think of the debate in terms of cricketing analogies. What came to mind was the image of a dull nightwatchman batsman swatting away deliveries from the opposing side. In terms of deliveries, however, there were some zingers including one from Lord Lexden ***“My Lords, is it true, as has been asserted, that India sent a spacecraft to the moon for a third of the estimated cost of repairing this vital bridge?”***. The Bugle has looked this up and it seems Lord Lexden is right.

Plea for HS2 funds for Hammersmith Bridge

Following the announcement of the canning of the Birmingham to Manchester leg of HS2, local MP Sarah Olney has written to transport Minister Richard Holden asking for just a small fraction of the monies saved to be allocated to the repair of Hammersmith Bridge. You can see the letter here.

The falling leaves...



Autumn is perhaps the most beautiful time for a walk on Barnes Common - definitely a time of mists and mellow fruitfulness - so it's fitting that the team at Barnes Common are celebrating the turn of seasons with an Autumn Fayre. There's a whole day of events planned on Saturday October 23 including an apple celebration where you can bring your apples for juicing in their traditional apple press. Families can enjoy a nature-based walk and activities suitable for 3-9 year olds between 10.30am and noon, there will also be an eco explorers walk, craft activities, a conker competition, a fungi walk and live music from a ukelele band.

And if all of that might leave you feeling a little bit peckish, there's a cake stall too.
[Find out more here.](#)

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Crime and punishment



Fortunately, the acres of words the Bugle has generated on transport issues over the years outnumber the stories written about crime by a significant amount. However, like the transport stories, there seem to be more reports of crime these days, from muggings to burglaries to stories of drug dealing in premises across Barnes.

It's fair to say if anybody is affecting local perceptions of crime in Barnes it's us at the Bugle or posts on the Next Door Barnes app. But is crime really that bad?

After a spate of muggings earlier in the year the latest crime figures revealed at the September Police Liaison Meeting were relatively steady and low. Have we and social media been amplifying things or is crime genuinely worse these days?

Local student Imi Bell is keen to find out what Barnes residents think about crime locally and has put together an online survey. She's keen to get as many responses as possible and if you could spare 5 minutes to fill out her questionnaire she'd be very grateful. She's promised to share her results with the Bugle so we'll let you know all about local perceptions of crime in a future issue. You can [fill out the survey here](#).



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See local democracy in action



While big eye-catching events like the Barnes Ponder help all of us feel we have a stake in the community, the day-to-day work of preserving Barnes' unique personality and beauty falls to the Barnes Community Association.

Like many local groups it started in response to a threat of change that residents felt the need to fight. In Barnes' case this was the idea of replacing the beautiful building on the High Street that is Rose House with a supermarket. Over the years, the BCA has proved its worth by raising funds to repair the pond when it drained suddenly overnight and helping to fight off proposals for a major A road that would have cut Barnes in two. These days the BCA fundraises through events like Barnes Fair and its work is pivotal to supporting local charities. Very importantly for all of us, it also makes sure the communal spaces where we come together (the shops, the Green) stay cared-for and vibrant. To that end, it co-funds our Barnes Green keeper and the Town Centre Manager.

As with many local organisations the work it does is often taken for granted and most residents reap the rewards without contributing either their time or money. However, at the heart of the BCA there are a team of community-minded trustees who give up their time to make sure someone is monitoring local planning issues, or to work with the council to help support areas of Barnes that need investment (like the North Barnes Parade of shops in Castelnau).

This month the BCA is holding its Annual General Meeting and coming along is a great way to find out what its trustees do. If you are a member, you can also vote on changes that the BCA is making to its constitution this year. These involve limiting the number of terms that trustees can sit for and reducing the number of trustees required to make a quorum for decisions.

You might even think of becoming a trustee yourself. Since those who volunteer to do this very important work quite often have strong views about key local issues, having as wide a range of views and backgrounds on the board of the BCA is hugely important to keep the BCA a neutral and non-political organisation.

