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# The Barnes Village Bugle

April 7, 2024

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## Residents urged to dig deep to save Mortlake



**I**t's crunch time for the plans for the mega development set to replace the old Mortlake brewery, and local campaigners are asking us all to dig deep and donate to ensure that local views are heard at a make-or-break hearing.

The Mortlake Brewery Community Group urgently needs to raise a further £15,000 to pay for the services of barristers and planning experts at a hearing at the end of May. They say ***“We want to present detailed evidence through***

***expert witnesses to demonstrate that the current proposed scheme is not appropriate for Mortlake and surrounding areas like Barnes. The scheme is too dense, reduces green space and creates traffic gridlock with minimal benefit to the community.”***

The plans for the site – which would see the arrival of over 1,000 new homes and apartment blocks up to nine stories high on the old brewery site – were approved by Richmond Council in January and were due to be reviewed by Sadiq Khan. However, in a surprise move at the end of February, the developers themselves appealed to the highest planning authority in the land, effectively bypassing the Mayor who was expected to turn down the plans on the grounds of insufficient levels of affordable housing.

The developers are currently proposing that only 75 (7%) of the 1075 dwellings on the site would be classed as affordable as opposed to the Mayor’s stated requirement of 30%.

As we revealed last month, the Mayor will be making representations to the Planning Inspectorate hearing but it is understood that his focus will mainly be on the level of affordable housing.

Local campaigners want to raise specific local issues such as the impact on infrastructure and traffic, the incongruous nature of nine-story-high blocks and the inclusion in the plans of a secondary school which is much desired by Richmond Council.

The campaign group says ***“The proposed large secondary school is simply not required post pandemic”*** and the group contends that its replacement with a smaller primary school would give the developers scope to come up with a less dense scheme with lower buildings and more affordable housing.

If the planning inspector rules in favour of the developer’s current scheme the campaigners say the impact on Mortlake and Barnes will be huge in terms of traffic disruption. Other effects could be overcrowding on public transport, increased delays at level crossings and the loss of existing green space such as the Mortlake football field. The high-density plans, they say, will also be a blot on the landscape on a beautiful stretch of river.

Francine Bates from the Mortlake Brewery Community Group says ***“We have a real opportunity to convince the Planning Inspector that this scheme is the wrong one for our neighbourhood. An urgent rethink is needed to save us from gross overdevelopment. This will be the last time that we will be able to present our arguments in this case to the highest planning authority in the land. Please dig deep and strike a blow for common sense.***

***“We know that in the past residents have stepped up to help with donations when the beauty and integrity of our neighbourhoods has***

*been threatened. Rose House in the centre of Barnes was saved when there was a threat that it would become a supermarket and Barnes Pond was repaired when it emptied overnight. In each case it was ordinary residents who raised the funds to save the day. We know that raising money for a fighting fund of £30,000 is a big ask but we're hoping residents will dig deep to help us fight for the future of Mortlake."*

You can make your donation by clicking the button below.

[Click here to help with the fighting fund](#)

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## A very unhappy anniversary



**A**s April 10 will mark the 5th anniversary of Hammersmith Bridge's closure to traffic, we've looked back at the May 2019 issue of the Bugle with a hint of nostalgia. Back then we were reporting a repair cost estimate of £40million and a timeline for repairs of two and a half years.

Now, after five years of increasingly bad news about the bridge's health, huge inflation in building costs and interminable political wrangling, the estimated repair cost has risen to £250million and it is unclear when the bridge will finally



reopen to traffic, or if indeed it ever will.

What we do know is that officials from the Department for Transport are in the process of thrashing out a funding agreement with Hammersmith & Fulham Council based on the council covering its one third contribution to the repair via a toll of cars using the bridge.

If funding does get agreed, estimates for repair times will depend on what methods are used for the final repair after the current stabilisation process is complete.

If the Foster Cowi bridge within a bridge solution was to be given the go-ahead it would take one year from completion of stabilisation works for the temporary double decker bridge to be installed and then a further two years until the temporary structure is removed and the newly strengthened original Hammersmith Bridge reopens to traffic.

If you take a guess at a stabilisation completion date of early 2025 then the bridge could be repaired by 2028. However, we've got a sneaking suspicion that the April 2029 issue of the Bugle we will be reporting on the 10th anniversary of the bridge's closure....

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## A complete cycle path



Image: Andrew Wilson

**I**t looks like the temporary cycle path along the centre of Hammersmith Bridge is going to be open for a few weeks longer than anticipated. The hiatus in the stabilisation work on the bridge that has given cyclists a brief window of opportunity to avoid the hassle of dismounting and walking across, is now likely to end at the end of April rather than mid-April as had previously been announced by Hammersmith & Fulham Council. Come May, however, cyclists and pedestrians will probably be sharing the space (mostly amicably, although sometimes not) on the walkways on the side of the bridge.

## State of the Thames near Barnes is a 'national disgrace'



**T**hanks to last week's Boat Race, people all over the world now know how disgusting our local Thames water is. So bad was the water quality on the day of the race that the tradition of dunking the winning crews' coxes in the Thames had to be forgone, and Oxford rower Lenny Jenkins said three of the Oxford men's crew were infected with E-Coli bacteria found in the river. The Boat Race made headlines in America for all the wrong reasons with the water quality being dubbed a national disgrace.

Campaign group RiverAction carried out water testing in the week before the race in conjunction with the Fulham Reach Boat Club and found that levels of E Coli were up to 10 times higher than those considered acceptable by the Environment Agency for safe bathing.

The group says the results from the testing locations suggest that the source of the pollution is from Thames Water ‘discharging sewage directly into the river and its tributaries’.

