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Masthead image: [Andrew Childs](#)

June 9, 2026

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Hammersmith & Fulham Council makes its pitch for the bridge



Hammersmith & Fulham Council has confirmed that it has started the application process for a grant to cover the repair costs for Hammersmith Bridge.

The government's £1 billion Structures Fund is intended to cover the costs of repairing key infrastructure across the country that is not the direct responsibility of the Department for Transport. This includes ageing assets such as bridges, tunnels and viaducts that councils cannot realistically fund from day-to-day budgets. Some commentators have pointed out that although £1 billion is a lot of money, there are an awful lot of decrepit bridges and tunnels out there – recent surveys suggest that almost 3,000 council-maintained road bridges are already classed as “substandard”. It is therefore very likely that there will not be enough money to go around.

Current estimates for repairing Hammersmith Bridge range between £250 million and £300 million, so if the government gave a full grant for the bridge's total repair, between one quarter and nearly one third of the fund would be taken up with the cost of fixing a single bridge in London.

Department for Transport funding deals typically expect local councils to make a contribution towards costs. However, MP Andy Slaughter has said Hammersmith & Fulham Council has already invested a huge amount of money in stabilisation work and has no more to contribute. There is also speculation that neighbouring councils who say the bridge's closure has negatively impacted their residents – notably Richmond upon Thames and Wandsworth – may be asked to contribute to the repair.

What we do not yet know at the Bugle is how much money Hammersmith & Fulham will be applying for, and whether that bid will be for a repair that would allow cars and full-sized TfL buses to cross the bridge once more. However, even if the intention is just to keep the bridge open for pedestrians and cyclists, the sums involved appear to be very high indeed.

Currently the bridge is under a CCSO (Case for Continued Safe Operation), which means it is being constantly monitored and could still be closed altogether if engineers judge that its condition has worsened.

Back in 2023, when the cost of a full repair of the bridge to take motor traffic was estimated at what now looks like the bargain rate of £230 million, Hammersmith & Fulham Council responded to a Freedom of Information request from Hammersmith Bridge SOS to say that 'many of the components of the bridge had already theoretically exceeded their fatigue life'. Interestingly, the cost given then to repair the bridge fully for pedestrian and cyclist use only, and to remove the CCSO, was remarkably similar – just £20 million cheaper in fact, at £210 million.

In response to a Bugle query, a Hammersmith & Fulham Council spokesman said: ***“We have completed a pre-submission form for the government's Structures Fund. This is a requirement before compiling a full bid submission. The detailed costs and scope of a bid***

to the fund will now be worked up with the support of expert technical advisers appointed by DfT and subject to agreement from the Cabinet.”

Campaign group takes a breather



As the next chapter in the bridge saga starts with the formal applications for government funds just seven years (yes, seven) since the bridge's closure, the campaign group pushing for the bridge's repair – Hammersmith Bridge SOS – has decided to take a breather.

The battle-hardened campaigners have been largely responsible for keeping the plight of the bridge and that of those affected by its closure in the public eye.

They've engaged the media, carried out audacious stunts such as the Valentine's Day light projection on the bridge (above) and issued myriad freedom of information requests to Hammersmith Council and the government. You can see a full run down of their extensive history of campaigning [here](#).

The current committee running the group are standing down but the campaign group's [website](#) and What's App group will continue to run.

The group released a statement saying ***“In view of the current funding climate, the bridge being open to cyclists and pedestrians, LBHF's (Hammersmith & Fulham Council) lack of interest in engaging on ways to increase the weight limit (to allow for 10-15 person electric***

vehicles for the less able and blue light services), and differences over retaining the original objective of full reopening, the current committee have stood down. We will review opportunities around the next elections (Mayoral election in May 2027 and the general election in May 2029)."

By this time next year the group may be looking for new volunteers to join the campaign and anyone interested in throwing their hat into the ring can email hammersmithbridgesos@gmail.com.

Radical transport solution gets Barnes Fair preview



AI generated image of autonomous pod, courtesy of BHELT

While there may be disagreements about whether Hammersmith Bridge should ever re-open to cars and buses, one thing that everyone making their voice heard about the bridge agrees on, is that something needs to be done to help the less able cross it.

Charles Campion, a keen advocate of active travel and one of the progenitors of the Barnes Ponder, believes there may be an answer: driverless electric vehicles. He is part of a team of people that is setting up a not for profit Community Interest Company called Barnes and Hammersmith Electric Light Transit (BHELT) to build on an initial report by charity Possible in 2023 and explore whether autonomous pods could shuttle passengers across the bridge.

