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The Barnes Village Bugle



Masthead image: [Andrew Childs](#)

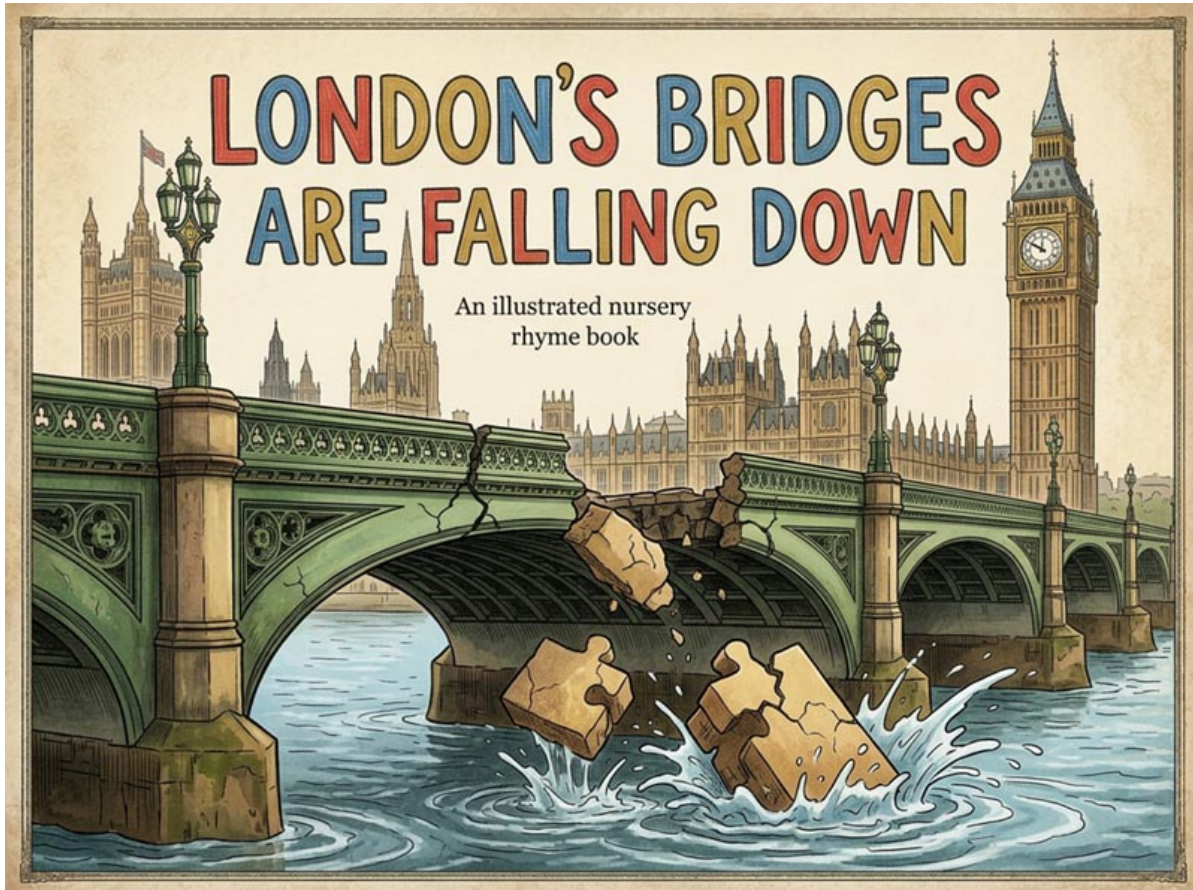
May 13, 2026

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Three more bridges on "critical" list says The Times



Westminster, Lambeth and Vauxhall bridges, all of which are owned by Transport for London, have been classified as in ‘very poor’ condition due to issues with their essential load-bearing components..

An investigation by The Times has revealed that, despite scoring poorly in their health checks, none of the bridges above are under immediate threat of closure. However, it opens up the possibility that funds which could have been allocated to repair Hammersmith Bridge might be needed elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the website [Putney News](#) has revealed that Putney Bridge has also scored poorly on the Bridge Condition Indicator (BCI) scale. The BCI scale measures the load-bearing elements of a bridge. The national threshold for intervention is 40 — below that, the inspection manual says action is required. The website revealed that at the last inspection of Putney Bridge in December 2023 it scored 28. In comparison to the bridges mentioned in The Times' report, Putney Bridge is in a worse condition than Westminster Bridge (31), but better than Lambeth Bridge (23) and Vauxhall (22.2).

This news has put the spotlight back on the uncoordinated way London’s bridges are managed. TfL owns some, local councils own others, and Tower Bridge is maintained by the City Bridge Foundation, which holds almost £1.5 billion in reserves.

With both Hammersmith and Albert Bridges currently closed to traffic, and local councils seemingly lacking the funds to properly maintain the bridges they own, Putney MP Fleur Anderson is calling for a major review of bridge ownership in London. Addressing a parliamentary debate, Anderson said: ***“These strategic assets should sit under a single authority with responsibility for maintenance, repairs and long-term investment. They should be taken out of the responsibility of local councils and put in the responsibility of one single body.”***

Could Wandsworth and Richmond Councils be asked to contribute to Hammersmith Bridge's repair?



The work to make Hammersmith Bridge safe for pedestrians and cyclists has cost £67 million (£50 million from Hammersmith and Fulham Council and £17 million from the government) so far, and even maintaining the status quo will require further funding.

Back in 2023, a technical director at engineering firm COWI told the Bugle that the structure supporting the bridge's deck was nearing the end of its usable life.

We also understand that work still needs to be done on the anchor chains that support the bridge. At present, the weight limit for the bridge is 1.5 tonnes, and local campaigners, Hammersmith Bridge SOS, say that even if the bridge is never fully repaired, more repairs are needed before driverless pods could be used to provide a vehicular transport for the elderly and disabled.

Where is the money for repairs going to come from?

Until recently, the only plan on the table was one proposed by the previous Conservative government—a three-way funding split between Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Transport for London and the Department for Transport.

This stipulation has been one of the reasons nothing has happened for seven years, as Hammersmith & Fulham Council could only raise its share of the money

by charging a toll on bridge traffic, and could only begin borrowing against that future income once the government confirmed its share of funding.

Now it seems the new Labour administration is open to changing this funding formula. In a [parliamentary debate](#) last month, Transport Minister Simon Lightwood said "***there are no plans to specify a minimum level of contribution***" potentially taking Hammersmith Council off the hook for the full one third share of £83million. However, he made it clear that if the government were to provide funding for Hammersmith Bridge from its £1 billion Structures Fund, it would not fully fund the bridge's repair and would expect others to contribute.

This has led to speculation that Wandsworth and Richmond Councils might be asked to contribute, as this article in [Putney News](#) outlines.

Another stumbling block for those interested in a repair that would allow buses to cross the bridge again is the lack of clarity around the plan for repairing it. In this [interesting interview](#) with Nigel Edwards of [Hammersmith Bridge SOS](#) the local campaigner says he's not sure that Hammersmith & Fulham Council's [preferred solution](#) - proposed by architects Foster & Partners and engineers Cowi - is even viable.