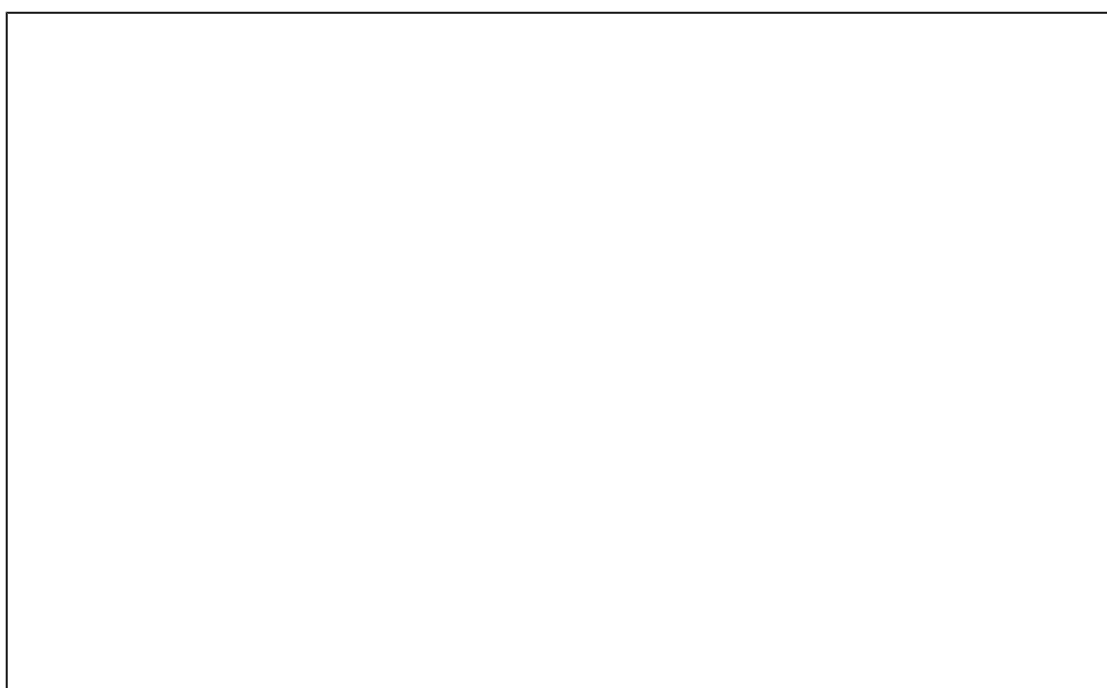
Earlier this year London Mayor Sadiq Khan revealed that instances of sewage flowing into London’s rivers in 2023 were almost five times higher than the amount registered in the same 8-month period in 2022.

Although pollution is a problem across the length of the Thames, southwest London is affected particularly badly according to Sarah Olney. The MP says that one of the worst examples of pollution was a spill at Mogden near Twickenham where one billion litres of sewage were discharged in a single day in 2021. Recent spills that caused local alarm include [spillage at Ham](#) where residents filmed raw human sewage floating in the Thames near Teddington Lock.

Large sewage spills into the river tend to be caused by heavy rain. This is because our existing Victorian-built sewage system is at full capacity and when it is inundated with rainwater there is nowhere else for the waste to go apart from the Thames (if it didn’t the sewage would back up into our streets and homes).

The new Tideway super sewer which will become operational some time in 2025 will make a huge difference, perhaps eliminating up to 95% of sewage discharges into the Thames. However, it will have to contend with more wet weather events caused by climate change and campaigners say we all have a role to play in eliminating flood risks that can cause sewers to be inudated. Simple measures such as collecting rainwater in butts to use in gardens or not paving front gardens to allow water to soak into the ground can relieve the pressure on our existing sewage system and help protect Barnes from flooding.

The team at Barnes Common have also recruited volunteers ‘[Gully Guardians](#)’ to help identify and monitor blocked drains across Barnes such that Richmond Council knows which drains it needs to clear.

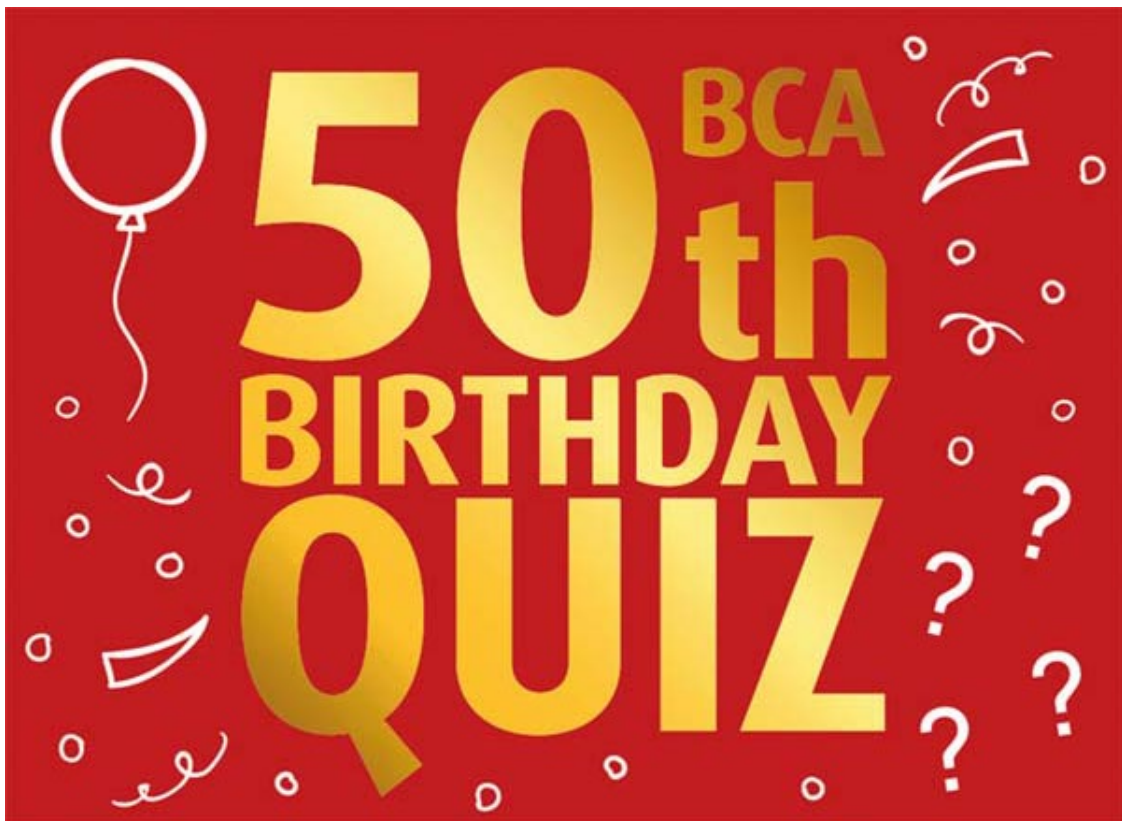


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Happy 50th BCA



**I**t's 50 years since the Barnes Community Association was formed and there are all sorts of celebrations lined up in the months ahead, kicking off with a 1970s themed 50th Anniversary Quiz at the OSO.