The BCA's AGM will be held at 7.30pm October 19 at the BCA's offices at Rose House on Barnes High Street and if you are a member you will have been sent an

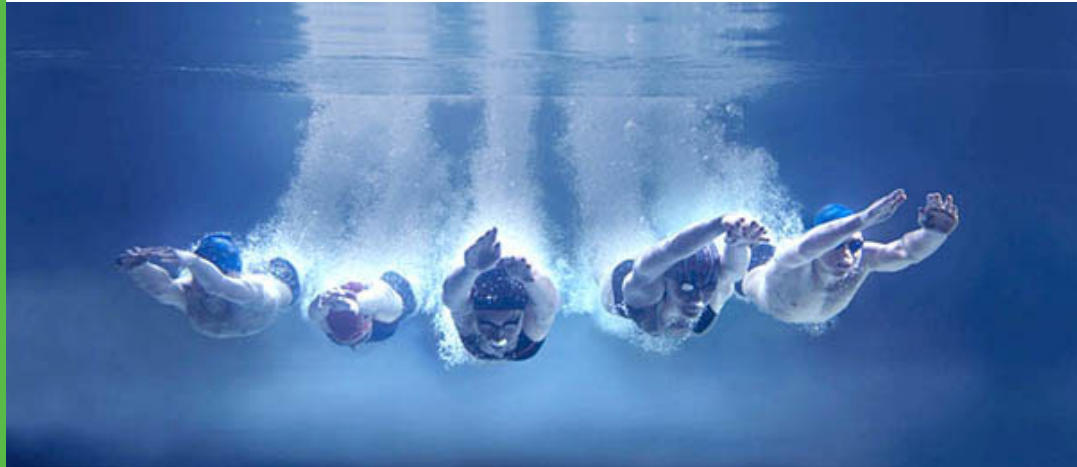
invitation to attend. If you are a non-member*you can come along too but not vote. Just let the BCA know you are coming in advance by emailing info@barnes-ca.org

*It costs just £25 per year to become a member of the BCA and you can join by [clicking here](#).

Advertorial

LOVE TO SWIM?

WHY NOT JOIN A LOCAL SWIMMING CLUB?



If you think swimming is a solitary sport, think again - it can be social too. Chiswick Masters Swimming Club offers its members the best of both worlds. Great training, a brilliant pool to train in and a sense of community, team spirit and camaraderie. It's a place where you will meet friendly swimmers who find their strength in unity.

Swimming is a fantastic way to get and keep fit and joining a club can really help you get the most of swimming as a form of exercise.

WHO CAN JOIN?

Our members' levels of proficiency range from those with moderate skills to seasoned swimmers. New joiners include those who are eager to master a new swimming technique or maintain their fitness through swimming. We also welcome swimmers who were once part of competitive clubs and now want to train and perhaps even compete again. To become a member, individuals should be at least 20 years old and able to swim continuously for 20 pool lengths.

WHAT DOES TRAINING INVOLVE?

You can work on your fitness, improve your strokes or learn new strokes with our experienced and qualified coaches.

You can also explore competitive swimming and train for galas.

Whether it's through varied swimming sets or technique drills, each session is infused with an infectious energy that reverberates throughout the pool.



WHEN DO WE TRAIN?

Our training slots are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9 to 10 p.m. Whether it's through varied swimming sets or technique drills, each session is infused with an infectious energy that reverberates throughout the pool.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