What happens next?

Hammersmith and Fulham Council will need to apply for a portion of the Structures Fund. The final deadline for applications is 3 August, but draft submissions are expected by 19 June. Funding allocations will be announced in autumn 2026, and all successful schemes must be completed by the end of March 2030.

Once the funding application has been made, the Hammersmith Bridge Task Force will meet again.

Great expectations





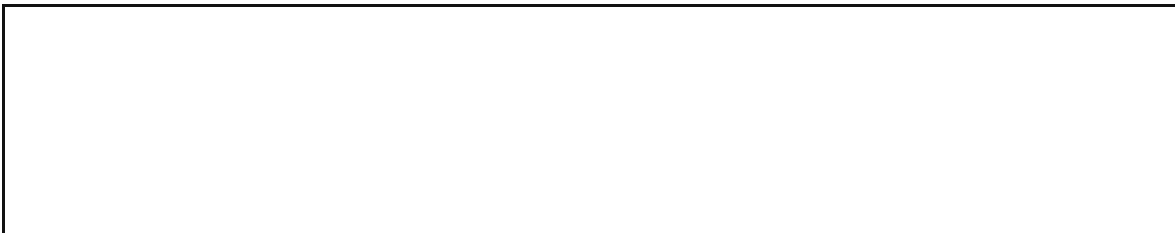
Image: Alasdair Arthur

Even though the Bugle is fashionably late this month, it's not late enough to capture the arrival of what we hope will be new batch of cygnets. Our female swan is still sitting patiently on her nest after an epic tale of romance has left her on the Barnes pond island waiting for her brood to hatch.

Our pen has been both lucky and unlucky in love. Unlucky, because she has lost two mates - both very sadly to bird flu - but lucky and plucky too, as in each case she has decided that pining for her late partners won't bring her the new cygnets that her biological imperative demands.

While the Bugle was away on holiday we missed all the excitement of our female swan bringing back the new mate that she had met at the speed dating venue that is the swan colony at Small Profits Dock.

Since she got together with her new bloke she has been sitting on her nest on the pond for quite a few weeks. The splisher-splatter of tiny webbed feet is imminent so do keep an eye out next time you are by the pond and definitely follow [The Barns Pond instagram feed](#), which is the top spot for swan news.



Winkworth

for every step

London's largest
estate agent with
over 60 offices

Forest bikes gets exclusive contract in Richmond



A decision to ban Lime bikes from Richmond in favour of a contract with

rival operator Forest has many Barnes residents up in arms.

The decision by Richmond Council, made in March, means that from a date yet to be confirmed this summer, people will no longer be able to pick up a Lime bike from Hammersmith Tube station and ride home to Barnes.

Since Forest bikes also operate in Hammersmith, e-bike travel between the two boroughs will still be possible. However, those opposing the decision say the change will significantly reduce the availability of hire bikes for people wanting to cross the river.

Press reports say that the deal will leave the council financially better off after Forest outbid Lime for the contract. The council also said they were more impressed for Forest's proposals regarding bike security and anti-social parking. Those opposing the change cite issues with the lack of public liability insurance on Forest bikes and accuse the council of short-sightedness. ***"It seems to view rental bikes as an income stream it can milk rather than an incredibly valuable service to its rate payers - especially those in Barnes"*** says one objector.

Over 1700 people have now signed a petition opposing the change, but Richmond Council appears unmoved. The council is finalising details and publicising changes ahead of a rollout, with Forest expanding its fleet to 750 bikes borough-wide. Lime bikes will cease hire/parking in Richmond once the change comes about, but pass-through riding may continue.

Winkworth
for every step

This month's featured property

Grade II listed historic property

Heart of the village location

Five bedrooms

Media room, gym & bar

Large garden plus off-street parking

Station Road, SW13

£6,950,000

A sea of orange



The Liberal Democrats achieved an historic clean sweep in last week's council elections unseating 5 Green councillors to take all 54 seats available.

In a result that some commentators have described as ironic for a party that has been an advocate of proportional representation, the Lib Dems achieved this with a 51.5% share of the vote on a 50.8 % turnout.

Voting reform campaigner David Green has been quoted as saying "The Liberal Democrats are long-standing supporters of voting reform so should use what has happened in Richmond to highlight the fact that they have won far more seats than their support warranted."

This remarkable situation - Richmond is the only council in England with no opposition in the council chamber - has attracted considerable media coverage. The Guardian described Richmond as "The People's Republic of Richmond upon Thames' and one Twitter wag said it was 'like North Korea, but with canapés'.

Council Leader Gareth Roberts called winning all 54 seats ***“a historic result”*** and stressed that the victory came from focusing on local issues such as crime, the cost of living, and affordable housing, he added that the party would ***“govern for all Richmond residents, not just the ones who voted for us.”***

No arrests yet after March stabbing in Barnes



The Bugle understands that no suspects have yet been detained in relation to the second stabbing to happen in Barnes in two years. Onlookers were shocked to see police and ambulances gather on Church Road near Nassau Road on the busy Saturday morning of March 14 after a young man was stabbed in the leg.

Witnesses commenting on the NextDoor app said that passers-by stopped to give first aid with one using a sweater as a tourniquet.

The victim was taken to hospital for surgery and is reported to have later contacted one of the first aiders from his hospital bed to say thank you.



Thameside Tennis Club

Open Day

Sunday May 31st



Drop in from 11.30am to 3.30pm

Bring your racket with you and mix with existing members or join the free adult group coaching session at 1.00pm

- Competitive membership rates
- Free adult group coaching for members
- Friendly and welcoming
- Six all weather carpet courts
- All standards welcome
- Family membership packages available
- No joining fee if you sign up on the open day

Email us to book your place

thamesidetennis.co.uk

St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road,
Barnes, SW13 9JT

From Open Gardens to Open Air Festivals, Barnes is Blooming in May and June



There's no excuse to sit indoors watching Netflix now that the early summer festival season is upon us. Barnes is offering up a feast for the senses this May and June. There's music, theatre, literature and art to be enjoyed, not to mention the wonderful scents of the Fragrance Fair, and a chance to get a sneak peek behind the gates of some of Barnes's most beautiful gardens.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Barnes Fragrance Fair
Saturday May 16

The Barnes Fragrance Fair has been described as a village fête crossed with a sophisticated gathering of some of the UK's most exciting perfume makers.

If you love beautiful scents, it's the chance to try and buy some wonderful artisan perfumes. And if you want to find out more about how fragrances are made or what the trends are in the world of fragrance, there are talks and workshops to give you the inside track. The organisers say their aim is to delight the senses, and there are some whimsical touches like a scented walk between the fair's two fragrance halls, in which over 40 exhibitors will be showing their wares.

[Find out more](#)



Fireside Folktales Fringe Theatre
Festival
Saturday May 16 to Sunday May 23

Here's a great event for all theatre lovers - a weekend of intimate theatre and music featuring original short plays.