The event will take place on 26 April and will test your general knowledge and



**Winkworth**  
for every step

## This month's featured property

Period detached house

Seven bedrooms

Five receptions

Three bedroom annex

Central village location

Grange Road, SW13

£7,950,000

## Feeling broody



Image: Andrew Wilson



**P**hew, it looks like there will be a host of new cygnets gracing the pond sometime at the end of this month or the beginning of May as our veteran female swan is once again nesting on the pond's central island. Maybe it was a case of too much anticipation but for a time some Bugle readers thought the swans might be taking a year off this time round.

The female swan started sitting on the nest in mid-March and that will be when her first egg was laid. However, it's only recently, now all her eggs have been laid, that she's been spending most of her time on the nest. During laying season the eggs are laid every day or every other day so it takes a while to build up a full complement.

As to how many eggs are now there, and how many of the eggs will hatch, that's anyone's guess, but last year the swan couple welcomed eight cygnets. Incubation lasts 35-38 days on average after the last egg is laid so expect to see our new swan family by roughly the start of May.

In the meantime, there's a lovely new brood of Egyptian goslings\* to enjoy.

*\*Those who know their ducks from their geese will be itching to write in to say that Egyptian geese are actually just fancy ducks and their offspring are therefore ducklings, which is indeed a very interesting fact, but since most people know them as Egyptian geese we've opted for gosling in this case.*

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## The Red Lion roars again



**T**he Red Lion is now back open and buzzing after a major spruce up both inside and out. The exterior has had a fresh lick of paint but the interior is the star of the show in the new look pub.

It's a place with good bones, wonderful wooden wall panelling, a beautiful Victorian ceiling and clubbable open fireplaces.

The refurb has been all about respecting the pub's heritage architecture (it was built in 1837) but adding an extra degree of comfort and character. Look out for new darker wooden flooring, William Morris style wallpaper in the entrance area and new comfy chairs. In the main dining room there are some beautiful monochrome murals all featuring birds that can be found at the Wetland Centre next door.

The garden area has also had a major revamp and has a more contemporary feel with a brand new pergola and some very elegant outdoor lighting.

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## What's new on our shopping streets?





**T**here are lots of exciting new businesses opening across Barnes this month and news in the offing of a few more.

On White Hart Lane Harty's, a café/wine bar/deli, has just opened its doors in what was the old Chinese takeaway. It is opening in stages and for the next few weeks it will be a café only. The delicatessen will launch on April 24 and the Wine Bar will get going on May 11. Even though the furniture will not arrive until the middle of this week, the Harty's team have been selling takeaway coffee and getting to know their new customers. They say the welcome they've had has been incredibly warm and one local has already booked the venue for her birthday party.

Further up the road on the corner of First Avenue there's a brand-new Italian restaurant, Osteria Otello, offering handmade pasta and pizzas. It's the brainchild of chef Otello Capri and the menu is full of classic Italian favourites from Fettuccine Cacio e Pepe to proper gelati.

It's not just food and drinks businesses that are new to Little Chelsea there's also a new luxury aesthetic clinic Dr Senna which specialises in anti-wrinkle treatment, dermal fillers and bio stimulators.

However, White Hart Lane has also said goodbye to a very longstanding Barnes business, interiors shop Tobias and the Angel, which after 37 years has left to set up shop in a new location in Lingwood, Surrey.

Over on Church Road, clothes shop Editor 37 has moved to Tunbridge Wells and been replaced by Hayles an antiques and interiors business run by a local Barnes couple. They specialise in beautiful interior pieces many of which are mid to late 20th century, expect to find film posters, statement lighting, elegant sideboards



and covetable tables and chairs.

Finally, at last, we've heard what's to become of the old Boat House premises on the High Street.

It's going to be the latest venue in the expanding Söderberg chain of Swedish café bakeries. There are already seven branches in Edinburgh and now there are two in London (in Berwick Street and in East Dulwich). Their brunch menu sounds particularly tempting with Swedish waffles and open sandwiches on offer. In the afternoon in true Swedish Fika style there will be signature cinnamon buns to go with your coffee.

The Söderberg team are currently refurbishing another new site elsewhere in London and will only get round to revamping the old Boat House site when the other site is ready to open. This means we don't yet have an opening date for the Barnes branch but we'll keep you posted in future issues.

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## 21 beautiful Barnes gardens to visit



**C**ould there be a more civilised way to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon in early June than visiting the Barnes Open Gardens? It's FiSH's biggest fundraising event of the year so as well as having the opportunity to be inspired by the gardening skills and designs of some of our best local gardeners you will be supporting a charity that really needs your help.

There are 21 gardens to visit on June 2nd and all offer something different from large flowing lawns to state-of-the-art landscaping, country-style wildflower plots, charming courtyards with potted plants, ponds and water features, not to mention an abundance of trees, blooms, birds and sculptures.



There will be a Pimm's tent and music on Barnes Green which is where ticket purchasers will be able to pick up their exclusive map of the gardens on the day of the event.

And if you need a helping hand travelling from garden to garden you can hitch a ride on the FiSH bus which will be departing from the Barnes Green Centre at regular intervals.

Find out more and buy tickets

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## Tucci flies the (Italian) flag for Barnes



**I**t's lovely to see how much Stanley Tucci loves Barnes. When he first settled here he waxed lyrical about the Wetlands and the Farmer's Market in interviews and now, ten years on, he's just as complimentary about our restaurants.