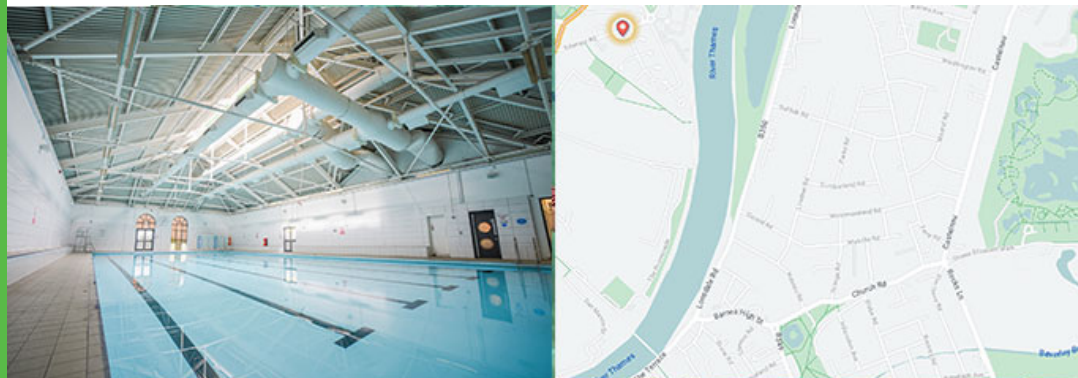
The social side is as important to us as the swimming. We train together and socialise together at regular events including crazy golf, nights at the pub, quiz nights, bowling and our unique egg and spoon race Christmas party.

Dive headfirst into a world where personal growth and the power of togetherness are intertwined.

WHERE DO WE TRAIN?

Chiswick New Pool

4 Edensor Rd, Chiswick, London W4 2RG



We're based at the Chiswick New Pools which is just over the river from Barnes at the edge of Dukes Meadows. It's a fantastic 25 metre pool and the perfect venue for training.

Why not sign up for a complimentary taster session. Unleash your potential, forge lasting friendships, and experience the joy of swimming as part of a remarkable community?

Get in touch



chiswickmasters.co.uk

ian@ipdesign.co.uk

chris@zipfitclub.co.uk

07809 725152

07883 077539

Big in Japan



Barnes may be lovely but it's not the number one stop on the map for most tourists. We can't offer palaces or waxwork museums, but it seems there is one thing that sends coach loads of Japanese sightseers flocking to Barnes. Queen; yes Queen the band.

Barnes is a pivotal place in the history of Queen. Before Queen was formed Brian May and Roger Taylor who were in a band called Smile lived in a flat in Ferry Road and for a time it seems Freddie Mercury lived there too. Later, Olympic Studios was where the band recorded the album *A Night at the Opera* featuring a little known track called *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

A stop by the pond and a visit to Olympic Records is now a firm fixture on the Queen tour for Japanese tourists. The Olympic's archivist Roger Miles says the shop is too small to accommodate a full coach-load but the tourists politely queue

up taking photographs and waiting to enter. Once they are inside Roger says he makes them feel welcome by playing the music of Japanese superstar guitarist Tomoyasu Hotei who has also been known to pop into the shop from time to time.

Fashion, turn to the left, turn to the right



There are only a few days to go until the Barnes Charity Fashion Shows and there are only a few tickets left too. If you've never been, it's quite a spectacle and a must for anyone interested in fashion. Our local boutiques all participate in a professionally choreographed runway show featuring dancers and models, and the venue St Mary's Church looks magical under the glow of special lighting effects.

Prosecco is the drink of the evening and there is Champagne on offer too. You'll get the chance to enter a raffle offering all sorts of fashion prizes and enjoy entertainment – this year including a performance by vocalist Sophia Kirwan Baez and a Q&A with acting legend Hayley Mills.

The whole event is hosted with aplomb by Virgin Radio's Vassos Alexander and after the show has ended the fun really begins with an after party at the Kitson Hall. Funds generated by ticket sales on both evenings go to some very deserving charities including HomeStart so you can have fun and be highly virtuous at the same time. [Find out more here.](#)

Mrs.SW13

CATERING & EVENTS



Meet Barnes' hardest working caterers & event planners

Tucked away in a mews behind Church Road you will find a fully equipped catering kitchen out of which a wonderful array of party food emerges daily.

It's the home to a real Barnes success story – Mrs SW13 – and behind it all is party planner and caterer extraordinaire Caroline Silfverling. This month the Bugle caught up with Caroline to find out more about how the business started and what it offers to customers in Barnes and beyond.

How did you get started and how has the business grown?

It all started 35 years ago when I launched my first catering company in Stockholm. Mrs.SW13 was founded 9 years ago as a sideline, organising local events. We have come a long way since the start and are now busier than ever.



What sort of events do you work on?