The Fireside Folktales Theatre Company specialises in performances of myths and classic stories including Aesop's Fables, Daedalus & Icarus and Macbeth.

The festival offers family-friendly events and atmospheric, thought-provoking performances for adults. Alongside a programme of visiting theatre companies and local artists, audiences can take part in hands-on experiences including stage combat (sword fighting) and prop-making sessions.

[Find out more](#)



Barnes Open Gardens
Sunday May 31

If you're looking for garden inspiration, there's no lovelier way than visiting beautiful nearby gardens. Local gardeners face the same soil and weather conditions you do, so you'll see ideas that really work. Over 20 gardens in Barnes are taking part this year to raise funds for FiSH, making it a great day out. There's a Pimm's tent, cream teas and a very special display of plants from this year's Chelsea Flower Show, and, even better, these plants will be for sale. See the story further down the page for more info.

[Find out more](#)



BCA/OSO Outdoor Stage
Saturday June 6

To celebrate the start of summer Barnes Green is being transformed into a glorious festival space complete with BBQ, bar and great entertainment. Enjoy tribute acts The Backbeat Beatles and David Live - a 'refined and honest' tribute to David Bowie. David Live has been performing for over 15 years and is considered the favourite amongst true aficionados. Between hit singles the band squeezes in rare deep cuts for the Bowie faithful. You can book for both events separately or buy a day pass. There are discounts on offer for BCA and OSO members.

[Find out more](#)

BARNES ARTISTS

Open Studios Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June



Explore the work of 38 local artists at 17 studios/venues across Barnes
FREE ADMISSION

**Barnes Artists Open Studios
Saturday June 6 & Sunday June 7**

Nearly 40 local artists are showing work across 17 studios, homes and venues at the start of June. The event, organised by Barnes Artists is themed “From the Garden”, and is being staged in partnership with FiSH Open Gardens. It will be the first independent Open Studios in the area since 2005.

It’s a brilliant opportunity to see local artists in their own studios and buy directly from them. Works on show include paintings, prints, photography, ceramics, sculpture and stained glass. There will also be complimentary drinks and painting demos upstairs at The Crossing pub.

[See the trail map](#)



**London Children's Literature
Festival, Sat June 27 & Sun June 28**

Our local children's literature festival has now grown so big that this year it has been rebranded as The London Children's Literature Festival. The two-day event held at venues in and around Barnes Green will feature authors and illustrators including Michael Rosen, Liz Pichon, 'Horrible' historian Greg Jenner, Gruffalo artist Axel Scheffler, and the creator of Charlie and Lola, Lauren Child. They'll be joined by famous faces including actor Michael Sheen, Paddington star Hugh Bonneville, comedian Alexander Armstrong and Edinburgh Comedy Award winner Russell Kane.

[Find out more](#)

ADVERTORIAL

Don't miss the Barnes Fragrance Fair

Saturday, May 16th, Barnes Green
9.30am - 5.00pm



**Two fragrance halls
A scented walk
Talks, walks & workshops**

When fragrance expert Amanda Carr came up with the idea of hosting a Fragrance Fair in Barnes in 2023, she had no idea how popular it would be.

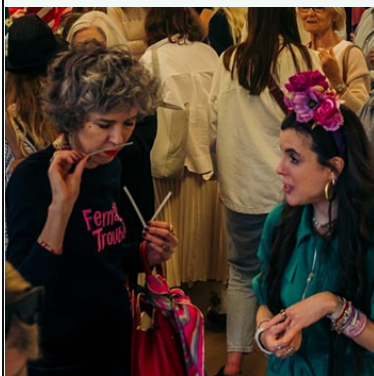
It's the first event of its kind in the UK and last year two thousand people came to enjoy it - some flying in from across the world.

All of which means we are hugely lucky to have the fair on our doorstep. It's a beautiful way to discover under-the-radar independent brands with exciting scents and to find out more about how artisan perfumers concoct beautiful fragrances.

What's New This Year?

Because the event has proved so popular there are now two fragrance halls one in the Barnes Green Centre and one in the Barnes Methodist Church and linking the two will be a beautiful sensory experience - a scented walk.

The Fragrance Brand Halls



There are now two spaces (Barnes Green Centre and Barnes Methodist Church on the Green) where you can discover a dizzying array of delicious scents from some very exciting artisan perfumers. This means there's more space to stop and talk and to try new things.

The Scented Walk



Between the fragrance halls you will find a Scented Walk. Eight scent booths, where you push a button and get a spritz of fragrance, will line the path. If it rains there are scented umbrellas to help you move between one location and another without getting wet.

An Orange Pekoe Pop Up



As a special treat, Orange Pekoe is providing the teas, coffees and scented scones at The Barnes Green Centre. So it's not just in the perfumes that you can experience the aroma of citrus and bergamot - they are also present in Pekoe's award-winning teas.

Talks & Workshops

Walks



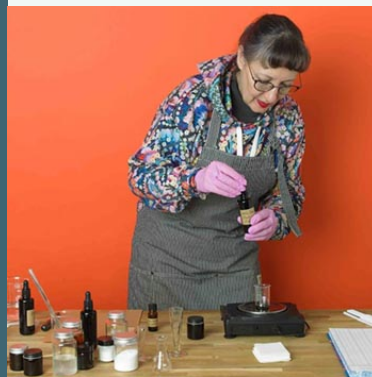
Perfume collector and fragrance historian Olga Petrouchenko has created a beautiful scented walk

Talks



The talks programme at the fair is place to hear expert insight, discover new ideas and meet the

Workshops



If you have ever wondered how scents are created, master perfumer Christian Canali will take you on a

around the streets and leafy spaces of Barnes. Along the way, she will share carefully selected perfumes whose evocative scents will enhance the beauty of our historical buildings and lush green spaces, to help you to discover their hidden character.

people shaping modern perfumery. It brings together some of the best-known names in fragrance and beauty, including Josephine Fairley Alice du Parcq, Suzy Nightingale, and Haydn Williams. Talks are ticketed, with a small fee, and attendees receive a goody bag of fragrance samples.

guided journey from raw material to finished fragrance in a talk where you'll get to experience raw materials and finished scents. Sarah McCartney will be getting even more hands on in a workshop that will allow you to customise a bespoke skin scent base to make a 10ml fragrance to take away.

...and there's a raffle

Imagine receiving a glorious hamper of beautiful perfumes, scented candles and other fragrant treats, or how about tickets to the Olympic? Well, that's just what might happen if you are lucky enough to buy one of the winning raffle tickets on the day.

Barnes Fragrance Fair is free to attend. There's just a small charge for any walks, talks or workshop you want to join.