Tucci, who has just launched a line of very snazzy cookware, has been interviewed by cult Instagram/Tik Tok channel Topjaw\* and declared Riva to be his favourite London restaurant.

But it's not just Riva that gets his vote, he's also a big fan of Arte Chef, now renamed Arte Pizza. He describes their pizzas as 'excellent' and says chef Ari makes a "really, really lovely (pizza) dough". True foodie that he is, Tucci also says that sometimes he just buys the pizza dough from Arte Pizza and makes his own pizzas with it at home.

You can see the interview [here](#).

*\*Its concept is foodies and chefs being asked about their favourite places to eat in London.*

# Adult Arts & Crafts Courses

**FIGUREWURK**

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A relaxed haven for relaxed and experienced student alike.

Tutored by portrait artist Kathy Barker, who gives each student individual guidance on their work. Different models each week.

Materials provided.

7pm - 9pm      Thursday Eve      £ 40.00

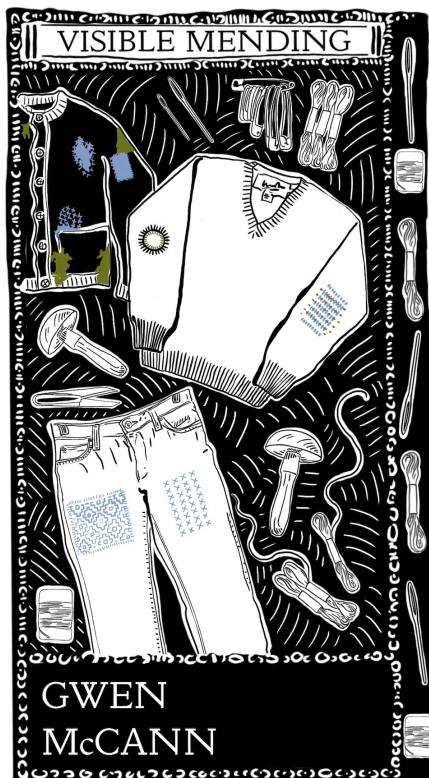
## **STARTING APRIL 18th**

This course will take you through a variety of approaches to drawing the nude figure.

You will explore different mediums, developing line and tonal techniques, balance and posture, seeing the mass and comparative measurement throughout.

**FIND OUT MORE HERE**

WEDNESDAY MAY 15th  
**Visible Mending Class**



Learn the basics of mending holes in jumpers and other knitwear. This is a great class for beginners who want to rescue some of their beloved clothes from the ravages of moths and wear and tear.

We will start with simple small hole-mending and move on to mending larger holes with a weaved darn and seed stitches. Bring along your own mending project or we can provide samples to practice on.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)



MONDAY MAY 6th

### **PRINTWURK - Introduction to Letterpress Printing and Block Printing**

There is something magical about hand printing. A new generation of artists, designers and creatives are rediscovering letterpress to realise work that is rich in both the visual and tactile.

You will be introduced to printing using traditional type and antique printing blocks and by the end of the evening, will have printed a series of creative and unique 3 colour works.

[FIND OUT MORE HERE](#)





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— BARNES —

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**London**  
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**07720 712983**

## Superstar illustrator designs poster for the Children's Literature Festival



**I**t's hard to believe that this year it will be the 10th iteration of our brilliant local Children's Literature Festival.



Preparations are now well under way for this year's festival which will run over the weekend of June 22 and 23.

It has been a tradition at Barnes since it started in 2015 that every year they invite a children's literature legend to add something of their own to the official festival poster. In past years this has included Barnes's much loved Judith Kerr, the Gruffalo illustrator, Axel Scheffler, and the creator of the How to Train Your Dragon books and film series, Cressida Cowell. This year's poster has been designed by none other than Sir Quentin Blake.

Festival Director Amanda Brettargh said: ***"Generations of young readers have grown up loving Sir Quentin's instantly recognisable drawing style. He has conjured some of the most memorable figures in children's literature from Dr Seuss to Roald Dahl, as well as his own wacky cast of characters like the star of our poster, Mister Magnolia and Mrs Armitage.***

***"As for so many people, Sir Quentin was the illustrator of my childhood and we are bursting with pride that he has created this poster especially for Barnes and is now part of our Festival family forever."***

Sir Quentin Blake said: ***"The people in my drawings are always delighted to have another outing. This time they are in the Barnes Children's Literature Festival poster and you can see that they couldn't be more excited about it. Happy 10th anniversary!"***

As ever, the festival has the most brilliant lineup and star names on the bill this year include Michael Rosen, Jacqueline Wilson, Chris Riddell and Sophie Dahl. Tickets will go on sale on April 27 and you can [find out more here](#).

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## Riding on a donkey



**C**heryl Cole (no not that one) who runs the office at St Mary's in Barnes says that one of her most unusual tasks every year is hiring a donkey for the Palm Sunday Service. The donkey comes courtesy of the marvellously named company Dashing Donkeys.

We hear that this year Cheryl was expecting a donkey called Tubby Tabitha to do the honours but at the eleventh hour Tabitha was substituted with Stubborn Penny.

The responsibility of looking after Stubborn Penny fell to parishioner Cate Summers who is an experienced horsewoman. Cate says that Penny was a lovely donkey but that her nickname was well deserved as nothing would entice her to enter the church.

Nevertheless, she was a huge hit with younger members of the congregation with donkey rides around the churchyard being a hot ticket.

Unfortunately, the horse box due to transport Stubborn Penny home broke down leaving her temporarily stranded at St Mary's, a disappointment which she took in her stride as she was happy to remain in the churchyard, providing gardening services (grass trimming and fertilisation) free of charge.

Over at St Michael's where their Palm Sunday service featured a stablemate of Stubborn Penny, handy churchyard grazing wasn't available, so a garden in Elm Bank Gardens was co-opted as a temporary home for Penny's companion Miss Zenna, who, by all accounts, was a beautifully behaved animal.