The new consortium, which includes representation from the Barnes Community Association and the Hammersmith Society, aims to open people's eyes to different possibilities and to apply for a grant from the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) to fund a feasibility study.

The idea is that a fleet of small pods could carry people between the Barnes side of the bridge and Hammersmith, running from the Castelnau bus stops to the Tube and potentially Charing Cross Hospital. Subject to viable integration with the existing bus services, the pods could even serve Barnes village and other local destinations such as the Wetland Centre and Barnes station.

BHELT is working with the Milton Keynes based electric transit vehicle company Ohmio UK and together they will be bringing two pods to Barnes on Fair Day, Saturday 11 July, so that people can see for themselves what their proposed solution will look like.

It is an exciting idea, and Ohmio vehicles are already being trialled on the roads of Milton Keynes, so it's not a pie-in-the-sky proposal. However, before it can become more than a great idea waiting to happen, many issues have to be resolved including weight, feasibility and responsibility.

Weight

The biggest obstacle is obvious. Hammersmith Bridge is still a damaged structure under tight safety controls, and even ambulances cannot cross under the current 1.5 tonne safety limit.

That matters because the Ohmio pods due to be shown in Barnes breach that limit. A published report on the model being brought to Barnes on Fair day says they weigh 2.45 tonnes empty and up to 3.5 tonnes fully occupied. For the Hammersmith Bridge project, BHELT's work with Ohmio will look at ways of making its pods lighter, although it would be quite a feat of engineering if the company could get them light enough to meet the current stringent limit.

Campion believes there may be room for movement in that limit, particularly in light of the stabilisation work already carried out. The BHELT team does not yet have its own civil engineering consultants and the consortium has not currently made a formal approach to the engineers responsible for the bridge's ongoing safety monitoring - this would be part of the feasibility study work.

Feasibility

If the weight issue can be overcome, there is a long list of practical questions that a feasibility study would have to answer. The capital cost of the scheme, including an initial fleet of ten pods (initially estimated at £11m by Possible), maintenance and operating costs would have to be estimated and a place earmarked to store and charge the fleet of vehicles. Then, insurance, legal

permissions and emergency procedures would need to be outlined, and the detailed loading implications of repeated crossings would have to be modelled. The autonomous nature of the pods brings significant savings in operating costs.

Responsibility

Then there is the question of who would run the service. Somebody would need to operate the vehicles, maintain them, keep them secure, manage safety, obtain insurance and carry responsibility if anything went wrong.

BHELT's role is to put the idea into circulation, test public interest and seek support for a serious study, rather than present itself as a ready-made operator.

The answer as to whether the pods will be feasible is ultimately in the hands of engineers and operators. Supporters of the scheme could argue that the present restrictions are over-cautious in light of stabilisation work already carried out, but any shift would depend on those responsible for the bridge being persuaded that public safety would not be compromised. This is why a detailed feasibility study is hugely important.

With a fair wind, and support in the right places, the BHELT team believe it could take between two or three years for their idea to move from proposal to reality.

A weighty issue

Engineers considering the bridge's weight limit don't look at weight alone. In evaluating the feasibility of any form of transport crossing the bridge they will need to consider load distribution, braking, repeated crossings and the consequences of getting their calculations wrong – a worry that is perhaps the reason for the current abundance of caution in the 1.5 tonne limit.

To give Bugle readers some perspective on the bridge's weight limit we've given a quick breakdown of the weights of different types of vehicles that might or might not in future cross the bridge.

	Vehicle or load	Approximate weight
	11 average-sized humans	0.715 tonnes
	Typical family car	About 1.2 to 1.8 tonnes
	Police car	About 1.5 to 2 tonnes
	Large electric SUV	About 2.4 to 2.7 tonnes
	Current Ohmio pod, empty	2.45 tonnes
	Ohmio pod with 11 passengers	3.5 tonnes
	TfL Hoppa / small accessible minibus	About 3.5 to 5 tonnes empty
	Ambulance	About 3.5 to 5 tonnes
	Single-decker bus	About 11 to 14 tonnes

*All values are approximations.

Find out more



You can find out more about the BHELT project, and much more besides, in this fascinating Barnes Pondcast interview with Charles Campion (just click the image above).