[Click here for event times and booking](#)

www.barnesfragrancefair.com

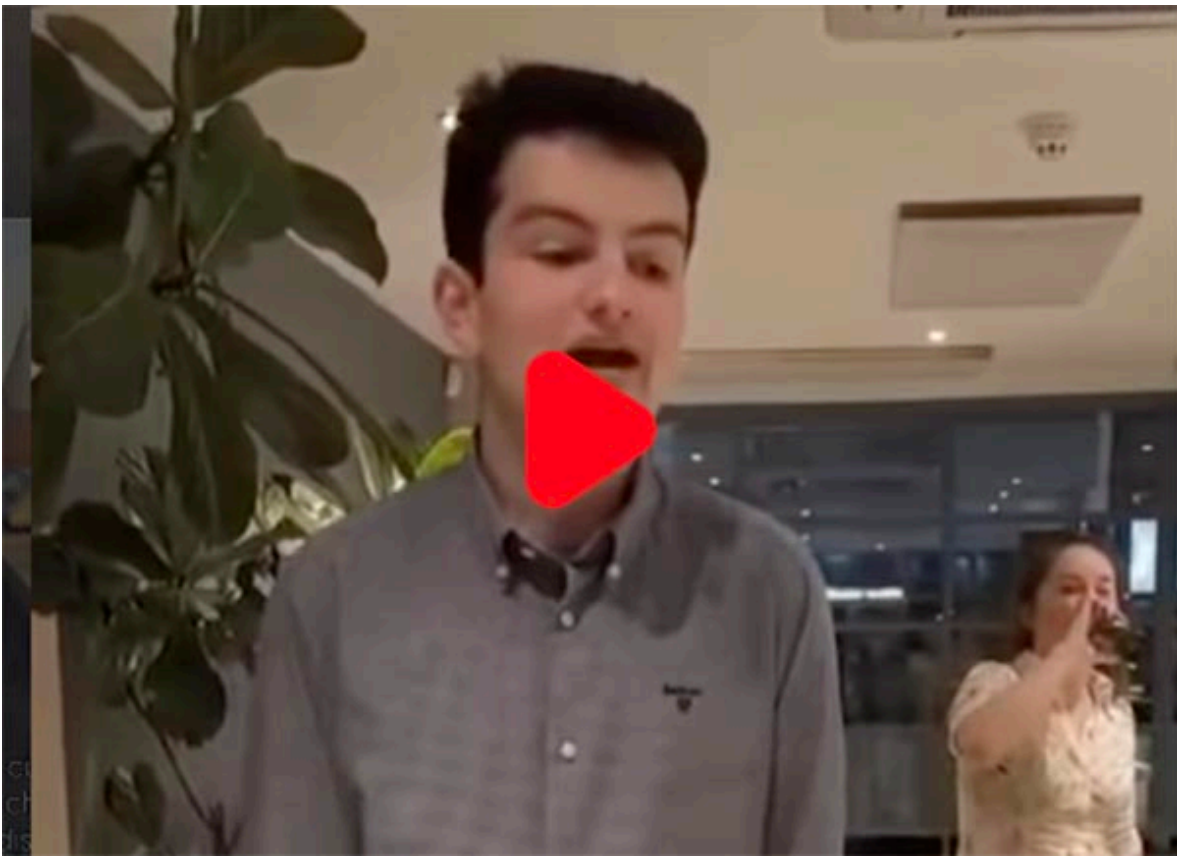
**New date for Barnes Pond market
in June, and some stall slots
available too...**



To make way for the Barnes Outdoor Stage featuring Beatles and Bowie tribute acts (see above), Simon Danciger, who organises the Barnes Pond Collectables Market, has rescheduled the market that was due to be held on Saturday, June 6. It will now take place on Saturday June 13.

Because a few of the regular stallholders are unable to make the new date, there are a some pitches available for anyone who would like to make a one-off appearance. Now might be the time to sell vintage clothes and textiles, original artwork, home items or excess seedlings. It's a great chance to sell your wares and meet some lovely people too. If you're interested, email Simon at barnesauctions@hotmail.com.

Barnes student goes viral with his uncanny Trump impression



Student Xandi Steele has two passions - politics and theatre - and a rare talent for mimicry. All of which makes his uncannily good Donald Trump impression the real deal.

While he's been the star of school musicals - Nicely Nicely Johnson in Guys & Dolls, Phantom in Phantom of the Opera - and took drama at A level, he currently he has his sights set on a career in international relations after he finishes his degree at St Andrews.

The Trump impression (see video above) is just one of Xandi's party tricks - he can also do Gordon Ramsay, King Charles and Kier Starmer - and he has honed his impressions by watching a lot of YouTube clips. However, it's Xandi's take on Trump that earned local restaurant Home SW13 a huge number of Instagram views last month.

Normally, a post from Home's very entertaining Instagram feed might attract 5,000 views but a thirty-second clip of Xandi's leaving speech (he's been working as a waiter there during his gap year) in the style of Trump has had 580,000 views and counting.

It has been seen across the world and received hundreds and likes with people commending his 'spot-on' impression.

Xandi says he's loved working at Home, saying that General Manager Alan Parry is the 'nicest guy' and that the team is great, so don't be surprised if he turns up as your waiter during university holidays. They say they'll welcome him back with open arms.

You can check out more of Xandi's Trump impressions on [his own Insta account](#) and be bowled over by his fantastic singing voice too.

Advertisement



Open Studios Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June

45 Lonsdale Road 1
David Walser

49 Lonsdale Road 2
Paul Wuensche

53 Castlenau 3
Roddy Roxby
Leo Roxby
Alice Mallorie

5 Galata Road 4
Lori Shaul
Alice Brooks

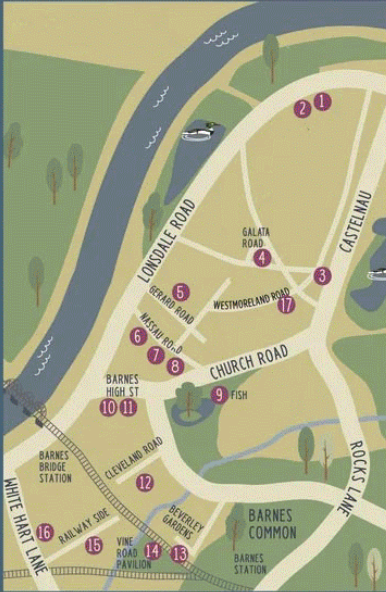
47 Gerard Road 5
Jeremy Frearson
Michelle Hawes
Ali Ergin

44 Nassau Road 6
Catriona Tamlyn
Heather Mackinlay
Helen Pettigrew
Lucy Lumsden

18 Nassau Road 7
Lilah Clarke

14 Nassau Road 8
Katie James
Bruce Houlder
Fran Howard

FISH, Barnes Green Centre, Church Road 9
Picassos in the Park



10 The Base, Liffords Place
Sue Pearce
David Pearce

11 2 Liffords Place
Clay Galeria Collective

12 28 Cleveland Road
Nichola de Klee
Annie Mitra

13 2 Beverley Gardens
Pookie Blezard
Sophia Bloxham
Judith Dobie

14 Vine Road Pavilion
Derek Pearce
Sara Vertigan
Belinda Shaw
Spike McIlarrity

15 55 Railway Side
Kitashi 'Ordinals & Runes'

**16 The Crossing Pub
73 White Hart Lane**
Jo Holland
Suzanne Lycett
Toby Messer
Sarah Dickinson

17 6 Westmoreland Road
Sarah Langman
Elizabeth Ford

Explore the work of 38 local artists at 17 studios/venues across Barnes

FREE ADMISSION

Click here to download studio map

Blooming marvellous



There's nothing lovelier than an early summer's day in Barnes, and the BCA is celebrating with a Barnes in Bloom event to coincide with the Chelsea Flower Show.