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## A worthy winner



**A**n incredibly talented six former from Kings College Wimbledon has won this year's Barnes Young Musician of the Year award.

The award, which is an integral part of the Barnes Music Festival, was judged by star oboist Nicholas Daniel (himself a former winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition).

The winner, violinist Julian Ketelsen began playing the violin when he was four. Aged eight, he joined the Royal College of Music Junior Department and since 2022 has been taking lessons from Sebastian Müller who also teaches at the Yehudi Menuhin School.

He gave an astonishing demonstration of his talent at the sold-out Festival Gala on Saturday March 23 in front of an audience which included composers Howard Goodall and Roxanna Panufnik and local MP Sarah Olney.

Asked if he had felt nervous Julian simply said no, whilst his dad suggested that he should feel at least a bit nervous! The team at the Festival say ***"Well done to Julian for keeping classical music approachable, entertaining, and cool!"***

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## Large office to let overlooking Barnes Pond

- Stunning views of the

pond

- Possibly the best views in Barnes
- Office can accommodate 1-4 desks
- Available from mid June on a short or long term let basis
- £1200 pcm including bills



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Or call 07794 336451

## Saturday night's alright for ... an Elton John tribute concert





**H**ow do you top last year's BCA/OSO outdoor Queen tribute concert on Barnes Green?

You book the Elton John Experience for a night of live performance with a full band, a baby grand and giant feathers galore.

According to the OSO website, Elite Elton is the Official No1 Elton John Tribute act (although we're sure there are many other ersatz Eltons out there claiming that distinction). He has performed in prestigious venues across the UK, Europe and rest of the world, including at the London Palladium, National Entertainment Awards and National Music Tribute Awards.

Elite Elton will be the closing performance at the end of a day of brilliant open-air entertainment on the The Green on Saturday June 8.

At lunchtime there's an unmissable concert for lovers of musical theatre – a performance by a company of West End performers accompanied by a live band. Featured musicals include Mamma Mia, Les Miserables, Wicked, Phantom of the Opera, Guys and Dolls, Hamilton and singing along is definitely encouraged.

Book tickets for [Elite Elton](#). Book your place at [Songs from the Musicals](#).

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## Ever thought of opening a flower shop?



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**A**fter 16 years of brightening our homes and front doors with her beautiful floral designs, lovely hardworking Azar of Blue Lavender on Church Parade will be hanging up her secateurs and trowel this summer.

However, she would be very interested to discuss with any interested parties the possibility of taking over her business. You can pop in and see her at 153 Church Road or call her on 020 8748 6959.

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## Ayres on a shoestring



**H**ot news, Pam Ayres, the author of heart-rending and profound poems such as '[I wish I'd looked after me teeth](#)' and many others, is coming to Barnes. She will be joining Gyles Brandreth on Sunday April 14 at a special event celebrating the genius of much-loved comedy duo Hinge and Bracket in a witty afternoon of live music and song. You can [book tickets here](#).

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## A stand that delivers



**A**s work on the extraordinary new Riverside Stand at Craven Cottage nears completion Fulham Football club has released a no-expense-spared video guide to what will be on offer come December when work on the hotel, bars, restaurants and gym that make up the hospitality portion of the new stand, is due to be finished.

The development, dubbed *'the swankiest stand in the world'* by The Times certainly looks spectacular, with the outdoor swimming pool on the stand's Sky Deck being the most head-turning element.

The club now says it will offer a match day experience like no other, but it's not an experience that will come cheap (after all, owner Shahid Khan has invested £120 million to build the new stand). The Times reports that season tickets at the new Riverside stand will cost as much as £3,000 next season and that the most expensive individual ticket in the stand will be up to £157 for a premier league match.

For those of us not wanting to invest in a season ticket, we will still be able to try the new restaurants and bars as they won't just be open on match days. There might also be the opportunity join the gym and spa with the amazing pool. [Find out more here.](#)

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## A phoenix from the ashes

**V**ery sadly last year we had to report on the closure of the English School at Rose House, a Barnes institution that had been teaching Au Pairs and expats English since the inception of the BCA in the 1970s.

We're very pleased to report though that like a phoenix from the ashes two teachers from the school are now running classes at St Mary's Church Hall.



Teacher Amanda Gardner says *“Though classes are considerably smaller than in the school’s heyday, we still teach some au pairs, as well as ‘expat mums’ living in the area and other keen learners. Our students are very enthusiastic about our classes, and we pride ourselves on offering excellent teaching in a very friendly, supportive, and fun atmosphere.”*

You can [find out more here](#).

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## A sea of sausage dogs



**B**arnes may be the home of the world-famous Barnes Golden (a group of golden retrievers who even produce their own calendar) but we’ve heard tell of yet another canine collective, although one that’s altogether more diminutive.

Daisy’s Dachshund Meet Ups are organised by Claire Wang, a local NHS doctor who is the proud owner of a therapy dog named Daisy who volunteers in schools and helps in hospitals locally.



The last few events, held in Richmond Park, have seen hundreds of dachshunds and their owners meet for a walk and a catch-up.

Claire says “The events are very popular and always a fun, silly and fabulous day out. Everyone is welcome to join us for free.”

You can find out more on Daisy the dog’s [Instagram page](#).

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## A bend in the river



**B**everley Brook wasn’t always the ramrod straight waterway that it is today. Before the Victorians came along with their hospital corner mentality, the Brook meandered delightfully through Richmond and Barnes.

It may be all very neat and tidy now, but a brook constrained by straight lines isn’t the best habitat for wildlife. That’s because the straight channel doesn’t allow for any variation of flow and doesn’t leave much space for habitats.

But things are changing thanks to the team at Barnes Common who, with the help of an ever growing band of volunteers, is mussing up the Victorian vision and removing the old toe-boards that brought rigid structure to the river.

In their place they are creating ‘berms’ – raised, vegetated areas to divert the water, altering its flow.

Beverley Brook is now flowing along the gentle curves of the berms. Its flow has

also been altered in places by the installation of some large woody debris by the team of intrepid group of wader-clad volunteers.