Charles has been involved in a huge number of projects in Barnes all of which are aimed at ***"looking after where we live"***. As well as the Hammersmith Bridge pod project, he is the driving force behind many other initiatives including plans

to make more of our river front and the brilliant Barnes Tuesday meet-up event at the Bull's Head (see story just before the listings section).

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London's largest
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over 60 offices

Risky? Wrong?: BCA opposes bus turnaround at the pond



What do you think about a plan for buses to turn around the island next

to Essex House and the pond? That's what the BCA wants to know.

As the Bugle has previously reported, last autumn TfL held a consultation about replacing the 533 bus with an extended 209 service which would involve the revised route's start and finish being in the centre of Barnes by the pond.

Despite the 'consultation' receiving strong local opposition TfL has decided that this new plan is a fantastic idea and the new route and new tight turning circle is going ahead from August 15 onwards.

As well as buses making the turn around the small traffic island every 15 minutes there will also be a bus stand on Church Road adjacent to the pond at which several buses could be parked at any one time.

The BCA believes that the new arrangement will be wrong on many levels:

Pedestrian safety: This is a spot where there is a high level of pedestrian activity, particularly at weekends when Barnes Farmers Market is operating.

Blighting a beautiful view: The view from the Sun Inn side of the road to Barnes Pond is one of the most beautiful in Barnes. The new bus stand will mean that this view will be frequently obliterated by a queue of stationary buses.

Danger to wildlife: The turning area is regularly used by swans and other birds that inhabit Barnes Pond. This new arrangement puts them in clear danger.

Traffic congestion: It's a busy junction for traffic, and cars are going to have to wait while buses make a complicated turning manoeuvre which has the potential to cause traffic gridlock.

The formal consultation has now closed, and TfL has seemingly paid no attention to the objections of local residents (described by councillor Alexander Ehmann as 'overwhelmingly clear'). However, the BCA and Richmond Council, have recently held discussion with TfL regarding potential alternatives for both the bus stand and the turning facility.

It's not an issue that the BCA will let drop, and as part of its campaign to persuade TfL to adopt an alternative plan it wants to hear from Barnes residents.

Residents who would like to share their views, whether in support of or in opposition to the current Route 209 proposal, are encouraged to visit the [Travel page on the BCA's website](#) for more information and a chance to fill out a feedback form. Or you can respond directly to the BCA by clicking the button below.

Demo images above generated by AI.

Tell the BCA what you think

Lime Bike ban comes into force



A phased withdrawal of Lime bikes from Richmond has been in place since June 1, but what 'phased withdrawal' means is currently eluding the Bugle.

What we do know is that Lime has a few weeks to clear all its bikes from Richmond—but what we don't know is when Lime will start fining people for leaving their bikes in Barnes, and how and when people will know that the Lime bike ban is going to be enforced.

It's not as if we haven't tried to find out, we left messages at the council's press office and we contacted Lime. We asked Lime some very specific questions chose to send us an anodyne statement (see below). When we replied asking for actual answers - their spokesman told us that was information he did not have. So, Lime bike users - we tried to help but we failed. Sorry.

Over the coming weeks, more parking bays for Forest bikes will be created, and Forest will be increasing the number of bikes in the borough. Forest is also offering special introductory rates for journeys that start in Richmond. As the video above explains, the new situation has a number of pitfalls. Firstly, there are fewer Forest bikes available across London than Lime bikes, so the likelihood of finding a Forest bike at Hammersmith Tube for your journey back to Barnes is lower than finding a Lime bike.

Then there's the "Checkpoint Charlie" situation, in which piles of bikes stack up at the edge of a borough when the adjacent borough does not allow Lime bikes to park.

Critics of the new move say it is also going to deter people from visiting Barnes which will have a negative effect on our local economy.

THE ANODYNE RESPONSE

"We are working with Richmond Council to support a smooth transition and minimise disruption for riders over the next month. We want to thank Richmond residents for the millions of Lime rides taken over the past five years - it has been a pleasure to serve the borough to help get more people on two wheels and meet the borough's active travel goals. We wish the Council and its new operator well as the next scheme begins. Lime remains committed to offering affordable, reliable and sustainable transport across London."

Winkworth
for every step

This month's featured property

Detached house

Four bedrooms

Peaceful cul de sac location

Landscaped garden

Off-street parking

Lowther Road, SW13

£2,950,000

Love and loss at Barnes Pond



Picture: Andrew Wilson Wild London Pics

The arrival of a new clutch of cygnets on Barnes Pond is always a reason for celebration. It's hard to explain to people not from Barnes just how invested the local community is in the health and welfare of our pond's swan family.