Everything from corporate and fundraising events to private parties. We have even done a dog-wedding (yes, that's true!) and we catered for 472 guests at Richmond May Ball this year.

We have also created new menus for The London Wetlands Centre who we are working with on an ongoing basis with their events.

What's different about Mrs SW13?

Our personal and hands-on approach to each event as well as a sprinkle of

added creative flair. We offer tailored menus that are packed–full of flavour and beautifully presented. We understand every aspect of putting a successful event together and can help you with just catering or a complete package.



If you have an event coming up and are looking for some help with catering or event planning just see below for MrsSW13's contact details.

Get in touch

07830 309001
hello@mrssw13.com
www.mrsw13.com

In the picture



In a repurposed Church building in North Barnes a small team of people make a real difference to the local community. The Castelnau Community Centre is the home of youth clubs, play clubs, walking football, gardening groups, theatre clubs

and much more. It's where those whose first language isn't English can improve their fluency through one-to-one lessons and where people who are having difficulty surviving on very little money can access food bank services. It's a haven and a bustling centre of activity and more people need to know about the great work it does.

If you are a photographer, that's where you or someone you know might come in. The team at the centre would love a professional photographer to document the work that they do and they are hoping that a photographer or photography student might make the Community Centre the subject of a documentary style portfolio. The centre is a charity with limited funds so the team are hoping someone might do this as part of a personal photo-journalistic style project.

If you think you may be able to help or know someone who might be able to get involved do [email us here at the Bugle](#) and we'll pass on your details.



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An unforgettable teacher...



Lowther School Deputy Headteacher Hannah Hughes was only 30 when she died from breast cancer earlier this year. She left a big hole in the lives of those who knew her and, very sadly, she also left a husband and a small baby.

The whole family of staff and pupils at Lowther School want to make sure that she will always be remembered, so at the beginning of November they are organising a day of fundraising for a fitting memorial to Mrs Hughes.

Hannah loved outdoor learning and trained to be ‘Forest School’ qualified. Lowther headteacher Mark Tuffney says ***“She was always looking for creative ways to get children learning outdoors”***. Fittingly therefore the school hopes to raise £11,000 to build an outdoor classroom which will be named after Mrs Hughes’ beloved dog Doris.

Doris visited the school and even featured on Mrs Hughes special stickers for good work. So, in honour of both Hannah and Doris, the classroom will be known as Doris’ Den and will have a doggy theme as well as plaque of remembrance for Mrs Hughes.

The fundraising day on November 3 will be a Forest and Fitness event and all the children will be wearing green in Mrs Hughes’ honour.

If you would like to help Lowther School to reach its fundraising target you can [donate here](#).

Vaccination volunteers back on duty



Picture: Simon Waldman

It's cough, cold and flu season and joining this lovely trinity of ailments this autumn there's a not-very-nice strain of Covid going the rounds. Thankfully, for most of us, this variant causes nothing worse than a bout of flu-like illness, but for the older and more vulnerable in our community it could be more dangerous.

That's why our crack team of Barnes volunteers have teamed up with staff from our local doctors' surgeries once more to run a series of vaccination sessions for the over 65s and people with other vulnerabilities. Pictured above is Paul Deevoy whose speed of jabbing is the envy of his fellow volunteers and medical professionals at the Essex House outdoor vaccination clinic. He's so fast that the vaccination is over in a trice and the whole process is quick and painless.



Spooktacular half term activities

October 16-26

The autumn half term coincides with the run up to Halloween so Wurunkshop have devised a whole series of ghoulish craft workshops to inspire young minds. All the sessions are hands-on and designed to get participants thinking both creatively and practically. Kids taking part will come away with a new skill and most importantly have fun.