If you'd like to become part of this project you can [find out more here](#).

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## Home of the brave



**T**he manager of the White Hart pub, Stuart Richards, has been given an award for his bravery in relation to an incident that took place at his previous pub, The Queen's Head in Kingston upon Thames.

The award which was made by the National Pub Watch charity (and presented by MP Sarah Olney) was for 'his bravery and selfless commitment in assisting police to prevent harm and apprehend a violent suspect without thought for his own safety.'

In July 2022 Stuart was on duty in The Queen's Head when he became aware of a domestic incident between a man and woman in the pub. Concerned that the woman might be in danger, he followed the couple when they left the pub.

He then called the police to guide them to the location but before they arrived, the man attempted to hit the woman and Stuart stepped in to prevent her being injured. When the police got to the scene the man struck a female officer in the face.

Without hesitation or thought for his own safety, Stuart stepped in and assisted in restraining and apprehending the suspect until further assistance arrived. The police say that Stuart showed bravery and selflessness in helping detain a

violent suspect as well as stopping more officers being assaulted.

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## New bus lane for Putney Bridge



Picture: Andrew Wilson

**W**andsworth Council has announced that it's about to start work on a new road layout on Putney Bridge.

The installation of a new northbound bus lane will, says the council, 'remove a traffic bottleneck, improve bus reliability times and increase safety for cyclists'.

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## Rector to leave St Mary's





**T**he Reverend Richard Hutchings is to leave his post at St Mary’s in order to spend more time caring for his wife Alice who was diagnosed with Parkinson’s soon after the couple moved to Barnes in 2019. His final Sunday as incumbent will be Sunday July 7. A new rector is not expected to be in place until early 2025.

In an email to his parishioners, he said ***“It has been an immense privilege to serve you over the past five years. Barnes really is a special place to live. I look forward to thanking so many people who have been partners in my ministry, and given so much support to Alice, me and our family.”***

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## Kettle gone kaput?



**H**as your kettle gone kaput? Hair straighteners had it? Good news, there's now no need to book a trip to the tip as Richmond Council has introduced new kerbside collections for small electrical items.

Funded by Material Focus, the not-for-profit organisation leading the Recycle Your Electricals campaign, the new scheme will also see twenty new bright pink small electrical recycling banks installed across the borough (ours is on Lonsdale Road opposite Windermere Court).

Households that currently receive kerbside recycling collections can now easily recycle small electrical items from home. Simply present used, broken and unwanted small electrical items next to your weekly mixed container (black box) collections, in a standard-size, open carrier bag.

Anything with a plug, battery or cable up to the size of a two-slice toaster can be recycled and turned into something new through this scheme.

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## A swift solution



**W**e've been contacted by a bird loving reader who wants to encourage Bugle subscribers to help our local endangered swifts who return to Barnes every year in mid-April after an exhausting 5,000km journey.

Barbara Cartmel says ***“Sadly in recent years many of their nests n Barnes have been destroyed by renovations but some roads in Barnes***

*are slowly rebuilding small colonies and the young born here last year will also need to nest to start their own families and it would help them incredibly if Barnes families could put up a swift box or boxes to help them establish themselves. There are several designs to suit many different tastes but this box in particular helps support the RSPB (incidentally swifts are very clean and you won't see any droppings)."*

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## Gardening course for the over 55s



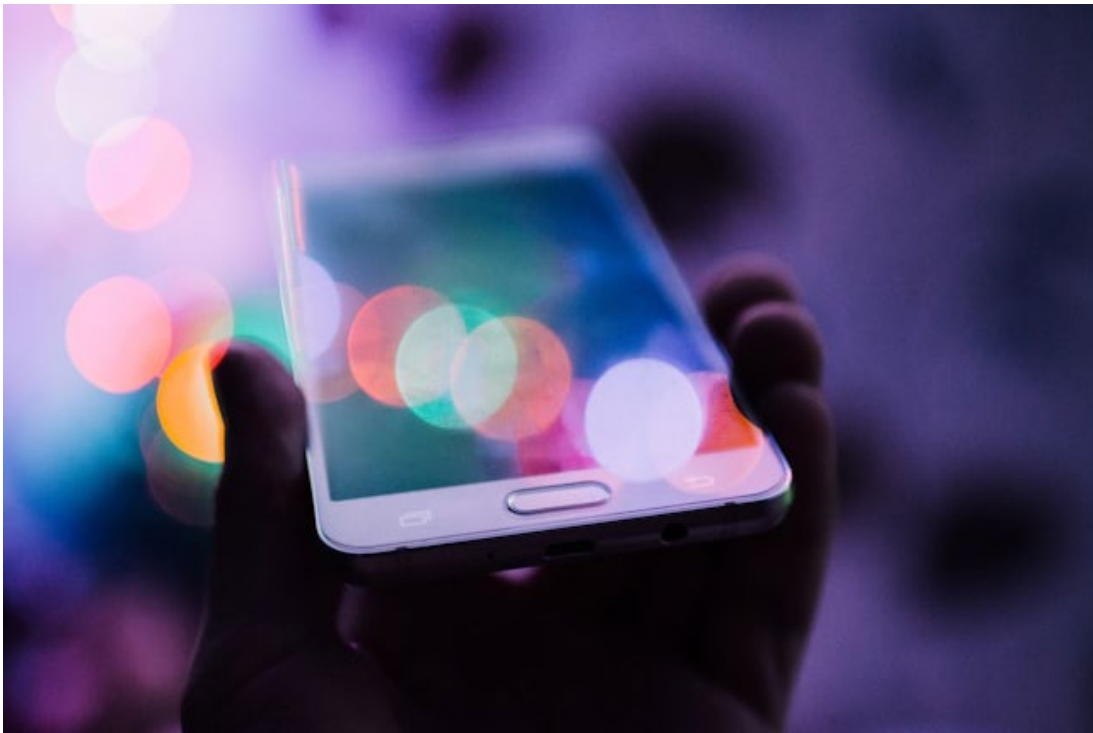
**A**re you over 55 and interested in improving your gardening skills? Well, you're in luck as Age Concern Barnes are starting a new gardening course this month run in conjunction with the team at Barnes Common. The course will be held in a beautifully maintained community garden and will involve practical gardening tasks with time to chat in a friendly group.