From 16–23 May, floral artwork will be on display at local flower shops and greengrocers across Barnes. The gorgeous pictures, all for sale, have been provided by Barnes Artists (who are also holding their own Open Studios in June).

That's not the only Chelsea Flower Show link. A stall at one of this year's Barnes Open Gardens will offer plants exhibited at Chelsea. You will find it in one of Barnes' largest private gardens—the St Michael's vicarage garden in Elm Bank Gardens—and it will feature flowers from Chelsea exhibitor - [Flowers from the Farm](#). This collective, which supports UK flower farmers, will be displaying a mini-flower-farm in the Great Pavilion. Last year the collective won a gold medal for their display so expect to be wowed!

This year, rather than being part of the traditional end-of-show sell-off, the entire exhibit will be moved to Barnes. Anyone with an [Open Gardens ticket](#) can buy

beautiful blooms from the display, including geums, ranunculus, orlaya, peonies and foxgloves. There's also a village fête-style plant sale of the vicarage's own seedlings.

All proceeds from the sale will go to FiSH, St Michael's Church and the brilliant Barnes Community Gardeners.

If you've been reading all of the above with mounting excitement it sounds like you might be a keen gardener yourself, and if you are, it might be time to give your front garden a little TLC (although the Bugle is sure it's lovely already). That's because, just about now, a bevy of volunteer judges are making their way around Barnes checking out front gardens and giving out coveted Front Garden Award certificates.

Finally, the BCA has launched a seed exchange box outside Rose House for green-fingered residents. Leave seeds you don't need and pick up donations from other generous gardeners. Enjoy!

Hello! I'm Jane
Your Professional Admin Assistant

Let me help

ABOUT JANE
A Barnes-based semi-retired professional who has spent many years as a senior PA and Event Director in the City and West End.

MY SERVICES

- Piles of paperwork
- Email management
- Utilities & online shopping
 - Booking tickets & appointments
- Computer and tablet support

My hourly rate is £25

CONTACT ME
07713 095698
janeR@protonmail.com

New director at the BCA



Town Centre Manager, Emma Robinson has stepped up to become the new Executive Director of the [Barnes Community Association](#).

Emma has been with the BCA for many years working to improve the quality of our local high streets, she has also been instrumental in launching important local projects like the Barnes Ponder.

In announcing her new role the BCA said ***"Throughout her time with the BCA, she has built strong relationships, played a key role in delivering priority local projects, and exemplified the values that underpin our work."***

Having grown within the charity, Emma brings not only a wealth of experience but also a strong sense of continuity and a clear understanding of our purpose and future direction."

Emma says ***"Barnes is a fantastic community and it is an honour to be able to serve it. We have plans for many projects that will improve community cohesiveness and everyone's lives, from small gestures like the new seed exchange outside Rose House to larger infrastructure plans like the new Barnes Hub website and the Men's Shed initiative. Watch this space..."***

Good sports



If the spring sunshine is making you think that it's time to get active, there are plenty of opportunities get moving—whether you're taking your first steps into fitness or thinking of taking on a major challenge.

Barnes Runners, is launching a new Couch to 5K group in June. It will take absolute beginners on a journey from the sofa to running 5 km in just a few weeks. The programme is built on a simple idea: gradual progress, steady encouragement, and plenty of camaraderie. Participants alternate between walking and running at first, slowly increasing their running time each week, making it accessible to all ages and fitness levels.

And it's not just adults who are getting the chance to get active. The junior arm of Barnes Runners has now kicked off its summer athletics sessions, offering inclusive training for children aged 6 to 16. Barnes Flyers meet at Barn Elms sports track every Sunday morning from 10:00am to 11:30am between April and September.

Running might not be for everyone—but that doesn't mean missing out on the

social side of sport. For those looking for something a little gentler, walking netball offers a fantastic alternative. It's a slower-paced version of the game, ideal for keeping active while enjoying teamwork and laughter along the way. More details, including how to get involved and support the cause, can be [found here](#).

And for those just starting out with Couch to 5K, who knows where these small beginnings can lead? This year's London Marathon saw many Barnes locals pounding the streets of East London. Shout out to Simon Danciger who ran his 25th London Marathon this year and also to [Chrissie Ely](#) who has raised nearly £5,000 for the charity Street Child.

One of the most personal Marathon stories is that of [Cameron Saunders](#) who ran in memory of his son Louis, who died last October at just 23.

“I ran my first marathon in 2014, and stopped running a few years ago, but started again after losing Louis as it helps me with my mental health,” Cameron says. “Louis was a wonderful young man, he was a writer, a law student, a hiker, a dodgeball player and also had an amazing sense of humour. During his second year at University he was diagnosed with ADHD, and took medication which he found very helpful, combined with therapy. However, he then moved to Paris for a year of his studies where he lost contact with many of his close university friends, and various medication changes combined with stress and anxiety set him on a downward spiral with his mental health. On returning home he sought help from the NHS and from private healthcare providers, but didn’t get the expert support he needed at the right time, which ultimately led to him taking his own life.”

Cameron chose to run in support of [James’ Place](#), a charity dedicated to preventing suicide. ***“I found out about James’ Place after Louis died and immediately wanted to do something to raise funds for them, so that other families don’t have to go through the pain of losing a loved one to suicide.”***

The reel deal





Scottish country dancing is having a moment, whether featured in shows like *Outlander* or *Bridgerton*, or because it links to the formal early 19th-century dancing that makes viewers swoon in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Whatever the reason, it's brilliant fun and a lo-fi way to escape doom-scrolling. It's no surprise, then, that a taster event offering Scottish reels on the green attracted around 20 people eager to learn dances like *The Dashing White Sergeant*.

The eccentric endeavour is the brainchild of dance fan (by night) and art consultant (by day) Beatrice Ridley. She's been organising a Scottish Ball at Kitson Hall for the past two years, and buoyed by its popularity, she's now offering reeling classes outdoors on Barnes Green.

Many might have been put off by the permissions needed to use the Green—from local authority forms to public liability insurance—but Beatrice was undaunted. So [bReel](#), as she's named it, has launched, with the next event on June 7 at 11am. Classes are free for first timers and £5 per week for those who sign up for further events.

Beatrice says the test event drew people aged 15 to 70, all enjoying the eclectic music. She likes to mix it up: some dances used traditional ceilidh tunes, while others worked surprisingly well to Bruno Mars's *Uptown Funk*. Who knew?

Orange Pekoe celebrates 20 years



Barnes's loveliest café, Orange Pekoe, is celebrating its 20th anniversary, making it the oldest café in Barnes.

It's instagrammable exterior has led to it being not just a local favourite but also a tourist destination in its own right. It's a mecca for lovers of great tea and even has its own online tea store.