Bookbind a leather
spell book

[Find out more](#)



Try clay pumpkin
carving

[Find out more](#)



Ghostly painting by
candlelight

[Find out more](#)



Halloween lanterns
and spiders

[Find out more](#)



Hand carved
tombstones

[Find out more](#)



Wizards' & witches'
hats and capes

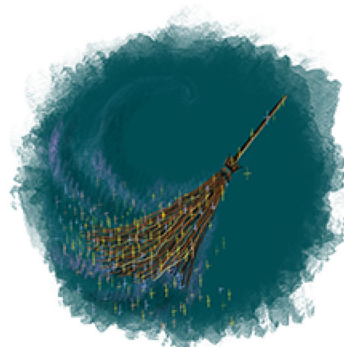
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Design a vampire's
lair



Write and publish
Halloween stories



Make broomsticks
and wands

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Halloween lanterns
& willow spiders

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Hand carved
tombstones

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Wizard & witches
hats and capes

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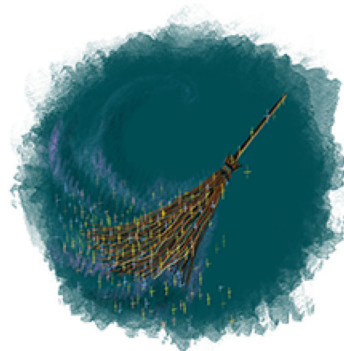
Design a vampire's
lair

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Write & publish a
Halloween story

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Broomsticks &
wands woodwork

[Find out more](#)

DON'T FORGET OUR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



INKSTERS

[Find out more](#)

Workshop offers seven fantastic term-time classes, for children aged 7 to 12. Delivered by a series of brilliant and engaging professional artists, our clubs offer the opportunity for children to learn new techniques and practice core creative skills.

With group sizes limited to 7, we ensure that all our students receive plenty of individual attention and encouragement. We prioritise working with high quality materials and the clubs take place in a relaxed studio environment, in the centre of Barnes.

Workshop 9/10
The Mews, 46-52
Church Road

Barnes
SW13 0DQ

07720 712983

hello@wurkshop.co.uk

wurkshop.co.uk

Sixty of the best



It was a month of celebration for everyone at FiSH in September as members and volunteers marked the charity's 60th anniversary with parties and church services. In between all of that, the daily work of the charity carried on with an extraordinary array of activities for the elderly and endless practical help and support for those people in our community who need a helping hand to stay at home and lead fulfilling lives. Find out more about the amazing work FiSH does on their [website](#).

Bike sale success



We're very pleased to report that September's bike sale at St Mary's raised a whopping £18,000 for charity and recycled hundreds of pre-loved bikes in the process. What an achievement.

Mindless acts of vandalism



Any act of vandalism makes most of us shake our heads in disbelief. Why would anyone want to randomly destroy something, to take something of beauty or value and deface it? It's often about a strange inversion of power – the power to shock, the power to show agency even if it contributes nothing positive.

Last month an act of vandalism in Northumberland caused headlines over the world as the beautiful tree at Sycamore gap was felled. For anybody who has ever travelled to Hadrian's Wall and loved the wild, remote beauty of the landscape there, the felling of the tree felt personal. However, a post from Barnes Common in response to the news was a useful reminder that nature heals. It talked of two trees on the Common that were felled in 1987 after the great storm. Both have now regenerated and are now on their way to becoming substantial trunks after 36 years of regrowth. You can [read the post here](#).

Closer to home, a particularly egregious act of vandalism has been an attack on the defibrillator in the old phone box outside the Olympic cinema. Why on earth would someone want to damage potentially life-saving equipment? The BCA, whose fundraising efforts helped buy the defibrillator, is appealing to anyone with any information about the attack to contact the police.

Going for gold



The team at Barnes Common are celebrating three times over this month after winning gold in three separate categories in the London in Bloom awards. The awards were for Large Conservation - Barnes Common Local Nature Reserve, Large Conservation - Leg O'Mutton Local Nature Reserve, and Common - Barnes Common.