Areas covered will be caring for seedlings, regenerative growing, soil health & composting, companion planting and much more.

You can [find out more here](#).

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## Get smarter with your smartphone



If you're anything but a 'digital native' and you think you're not getting the most out of your smart phone, help is on hand in the form of a course run by the BCA in conjunction with the Connect More programme. You can find out more and [register here](#).

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## Bugle Classifieds



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## What's on in April?

Check out our guide to What's On in Barnes over the next 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

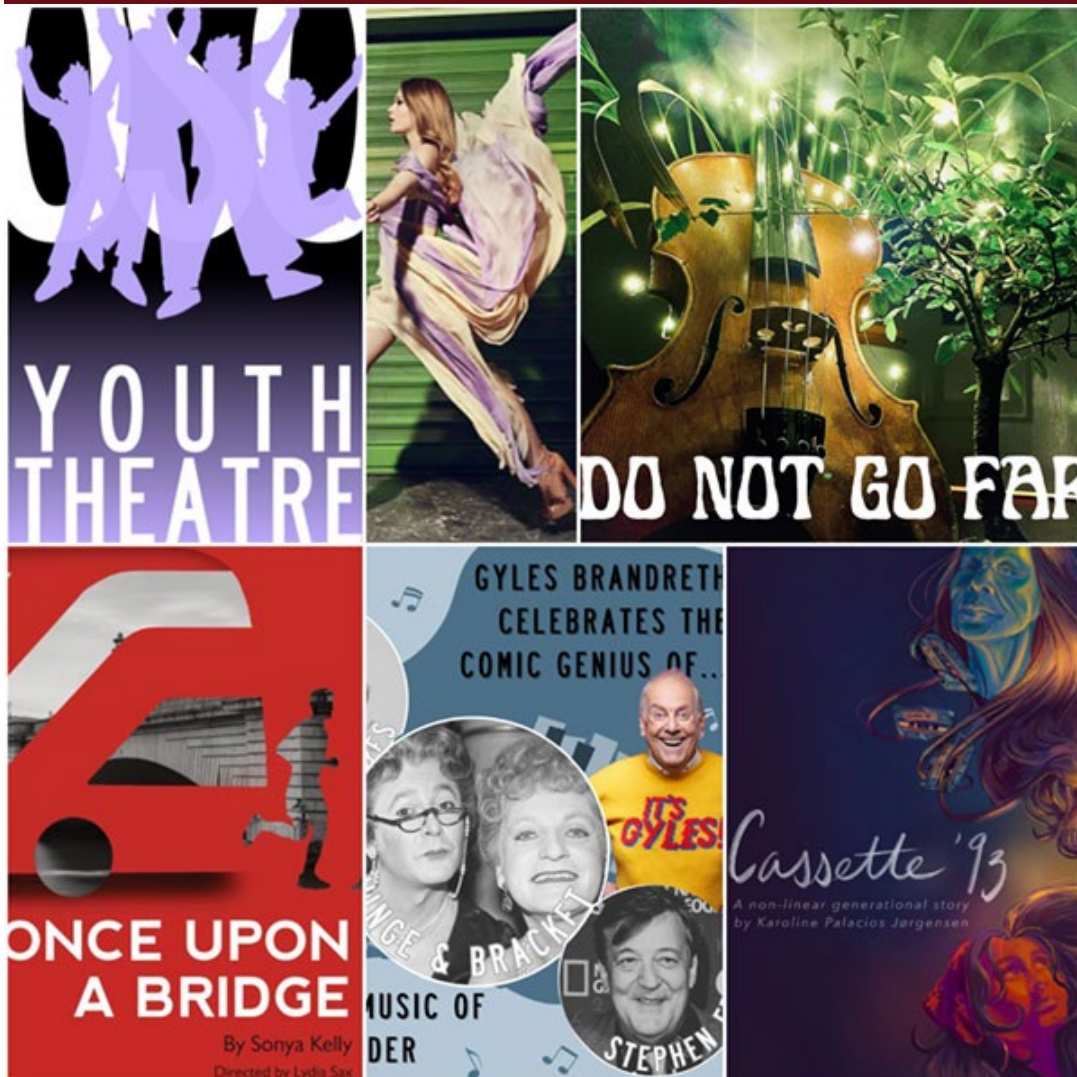


How should we describe what's on at the Olympic this month? A mish mash? A smorgasbord? It's usually not the time of year when big hitting films tend to be released (apart from sci-fi behemoth, **Dune**) so you would expect the bill to be a mixture of films that did well in awards season this year (**Zone of Interest**, **The Holdovers**) great foreign films (Matteo Garrone's **Io Capitano** and Wim Wenders' **Perfect Days**) and crowd-pleasers (**Wicked Little Lies**). But actually there are two very talked about movies released this April that sound intriguing. No reviews yet exist for **Back to Black**, the Amy Winehouse biopic, but even the trailer has caused so much controversy that newspapers are publishing think pieces about it. There are some early reviews for **Civil War** from English director Alex Garland and they're good. It's set in an America in which a President has torn up the rule book and is being installed for a third term. The premise is that the country descends into chaos after both Texas and California secede the Union. The story, however, revolves around journalism, not politics, and the protagonists are a writer and a photographer chasing a scoop interview with the President. It seems to be a mix of ultra-violent, car chase, shoot-em-up action and thoughtful analysis of the importance of journalism. Elsewhere on the schedule, there are movies for kids (it's Easter holidays) - **Kung Fu Panda**, and for kids and adults together - the gorgeously witty and

tender **Robot Dreams**.

The arts strand of the Olympic's programming is really strong this month too with screenings of **Vanya** and **The Motive and the Cue**, an exhibition on screen - the RA's Monet to Matisse juggernaut, **Painting the Modern Garden** and a swoon-worthy performance of **Swan Lake** at the Royal Opera House. So, not so much a mish mash then, more a a box of delights.