Owner Marianna Hadjigeorgiou says ***"We are incredibly grateful to our customers and the Barnes community for supporting us over the past 20 years. It has been a joy to be apart of so many people's daily routines and special moments over the years. We look forward to welcoming everyone to celebrate with us"***.

A letter from Australia



Thanks to the wonder of email sending technology we get know to where people are reading the Bugle. Not surprisingly, most are in the UK but we also have unexpected readers in far flung places - 50 countries are listed from Italy to Bermuda. Some readers may well be in Barnes and just using a VPN that disguises their location, but others are genuinely reading about Barnes from the other side of the earth.

One such reader is veteran newspaper man Shane Nichols. Shane cut his teeth in Sydney as a journalist at some of Australia's most revered newspapers, but he had a happy coda to his career as the editor of The Port Douglas and Mossman Gazette.

Shane's UK-based brother Mel is also a distinguished journalist who happens to live in Barnes, which is how Shane came across The Bugle.

He very generously sent The Bugle what we think is the kindest email we've ever received, infused with the spirit of fellow feeling from local journalist to local journalist, signing off ***"Sally Forth Buglers it's one of the last fun jobs"***.

However, the parallels between Barnes and Port Douglas are few and far between. Shane says that the gamut of stories he covered ran from ***"new park benches and toilets to shark attacks (2), helicopter crashes (3),***

crocodile fatalities (2), cyclones (3), boats on fire, train derailments, drug raids, murders (2), kidnapping (1), monarchs (the king x 1), Chinese intrigue and infiltration, Russians, bikies, billionaires and boats, (and) Vietnamese boat people swimming croc infested rivers". He says he *"always kept the camera in my car, along with two spare batteries and a defensive weapon".*

When we replied saying that Barnes was much more pedestrian, he gave us some sage advice *"I suggest you may become a bit more active in this. Perhaps burn something down, rob the bank (or at least the Italian grocer), or find a body in the duck pond where you are handily first on the scene with your camera."* So if any of these things do happen you know who the culprit might be and who may have spurred them on...

Benjamin at
Grosvenor Garage

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Three great volunteering
opportunities



Whatever your skills or interests there's a volunteer role that's just perfect for you, which is good news because people who volunteer report higher life satisfaction, happiness and wellbeing compared to non-volunteers.

This month there are three great organisations looking for volunteers, and we're keeping our fingers crossed that some interested Bugle readers who are looking to give something back will hold their hands up to help.

The Bike Sale

The annual bike sale at St Mary's is a lean, mean charity fundraising machine, fuelled entirely by the work of an enthusiastic team of volunteers. This year's sale will be held on Saturday September 12 and the team will be taking in bikes for sale from August onwards.

Joining the bike sale team is a great way to get involved in a successful community event and they would love to meet any new volunteers especially admin angels. They'll be having a kick off session for all volunteers at the Red Lion on June 18 and newbies will be welcomed with open arms. If you can help repair bikes, brilliant, if you can keep track of all the donated bikes, amazing, but if you could do some videography/photography for social media you would have their undying gratitude. If you think you might be interested please email bikes@stmarybarnes.org

The OSO

Meanwhile the OSO is looking for an experienced Fundraising Trustee to join its board. They are looking for someone who can bring strong fundraising insight, sound strategic judgement, and an active interest in helping a growing arts charity strengthen its income base. For more info please contact sue@osoarts.org.uk or sharon@osoarts.org.uk.

Kingston & Richmond NHS Foundation Trust

Could you spare just three hours a week to make a difference? Our local hospital trust is looking for compassionate and enthusiastic volunteers to support patients, carers and staff. They are currently recruiting for Dining Companions, Dementia Volunteers, Gardening Volunteers and Care Support volunteers. If you are interested email krft.volunteering@nhs.net or call 020 8934 2549.

With love from the Roehampton Club



Our brilliant local charity FiSH has just received a whopping donation as a result of some extraordinary fundraising efforts by the members of The Roehampton Club.

The Club adopted FiSH as its official charity partner for 2025 and raised the funds through a series of events last year.

Golf captains Claire Martin and Justin Thesiger lead the effort with the club's golfers, officials and committee contributing significantly. FiSH says that this amazing achievement will make a real difference to FiSH members.

Jane Lee crowned Barnes Young Musician of the Year



Sixteen-year-old violinist Jane Lee (pictured above with violinist Tamsin Little) has won the prestigious Barnes Young Musician of the Year 2026.

A Music Scholar at St Paul's Girls' School, Jane studies with Professor Viktoria

Grigoreva at the Royal College of Music.

Jane has also built an impressive international profile, including reaching the semi-finals of the Dvořák International Competition (broadcast on Czech Radio), becoming a finalist in the 2025 Aleksey Gorokhov International Violin Competition in Portugal, and performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto in a masterclass at the Juilliard School in New York.

Despite these achievements, her Barnes win holds particular meaning:

“Becoming the 2026 Barnes Young Musician of the Year is something really quite symbolic,” she says. “I’ve won other competitions around the world, but Barnes has always been special to me. It feels like home. I entered five times, and finally I won – it shows that perseverance always pays.”

A fond farewell to Bishop Richard Harries



The extraordinary Bishop Richard Harries died last month after a short illness and will be very much missed by the congregation of St Mary's Barnes, but

also by his many listeners on Radio 4 where he was a regular contributor to Thought for Today.

His obituaries revealed a life very well lived. He was a man of great erudition and principle and it is those liberal principles particularly in his support for gay partnerships that may, according to some commentators, have cost him the job of Archbishop of Canterbury.

Bishop Harries moved to Barnes after retiring as the Bishop of Oxford and became very involved in his local church. The Rector of St Mary's Calum Zuckert said ***"We will miss him dearly as a preacher, teacher and friend."***

His colleague on the today programme Amol Rajan penned the most tender of obituaries saying ***"Oh Lord. It is with such sadness that we have learned of the death of a wonderful friend; a man of faith who gave his whole life in service of higher ideals, causes and powers."*** Talking of Harries, Rajan said ***"I often talked to him about them in the somewhat shabby corridor that passes for our green room. He just believed God's love was meant for all. "***

You can read [Rajan's full post here](#) and it's very much worth spending the time doing so.

Beyond the Good Life



We're a talented lot in Barnes, and the Bugle never ceases to be amazed by the creative endeavours taking place behind closed doors.

This month, we thought we'd draw your attention to the work of a father-and-daughter team of documentary makers, Peter and Sophie Bevan.

Their latest film - about the life and work of the actress [Felicity Kendal](#) - has just lunched and you can see on YouTube's [Arts and Biography channel](#).

The channel is a new free online platform for the arts, and it is entirely Peter and Sophie's creation. They say that even with a 40-year track record of producing award-winning films, it has become challenging to persuade traditional broadcasters to show standalone arts documentaries.

Their new channel will be a dedicated home for thought-provoking arts documentaries by independent filmmakers, freely accessible to audiences worldwide.