We all know about the sturm und drang of our resident female's love life. A widow twice over, she has found love again this year, and just two weeks ago she and her new partner hatched six beautiful cygnets.

However, in another plot twist in the great soap opera of pond life, tragically, last week, two of the six cygnets disappeared.

There's no definitive news of what happened to them, but the most likely explanation is predation. A fox has been seen patrolling the pond and could easily have struck while the swan family was resting on the water's edge or indeed making their regular perambulation to of from Beverley Brook.

Cygnets are vulnerable to predation from foxes, from other birds and also from domestic animals like dogs left off leads.

After this incident the BCA is appealing to all dog owners to keep their pets on a lead near the pond and pointing out that not doing so is illegal and punishable by fine.

Swan walks into a pub



Before the sad loss of two of the cygnets, our swan family became social media stars after the cob (male swan) seemed to decide a celebratory trip to the pub was in order.

Moragan who runs the Sun Inn's instagram account said she captured the video above just by chance. She was walking towards the pub's entrance when she encountered the male swan. Before he could come in and for a bar snack and who knows what else, he was rounded up by helpful passers by who also herded the female swan and her cygnets away from the road outside the pub and back to the pond.

Luckily, traffic stopped in order to get the swan family back safely, but this video is a powerful demonstration of the danger that the proposed new bus turning arrangement poses to Barnes's most famous family.

Advertorial

New salon design, new treatments...



Welcome to the new Nails Amour

Nails Amour has long been the go-to nail bar in Barnes—but did you know it also offers beauty treatments? The salon has recently undergone a glamorous glow-up, with a brand-new interior and a beautifully decorated treatment room. It has also expanded its menu to include a range of new treatments.

To celebrate, Nails Amour is offering Bugle readers an exclusive discount on its new deluxe Vitamin C pedicures. There is also a chance to win a relaxing pampering session, leaving you feeling blissfully calm and beautifully well-groomed.

Great treatments to chose from



Deluxe pedicures

Every pedicure is a relaxing experience in Nails Amour's state-of-the-art pedicure chairs, but for the full pampering treatment, look out for the deluxe Vitamin C pedicure. Packed with nourishing products designed to soften, refresh and revive tired feet, it's available as either a gel or standard pedicure — so you can enjoy all the Vitamin C benefits in the finish you prefer.

Expert manicures

From classic manicures to more creative nail art, Nails Amour's manicure offering covers all the essentials and more. The team are particularly skilled at nail extensions and also excel intricate designs, and if you have a look in mind, you can bring along photos for inspiration and have the style recreated with precision.

Beauty treatments

Nails Amour also offers a range of beauty treatments to help you look and feel your best. Choose from eyebrow shaping and tinting, eyelash tinting, permanent make up, lash lifting and extensions plus a selection of waxing services, all carried out with the same attention to detail and professional finish.

Save 15% on a deluxe pedicure when you mention the Bugle

As a treat for Bugle readers Nails Amour is offering a 15% discount on its deluxe pedicure just mention the Bugle when you book.

WIN A PAMPERING SESSION



To celebrate its new look Nails Amour is giving away a fantastic prize - a top-to-toe pampering session. The lucky winner will receive a gel or

standard manicure a deluxe Vitamin C pedicure and a beauty treatment of their choice. The prize draw is open to everyone who signs up to the salon's mailing list. Just click below to add your name.

Click here to enter

Find Nails Amour at
66A Barnes High St, London SW13 9LD, 07545 599976

Follow us on Instagram
<https://www.instagram.com/nailsamourlondon/>



Church Road post office earmarked for closure



It looks like the post office within the Morrisons Daily on Church Road is set to close, leaving Barnes with only one post office counter near Lonsdale Road in Verdun Road.

The supermarket confirmed that it is one of 100 former branches of McColls which had been acquired by Morrisons in 2024 that have been earmarked for closure.

The Bugle approached the Post Office head office to find out about what will happen to the post office within the Morrisons if it does, as expected, close. A spokesperson said:

“We have been informed by Morrisons that following a review they are proposing to take the difficult decision to close the Morrisons Daily store where Church Road Post Office is located. We fully recognise the inconvenience this will cause our customers who rely on our banking and parcel services in particular.

“Should the decision be confirmed that the store is closing, the store and Post Office would close in the next few months. We will therefore be advertising the vacancy for the branch on our runapostoffice.co.uk website shortly and welcome applications from nearby retailers looking to host a Post Office inside their store.”