A haunting in Barnes



Even though this Bugle is coming out in the midst of an unseasonal burst of warmth and sunshine, we know that by the end of the month darkness will have descended and those who want to scare themselves silly with thoughts of ghosts and ghouls will be able to wander through the overgrown graveyard on the Common at dusk for that classic horror film sense of foreboding.*

If that's just too frightening to contemplate, there are other Halloween activities on hand. Malcolm at Two Peas is bound to have his usual stock of pumpkins for lantern making, the team at [Wurkshop](#) have got some fantastic half term Halloween themed craft workshops and over at the OSO October 31 will see the first night of a 6 day run of Sabbath: A Tragedy of Witches – based on the spine-tingling testimonies of the North Berwick Witch Trials.

The Wetland Centre is running a brilliantly titled 'Eek week' where we expect a few creepy crawlies to feature.

At St Mary's local theatre company Shadow Road will be running a ghoulish interactive fundraiser on Saturday October 28. It's an event that's perfect for fans of BBC's *The Traitors* or the party game 'Werewolves of Miller's Hollow'. The interactive game for all ages is set in the '*spooky village of Barnes*' where '*a werewolf population is growing unchecked. Every night they creep out, pick a target and devour them, leaving behind an ever-dwindling band of survivors. The frightened villagers must come together and discover which of their friends and neighbours may not be quite what they seem. Will you join them at St Mary's Church to help identify the werewolves and put a stop to their savagery once and for all? There's just one slight problem - anyone could be a werewolf! Even you...*'

Ticket can be bought [here](#) and all funds raised will go towards funding the theatre companies upcoming charity tour of A Christmas Carol to local hospitals, cancer centres and care homes.

**We recommend wandering through the cemetery during the hours of daylight ourselves as it's a beautiful and fascinating place to visit*

Watch out for



Our listings section below is chock-a-block with interesting things to do in Barnes this October but it's also worth putting some dates in your diary for early November. Here are a few things to look forward to:

Barnes Bonfire Night, November 4, Barnes Sports Club

This brilliant event always sells out so now's the time to nab your tickets.

[See more here](#)

A special talk by Lord & Lady Heseltine at St Mary's - Tuesday November 7

The former Tory minister and businessman Lord Heseltine is a tree fanatic and together with his wife Anne has planted a spectacular Arboretum at Thenford near Banbury in Oxfordshire. To raise funds for For Ukraine and St Mary's Lord and Lady Heseltine will be giving an Illustrated talk on their new book – Thenford – the Creation of an English Garden – Find out more and [buy tickets here](#).

The Barnes Art Fair – November 16-18 St Michael & All Angels

Over 40 local professional fine artists and contemporary painters,

printmakers, sculptors, and ceramicists will be taking part again this year as well as special guests from East London Printmakers.
In 2022 Barnes Art Fair raised over £4,000 for Charity. This year Barnes Art Fair will be raising money for; Fighting Knife Crime London, and The Leprosy Mission.

Bugle Classifieds



We're recruiting

Do you have a passion for working with children and families? Do you want to help them overcome social, emotional and practical difficulties?

Welcare is recruiting two experienced part-time Family Support Workers to deliver a broad-based preventative support service for families with children up to the age of 13 in partnership with schools, churches, the local authority and other agencies.

Based at the Castelnau Community Centre, the post requires working with families in person and online remote working.

Salary: £29,439 FTE

For how to apply and download the job description visit our [website](#)