As well as the Kendal film, *Beyond the Good Life*, the channel also features their previous films, including:

- How Proust Can Change Your Life, starring Ralph Fiennes
- Alexander Pope: Rediscovering a Genius, starring Simon Callow
- Biographies of Bernard Levin, Christopher Isherwood, and Richard Strauss

Other independent arts documentary makers are invited to share their films on the channel, which aims to become a hub for high-quality arts storytelling that is free to view. To kickstart this new creative platform, the Arts & Biography Channel will be hosting a competition for the best independent arts films.

Don't miss the Barnes Ponder catch-up this week



Want to find out about what's happening with all the Barnes Ponder projects, including the BCA's campaign on buses, the exciting new Barnes website project or the work of the Men's Shed? Then come along to the Barnes Green Centre at 6.30pm on Wednesday May 13. No need to RSVP, just turn up.

The Barnes Town Team meets every quarter to update residents on progress with the Barnes Ponder projects. Come along and meet the teams of volunteers and find out what is being planned for the next few months. You can also sign up to

volunteer.

Bugle Classifieds



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The Bugle has well over 5,700 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 £110 and you can find out more [here](#).

What's on in May?

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

New Releases & crowdpleasers



Of course there's no rhyme nor reason as to what films get put out when. Nobody comes up with a theme for all the May releases, but looking through what's playing at The Olympic this month it's clear that the schedule is full of films that genuinely want audiences to have a good night out at the cinema. Some are admittedly a little hokey, but sometimes hokeyness is what we punters want.

The big release is **The Devil Wears Prada 2**, and the consensus is that it hasn't recaptured the magic of the original but is fun nevertheless (although, as an aside, the Bugle's sister-in-law was very much less than enamoured).

There's also **The Sheep Detectives**, a Babe meets Thursday Murder Club cosy-crime mash-up which sounds awful on paper but is apparently a joy.

Sci-fi-loving friends and proper film critics alike say that **Project Hail Mary** is excellent and that Ryan Gosling's performance is charming, funny and emotionally grounded. And then there's **The Christophers**, a new effort from Steven Soderbergh that has an ingenious plot — an art restorer called in by the children of a famously difficult painter to complete unfinished works that will be sold for millions after their father's death. Great performances (particularly from Ian McKellen), a witty script — what's not to like?

Power Ballad sounds fun too. It's a story of plagiarism, a middle-aged renaissance, boy bands and music-industry skullduggery, starring a charming Paul Rudd and a revelatory Joe Jonas. The purloined song at the heart of the plot is already a hit before the film comes out.

The Michael Jackson biopic **Michael** avoids all controversy and follows the successful formula of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, which was also criticised for sanitising the life of its main protagonist. Critics say it works well as a musical-highlights reel and will appeal to Jackson fans, but don't rate it so much as a drama.

And talking of Queen, **Highlander** — the swash-buckling, time-travelling 80s drama starring Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery, which features a soundtrack by Queen — is getting a fortieth-anniversary classic-film rerun. Sing after me: “Who wants to live for everrrrrr...”

World cinema & arthouse



Just as crowd-pleasing as the big new releases this month are three foreign-language films.

Colours of Time is a gentle comedy in which the descendants of the owner of a run-down Normandy farmhouse come together to decide what to do with the legacy. They discover both a priceless artwork and a beguiling story of a woman who became an artist’s model during the time of the Impressionists.

Köln 75 is a German film that tells the true-life story behind Keith Jarrett’s legendary 1975 solo concert in Cologne, which became the best-selling solo piano jazz album of all time. It was organised by an 18-year-old schoolgirl—now that’s a good story.

Also focusing on music is **Primavera**, set in Venice in 1716. It tells the story of an orphan violinist whose life changes when Antonio Vivaldi becomes her teacher.

The British and American arthouse films on show this month are much grittier.

Set in rural South Carolina, **Rebuilding** stars the omnipresent and multi-talented Josh O’Connor. It is a “soulful neo-Western drama set in South Carolina about a rancher living in a trailer park, rebuilding his life and relationships after losing everything in a cataclysmic fire.”

From this side of the pond, **Savage House** is a darkly satirical period drama set

in 18th-century England during a pox outbreak and the Jacobite uprising. It follows the amoral, status-obsessed couple Sir Chauncey (Richard E. Grant) and Lady Savage (Claire Foy). Critics have hailed it as “a razor-sharp, grotesque class comedy that leans into violence and decadence.”

More contemporary is **Moss & Freud**, which dramatises the intense nine-month nude-sitting relationship between Kate Moss and Lucian Freud.

Finally, there’s a slowly unfolding, atmospheric Cornish-set time-loop ghost story centred on the fishing trawler **Rose of Nevada**, which vanished with its crew in a storm 30 years earlier and then mysteriously reappears in the harbour of a struggling coastal village. The boat’s owner and the community reluctantly decide to sail her again. Two young men volunteer: Nick (George MacKay), a local fisherman desperate to support his wife and child, and Liam (Callum Turner), a rootless outsider trying to escape his past.

After a successful fishing trip, they return to find their town transformed: the shops are busy, it is 1993, not the 2020s, and the villagers treat them as the two lost crewmen who drowned on the Rose of Nevada decades ago.

Lead actor and local boy George MacKay will be at the Olympic Cinema on Tuesday, May 19, to take part in a Q&A after a screening of the film.

Culture



Frida Kahlo these days is often reduced to a meme - a woman with a slight moustache wearing flowers in her hair. It's sometimes easy to forget the impact she made and the sheer originality of her art. Tate Modern will be holding a major retrospective of her work in June but in advance of the exhibition (book now before it sells out) you can see a filmic exploration of the works on show and the life of Kahlo. It's a revelatory film which provides a richly detailed look at one of the twentieth century's most compelling artists, whose work turned pain, politics and self-invention into something vivid and unforgettable.

At the same time that Kahlo's work was becoming known playwright Arthur Miller was making a brilliant Broadway debut with **All My Sons**, a searing family drama that explores fallibility and responsibility. The West End production earlier this year starring Brian Cranston and Papa Esseidu was garlanded with five star reviews and if you missed it, do check out the NT Live broadcast of the play at The Olympic this month.

Finally, there's a classic of the Irish stage, **The Playboy of the Western World**, which debuted at the Abbey Theatre in 1907. It scandalised the Irish theatregoing public at the time with its bawdiness and its exploration of personal myth making. The NT production that has just finished its run received mixed reviews. Thumbs up for Derry Girls alums Nicola Coughlan and Siobhan McSweeney, but a muted reception for the translation from farce to tragedy in its staging.

What's on at The OSO?

DRAMA



The Importance of Being Earnest

May 14-15

Wilde Without the Boy is a brilliant staging of De Profundis, Oscar Wilde's searing letter to his lover, written from prison. It is a window into the bruised soul of a literary genius.

Described by Gyles



Purcell: The Musical

May 19-22

This musical is set during his final illness of composer Henry Purcell in 1695.

Purcell suffers from hallucinations in which the past, present and fantasy collide, and his



Sock Party

May 28

An exploration of connection, awkwardness, and adult friendship. The show follows two performers who arrive at a sock-themed party, where what looks like a fun event gradually becomes

Brandreth as “The most moving play about Wilde that I’ve ever seen,” the show is accompanied by a score by Simon Slater.