## See the shows at The OSO



It's all getting pretty dramatic at the OSO this month with two new plays courtesy of the arts centre's own talented in-house team.

Karoline Palacios Jørgensen, who is a familiar face to users of the OSO café, will see her debut play, Cassette '93, performed. Its plot straddles countries, (the UK and Colombia), generations, and decades too, with a story that takes you from the 1990s to the present day. The title refers to the discovery of cassette tapes by a young girl that reveal family secrets and also to nostalgia for 1990s music.

Meanwhile, the venue's artistic director Lydia Sax will be rolling up her sleeves to direct a play that's close to home for all of us. Once Upon a Bridge is based on the 2017 incident of a woman who was pushed into the path of an oncoming bus on Putney Bridge by a jogger who failed to stop.

Elsewhere on the schedule, the new OSO Youth Theatre Group will be passing on



theatre skills in workshops aimed at children from 5 to 11. And proving that theatre is for anyone of any age there will be a very special performance directed by an acclaimed TV writer and director who is still working in his 90s. John Gorrie started his professional life as an actor and then had a stellar career at the BBC where he directed everything from Doctor Who to Shakespeare. He will be performing a rehearsed reading of The Road to Popinjay, a story with its origins in the battle of the Somme. *A retired general is writing his memoirs receives an unexpected visit from a private who in the process of deserting stumbled upon an incident that could destroy the general's life...*

Lightening the mood, as he always does, Barnes' own Gyles Brandreth is narrating what sounds like a very jolly show celebrating the music and lyrics of performers including Pam Ayres, Hinge and Bracket and Stephen Fry. The show is a collaboration with composer Louis Mander and will feature a trio of singers accompanied by Louis on the piano.

Finally the OSO will be collaborating with the talented students and teachers at St Mary's University in Twickenham who will round up the month with a musical poetry recital, a performance of the play Proof and a modern reimagining of Chekhov's masterpiece The Three Sisters.

## Wetland wonders



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

### **FOR KIDS**

#### **Friday Froglets, from April 19 to May 24**

Friday Froglets is a great experience for little ones who can play in nature, learn new songs, make nature crafts and then finish their play sessions with quiet time around a fire.

*[More info here.](#)*

## FOR ADULTS

### **Bat Walk - Thursdays from April 18 to May 9**

The Wetland Centre is one of the best places to watch bats in London as there are seven species that hunt on site. The bat walks give you the opportunity to see these amazing flying mammals and their astonishing aerial acrobatics, guided by one of the Centre's bat experts.

Bat detectors are supplied to help you identify the species that are swooping around and to allow you to listen to them 'chattering' as they hunt for food.

*[More info here.](#)*

### **The Dawn Chorus, from 5.30am Sunday April 21**

It's interesting how we identify our nocturnal habits with bird metaphors. For example 'Are you a lark or an owl?' If you're an owl you may be better off with the Bat Walk above but if you are a happy lark you can greet the morning at 5am and head off to the Wetland Centre to experience the wonderful cacophony of the dawn chorus. In this special experience you'll be in the hands of expert guides who will help you identify the bird song you hear as you watch the sun rise over the beautiful wetland lakes. At the end of the walk you'll enjoy a hot drink and breakfast which is included in the cost of the tour.

*[More info here.](#)*

## Music at The Bull's Head

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



Friday April 19  
**The Art Themen Quartet**  
An 'A' list ensemble of three of Britain's finest jazz musicians, saxophonist Art

Friday April 26  
**Joni's Soul**  
A celebration of Joni Mitchell by singer Gina Foster and long-time Van Morrison guitarist Ronnie Johnson. Look

Thursday May 2  
**Zena James Jazz Groove Quartet**  
Soulful singer Zena James is inspired as much by 70s soul as by the jazz greats, expect



Themen is joined by pianist Robin Aspland and bassist Tim Wells.

[More info](#)

out for Gina's gorgeous version of Both Sides Now.

[More info](#)

groovy arrangements of jazz standards and self-penned originals.

[More info](#)

## Talking the talk



**Tuesday, April 16, 8pm, St Mary's, Barnes**

**Barnes Literary Society: Diana Evans, A House for Alice**

Diana Evans, the winner of the inaugural Orange Award for new writers, is the author of the novels 26a, The Wonder and Ordinary People.

She'll be at the next Literary Society event talking about her latest novel A House for Alice. The protagonist Alice wants to return to Nigeria from London to live out her final years but her desire to move is met with both support and opposition from her three children. The novel explores how the impact of a momentous decision can threaten the stability of a family long thought to have been close-knit.

[Find out more here.](#)



**Thursday, April 18, 7.30pm  
St Mary's, Barnes. The 18th**

**century royal kitchens at Kew**

When Queen Charlotte died at Kew Palace in 1818, the Royal Kitchens were locked and used for storage for the next two centuries. A restoration project was completed in 2011 and Lee Prosser will explain how the kitchens were brought back to life, and what they can tell us about the food and drink at Kew Palace.

[Find out more here.](#)

**Tuesday, April 23, 7.30pm  
The OSO**

**Barnes Philosophy Club: Why  
Delusions Matter**

Delusions can be both the product of mental health issues and everyday beliefs in which people believe in phenomena for which there is no proof, think QAnon for example. Professor Lisa Bortolotti looks at the benefits and downsides of everyday delusions in her talk,

[Find out more here.](#)

## Classical concerts



**Thursday, April 11, 7.30pm  
St Mary's Barnes**

**Daniel Lehardt, Piano**

In 2014 Daniel Lehardt won first prize at the Young Concert Artists International auditions in Paris and New York. A year later he was invited to record music by Bartók for Decca and in 2016 won the "Geoffrey Tozer Most Promising Pianist" prize at the Sydney International Competition. He's one of the most exciting young pianists playing today and in his programme for the Barnes Music Society Concert he'll be performing Bach (Tocatta in C Minor) Beethoven (Sonata 21), Brahms (3 Intermezzi) and Rachmaninov (Sonata 2).

## 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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