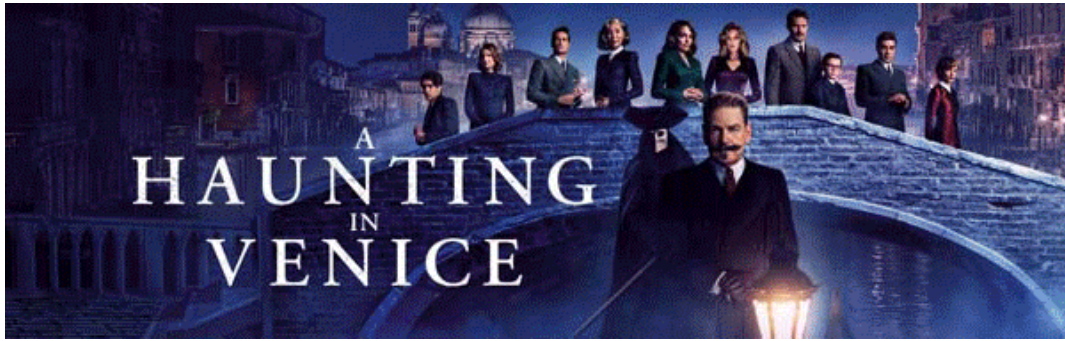
Advertise your service for only £25

The Bugle has well over 4,500 subscribers and where else can you reach that many people in Barnes for such a small cost? £25 gets you up to 100 words to publicise your service. That's more than enough space to say what you do and provide your contact details. To advertise in the Classified section just email us here at admin@barnesvillage.com. If you are looking for a display ad further up the page prices start at £100 and you can [find out more here](#).

What's on in October?

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

Films at The Olympic



When you are open nearly every day of the year and run multiple showings in two screens every day, how do you get bums on seats? That's the challenge facing the team at The Olympic and it's fair to say that they have more than risen to it. Over the past 10 years there have been over 1.2 million cinema visits to the Olympic so they must be doing something right.

The secret of their success is a something-for-everyone approach. Blockbusters are interweaved with art house movies, there's a cultural strand with opera, ballet and theatre, children's films are a must-have and, on top of that, there are always classic films that are best re-watched on the big screen. Throw into the mix films that celebrate the Olympic's musical heritage and you have a recipe for full cinemas.

This month in a celebration of Olympic Studios' 10th anniversary you can gorge yourself on films thanks to a week of £10 tickets (October 13-19) and there's plenty to enjoy. Taking this month's programme strand-by-strand here's what you can look forward to.

Big new releases

There's a trio of cosy British/Irish dramas – Agatha Christie's **A Haunting in Venice**, Maggie Smith in **The Miracle Club** and Michael Caine and the late Glenda Jackson in **The Great Escaper**. For lovers of bio-pics you can choose between Helen Mirren's **Golda Meir** and Joaquim Pheonix's **Napoleon**. If you're looking for something grittier there's David Fincher's **The Killer** and Martin Scorsese's **Killers of the Flower Moon**. There's also **Dumb Money** the get-rich-quick true story of how a bunch of amateur investors caused shockwaves in the US stock market, and sci-fi drama **The Creator**. Do also make time to see **Past Lives**, a wonderful wistful love story that's likely to be garlanded with awards come next spring.

Classics

This month's big classic screenings are **Gravity** in 3D and **Mean Streets**.

Cultural Highlights

Watch out for a beautiful film about **Klimpt's The Kiss** and a documentary about John Le Carre – **The Pigeon Tunnel**

For Children

Why not bring the kids to a £10 screening of **Frozen** if you can cope with hearing Let it go, Let it go! for the millionth time?

The Music Strand

Choose from **Stop Making Sense**, Jonathan Demme's newly restored documentary on Talking Heads, recorded at the height of their popularity or **Mr Jimmy** a film about a Japanese guitarist who has dedicated his life to honouring

Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin. Or why not take advantage of the £10 ticket deal to see both?

Great shows at the OSO



There are so many ways to tell a story and this month at the OSO they cover off many of them. There's the straightforward evening with a raconteur, and for that version of storytelling there's a chance to hear some fantastic rock'n'roll reminiscences from the eminence gris of music journalism **Allan Jones**.

Through his work on *Melody Maker* and *Uncut*, Allan has met some extraordinary artists including Bowie and Elton John. Expect top class anecdote.

Next up is the epistolary story in the form of a dramatic two hander **Posting Letters to the Moon**. Actress Celia Johnson (she of the clipped upper class vowels in *Brief Encounter*) was married to Peter Fleming (Ian Fleming's brother) and throughout WW2 they corresponded. Their letters are highly engaging but beyond that they offer a fascinating historical insight into a time of austerity and fearfulness.

The final offering in the OSO's storytelling trilogy is **Hitched** - a candid confession of what it's like to get married for the first time in your 50s, conveyed in the medium of jazz, cabaret, opera and stand-up comedy.