[More info](#)

songs take on a life of their own. His bedroom is transformed into a theatre and he revisits memories of the Great Fire of London and his romance with his wife.

[More info](#)

an exploration of how adults open up and make new friends. It combines clowning, physical theatre and original live music in a light-hearted and emotionally honest 40-minute experience.

[More info](#)

MUSIC, QUIZZING & MORE



Sip & Sketch

May 14

Looking for a relaxed way to get creative? Come join the OSO Sip & Sketch sessions.

Participants meet in the café, grab a glass of wine or coffee, and spend some time sketching together—nothing formal, nothing intimidating. Just paper, pencils, and a new subject to draw each session to keep things fresh and fun.

No experience or equipment needed.

[More info](#)



The Big Barnes Quiz

May 27

This annual event is always a fun evening in which teams of quizzers compete for both kudos and a great prize. There's a delicious dinner from OSO chef Yanete and questions are set by a professional quiz master. All funds raised go to the OSO's Centre Stage fund bringing great theatre to Barnes.

[More info](#)



An Evening with Beethoven & Chopin

May 30

Canadian violinist Guillaume Tardif and Turkish pianist Mine Doğantan -Dack join forces for a concert that includes Beethoven's beloved Spring and Kreutzer sonatas, and Chopin's heroic “Introduction and Polonaise”.

[More info](#)

KIDS & COMEDY



Suitcase Circus

May 17 & 18

Suitcase Circus is a heart warming, one-person show of extreme originality and virtuosity.

Welcome to the stage a handpicked selection of talented objects . Threadbare ringmaster sock, Wobulous Discombobulous seamlessly introduces acts such as the dancing milkshake straw, Limbardo a death-defying rope-walking driving-glove, and Madame Teapōt.

[More info](#)



The Comedy Store

May 29

Soho comes to Barnes! Each performance features a compère plus three different comedians, meaning there's something for everyone. Previous acts at the OSO have included: Paul Sinha, Zoe Lyons and Paul Thorne. Established in 1979, the Comedy Store began a comedy revolution and today is a platform for both star and up-and-coming comedians.

[More info](#)

Music at The Bull's Head



You've got a friend: The Music of Carol King and James Taylor

Sun, May 17, 7.00pm

A show that takes the audience on a journey from the early days of Carole King's career co writing with Gerry Goffin to her later work with James Taylor. Songs are interspersed with stories in a performance led by vocalist Rebecca Taylor and a host of top session musicians.

[More info](#)

Brazilian Jazz: Leo Gandelman Quartet

Fri, May 22, 8.00pm

If you love Brazilian jazz, now's your chance to get your groove on.

Saxophonist, arranger and producer Leo Gandelman is a master of the art and it's a privilege to have him here in Barnes delivering seductive bossa rhythms and blending jazz warmth with an irresistible energy. It's a real 'don't miss it' gig.

[More info](#)

Wetland Wonders



May Half Term Activities

Saturday May 23 to Sunday May 31

To coincide with half-term week, there's a full programme of nature-inspired activities for the whole family on offer. Taking centre stage is the WWT Wetland Centre's partnership with Gozzle the gosling from Julia Donaldson and Sara Ogilvie's freshly released picture book.

There's a special Gozzle trail, a play clinic, where children can learn how to handle, measure, weigh and x-ray toy geese – just like the WWT vets do with real birds. Plus there are great storytelling sessions.

Aside from the Gozzle activities, little ones can take part in pond dipping, a mini-beast hunt, and daily otter talks.

[Find out more here](#)

Quiet and Calm Pond Dipping

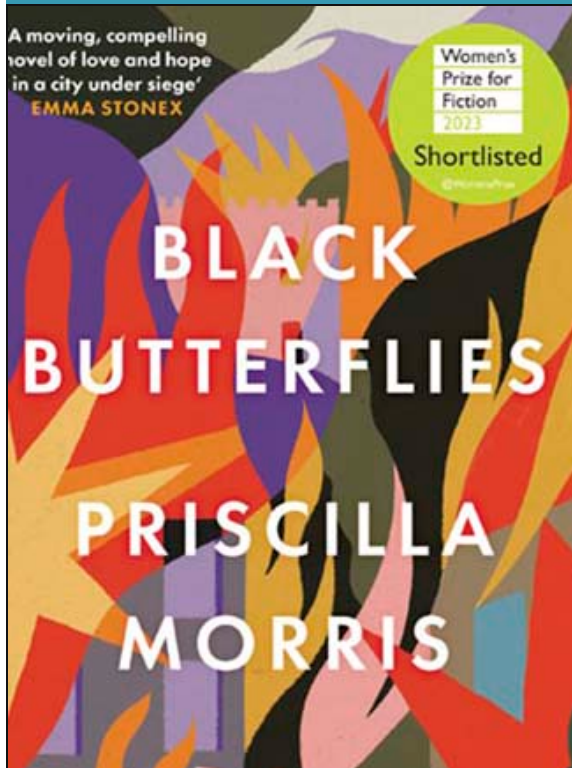
Wednesday May 27 and Saturday May 30

Families with children who have different sensory needs and who benefit from a quieter environment will be happy to hear that the team at the Wetland Centre have organised some special pond dipping sessions with their children's needs in mind. It's a lovely chance for little ones to explore what lies beneath the water from insects, to amphibian to small fish species.

[Find out more here](#)



Talking the Talk



LITERARY SOCIETY

Black Butterflies, Priscilla Morris

Tuesday, May 26, 7.00pm

St Mary's Barnes

Black Butterflies is set in 1992, at the time of the outbreak of the Balkan wars, and in particular the devastating siege of the city of Sarajevo. The war is seen through the eyes of Zora Kovovic, an artist of Serb origin who teaches at the university.

At this month's BLS meeting the author Priscilla Morris will be talking to Jo Weinberger about how she drew on her part-Yugoslav heritage when writing her Women's Prize shortlisted novel.

[More info](#)



PHILOSOPHY CLUB

Could we cheat death by becoming fully digital? The metaphysics of uploading ourselves.

A talk by Professor Eric Olsen

Tuesday May 26, 7.00pm

The OSO

Some people believe that future technology will enable us to upload ourselves into a computer and live in electronic form. We won't need food or housing or furniture, and we will be immune to ageing and the usual causes of death. But is this really a coherent scenario?

[More info](#)

Classical Concerts



Webern, Mendelssohn, Beethoven

The Thamesis Quartet

Thursday May 14, 7.30pm

St Mary's Barnes

A concert offering a varied programme from late-Romantic lyricism to the expansive classical tradition, with a programme that spans Mendelssohn's String Quartet No.2 in A minor, Op.13, Beethoven's String Quartet in F, Op.59 No.1 (Razumovsky) and Webern's Langsamer Satz.

The Thamesis Quartet recently won first prize at the 2025 Cavatina Competition. Its members are an exciting young group of musicians who came together while studying at The Guildhall School of Music.

[More info](#)

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 over 5,700 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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