From drab to fab - Vine Road Rec proposals head for planning



A planning application is about to be made for the radical transformation of what is rather prosaically known as the Vine Road Recreation Area.

If everything is approved, and sufficient funds are raised, a much-loved but slightly drab public space is going to be transformed into something very special indeed.

The charity is keen to emphasise that the transformation will keep all the existing amenities of the site. Dog walkers will still have plenty of open space, and children will have even more play space and a wider range of ages will be catered for.

There are new facilities too - a long-awaited skate park plus a community hub that will be used for educational projects and serve as a refuge for local people during extreme climate events.

The whole space will be re-landscaped with beautiful planting designed by Chelsea Flower Show gold medallist Tom Massey.

We'll give a more detailed breakdown on the plans soon when the planning application goes in, and Barnes residents get the chance to provide their feedback on the Richmond Council's planning portal.

A berm at Barn Elms



Some people know what a 'berm' is and some don't, and until this week the Bugle has to admit it was in the latter camp.

If you had asked us, we would have said a berm was what Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther films called an explosive device. Oh how wrong we would have been.

'Berm' is a Dutch word and they are actually raised barriers, usually made from compacted soil. They have many uses, from fortifications to paths, but the reason we've discovered the word recently is that the Barnes Common charity, together with Community Bluescapes, is planning to create a berm at Barn Elms South (that's the dog walking field off Rocks Lane to you and me).

The idea is to create a raised barrier in the middle of the field - bisecting it between the football pitches and the space close to Beverley Brook at the end. It's going to look lovely as it will be planted with wild flowers, but what exactly will it be for? The answer is, like many of the projects organised by Barnes Common and Community Bluescapes, that it's going to help Barnes become less prone to flooding when there is unprecedented rainfall.

Huge devastating storms, such as the event the berm is aimed to mitigate, used to

happen once every hundred years, but now due to climate change, we can expect them to strike every thirty years or so.

When catastrophic rain falls, drains can't cope and the result is that homes are flooded. To stop this happening, there needs to be somewhere else for water to go to relieve pressure on the drains; somewhere where water can accumulate and soak into the soil slowly over a few days. In other words a flood plain.

By adding the berm to the middle of the dog walking field and carrying out other landscaping works the project will effectively create a huge puddle and it's a puddle that will only appear in the event of a very major storm, so dog walkers and football players won't lose their much valued space as a result of the changes.

The new flood plain has the capacity to hold 80,000 cubic metres of water that would otherwise be flooding the homes between Barn Elms and Barnes Green.

Consulting sessions have been taking place at the dog walking field over the past few weeks and the results, say Barnes Common, have been overwhelmingly positive.

The changes will also be discussed at Richmond Council's environmental committee later this month where members of the public will be free to come along to share their views on the berm.

Find out more about flood resilience



If flood prevention projects like the berm at Barn Elms have piqued your curiosity or if you just want to find out more about what you can personally do to keep your home safe from flooding, then do check out the next Community Bluescapes Fair.

The fair, which will be held at the OSO on Saturday June 20 between 10am and 1pm, is a free event that celebrates water, nature and community wellbeing.

There will be a range of engaging stalls and hands-on experiences allowing visitors to:

- Take part in fun, wildlife-inspired crafts for children and families
- Discover how you can reduce flood risk in your area
- Find out about local Community BlueScapes projects and future plans, with opportunities to share your views

And as an extra bonus, the first 100 attendees will receive a free cupcake. You can book via [Eventbrite](#) or just drop in during the event.

Save the date: Barnes Fair, July 11



he Bugle never ceases to be amazed by the sheer scale of Barnes Fair.

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There are over 300 stalls, live entertainment, fantastic food and drink and wonderful old fashioned fair rides for children. It's mainly delivered by volunteers, and it's the most important fundraising event of the year for the Barnes Community Association. The funds raised go towards looking after Barnes Green, and providing a voice for Barnes. Who else would fight Barnes's corner when TfL tries to change bus routes? Or who would the council talk to about what Barnes residents want when they are looking at road issues?

It's good to know then that while we all enjoy a glass of Pimm's or two and a browse around some lovely fair stalls, we're busy doing good for our community.

This year's fair is a particular milestone as it will be the last one organised by event planner extraordinaire Charlotte Sharpe-Neal, who somehow manages to make putting on a show like the Barnes Fair seem effortless. She will be a hard act to follow.