Throw in a sketch show - **Finlay and Joe: Past our Bedtime**, an award winning French play (in translation luckily) - **In Other Words** and **Bach to the Future** - an evening with a classical cellist sharing the secrets of music appreciation, and you have a classic OSO mix of shows. Enjoy!

Wetland wonders



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

Watercolour Workshop - Saturday October 14

Take inspiration from Quentin Blake and the stunning view from the Wetland Centre observatory and learn how to create your own water colour picture. Run by WWT resident artists Alice and Sam.

[More info here.](#)

Wildlife Photography: Landscape & focal length - Thursday October 19

What better place to learn the principles of landscape photography than the natural beauty of the London Wetland Centre. In this workshop you will learn how to arrange the elements in a frame to translate a beautiful scene that catches your eye into a well-balanced and impactful photograph.

[More info here.](#)

Eek week - Saturday 21 to Sunday 29 October

Discover an eek!-citing and mysterious world of wetland nature this October half term. Will you dare to put your hand in an eel box, grab a photo op with a bat, or listen out for the croak of a toad? It's a weirdly wild day out for the whole family. There are daily drop-in family activities from Pond Dipping to Potion Making to a Make a Rainbow Nature Art Workshop

[More info here.](#)

Music at The Bull



Here's our pick of this month's gigs:

Friday October 20
Art Themen Quartet
 One of Britain's leading tenor saxophonists described by the Observer as *'one the tiny number of undeniably perfect jazz musicians.'*

[More info](#)

Saturday October 21
Lynne Hanson
 Nicknamed "Canada's Queen of Americana." her deep, bluesy croon has drawn comparisons to Lucinda Williams and Gillian Welch.

[More info](#)

Friday October 27
Zoot Money
 One of the biggest characters in British Blues and R&B, the vocalist and keyboardist Zoot Money is a performer par excellence.

[More info](#)

Talking the talk



Tuesday, October 24, 7.30pm,
The OSO
Barnes Philosophy Club: The Philosophy of Laughter



Thursday, October 19, 8pm
St Mary's Barnes
Barnes & Mortlake History Society: Secrets, Scandal and

Many celebrated philosophers have written about laughter. Why do we laugh? What do we laugh at? In this talk Dr Kevin McCarron will discuss several philosophers' theories of laughter, including Hobbes, Bergson, Nietzsche, and Immanuel Kant. He will contrast their views with those of Arthur Schopenhauer, who wrote "A sense of humour is the only divine quality of man".

[Find out more here.](#)



Monday, October 9, 8pm
Dryburgh Hall Putney
The Arts Society Lecture: Murder Most Florid

Forensic botany has played a role in solving major cases for decades, including the murder of aviator Charles Lindbergh's infant son. Plants are silent witnesses; their presence at a crime scene can help to identify a suspect or locate a victim. Even mundane plants such as brambles and nettles can provide insights into when a crime was committed. Find out more in this fascinating talk by botanist Mark Spencer

[Find out more here.](#)

Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660 to 1830

Speaker Sarah Slater will wear a beautiful costume and talk about all the naughty bits of history you would probably not have learnt about at school. She will discuss royal mistresses, prostitution, STDs and the methods used to prevent unwanted pregnancies. This is a talk that is definitely not for the prudish.

[Find out more here.](#)



Tuesday October 17, 8pm
St Mary's Barnes

Kate Mosse: The Ghost Ship

Kate Mosse's new novel is an epic tale of courageous women battling to survive in a man's world, of vengeance and breathtaking peril on the High Seas, of long-buried family secrets and a love story spanning three generations. She'll be talking about The Ghost Ship and other novels from her Joubert Family Chronicles at the first event of the Barnes Literary Society's 2023/2024 season.

[Find out more here.](#)

Rumble in the jumble



BCA Jumble Sale

Saturday October 28, 9.30am-3.30pm

This cherished Barnes event will once again offer a cornucopia of wonderful pre-owned ladies' clothes, jewellery, bric-a-brac, toys, household items, books, electrical gadgets and much more.

Donation days: Wed Oct 25, Thu Oct 26, Fri Oct 27. [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 nearly 5,000 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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