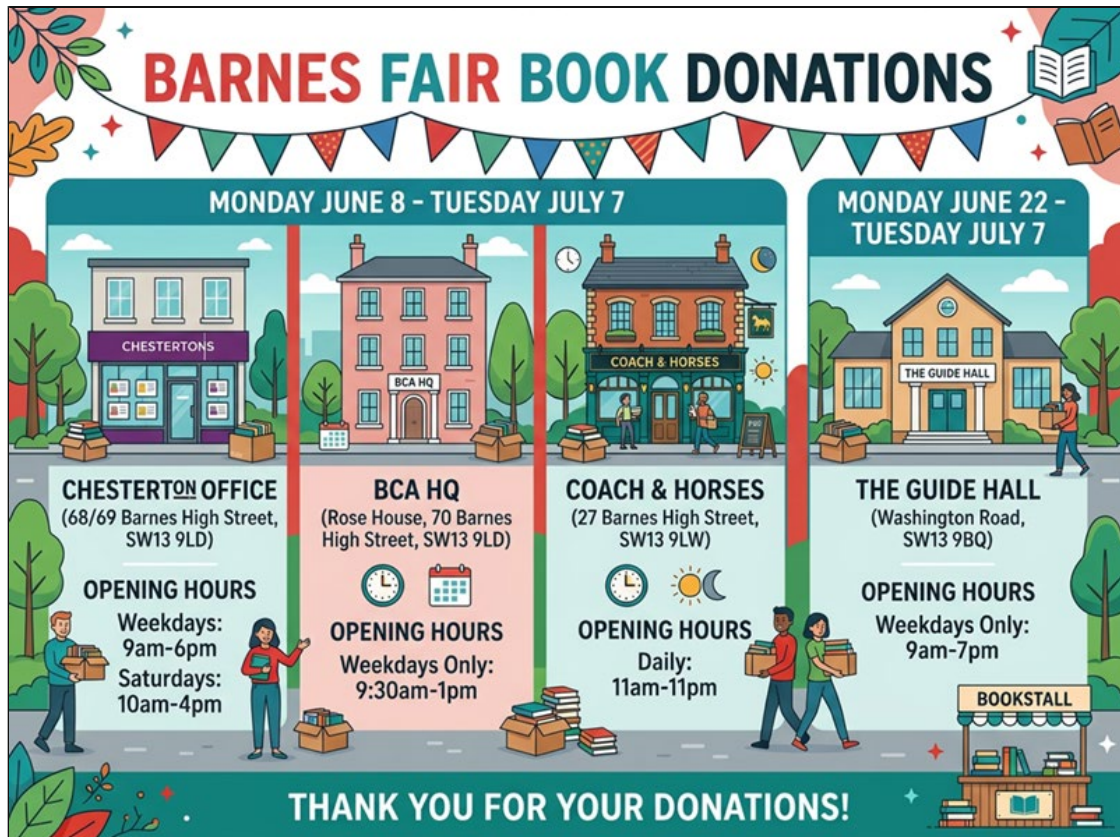
Why not donate some books?



One of the busiest stands at Barnes Fair is the BCA Bookstall which raises funds for the BCA and the Girl Guides. Thanks to generous donations from Barnes residents there are always a huge number of interesting books to buy.

The team behind the stall is always on the look out for more books, CDs and computer games. They will very gratefully accept any books that Bugle readers would like to donate, although they cannot accept encyclopaedias, textbooks, magazines, DVDs, videos, tapes or vinyl.

There is a range of donation points (see list below) open in the run-up to the fair so it's easy to find a time and place to give your books to the stall.



Star names and more at our brilliant kids' literature festival



Goodness, what a behemoth our local children's literature has become. It was inspired twelve years ago by a school-gate conversation and now look at it.

It's the UK's biggest book festival focusing on books for children with over 100 events and a much-lauded outreach programme, encouraging children at schools across London to develop a love of books.

Since the debut festival in 2015, it has always been a volunteer-led event. Over 150 people give up their time to put on a world class literature festival right here in Barnes.

And what a festival it will be this year. Now renamed the London Children's Literature Festival it will be held over the weekend of June 27 and 28.

Headline names include the actors Michael Sheen and Alexander Armstrong and children's authors and illustrators like Lauren Child, Michael Rosen and Axel Scheffler.

Other highlights include spectacular shadow puppetry with the The Magic Lantern caravan, Roald Dahl's hilarious Revolting Rhymes family concert, and live illustration by the New York Times Illustration Award winning artist James Mayhew, accompanied by classical musicians.

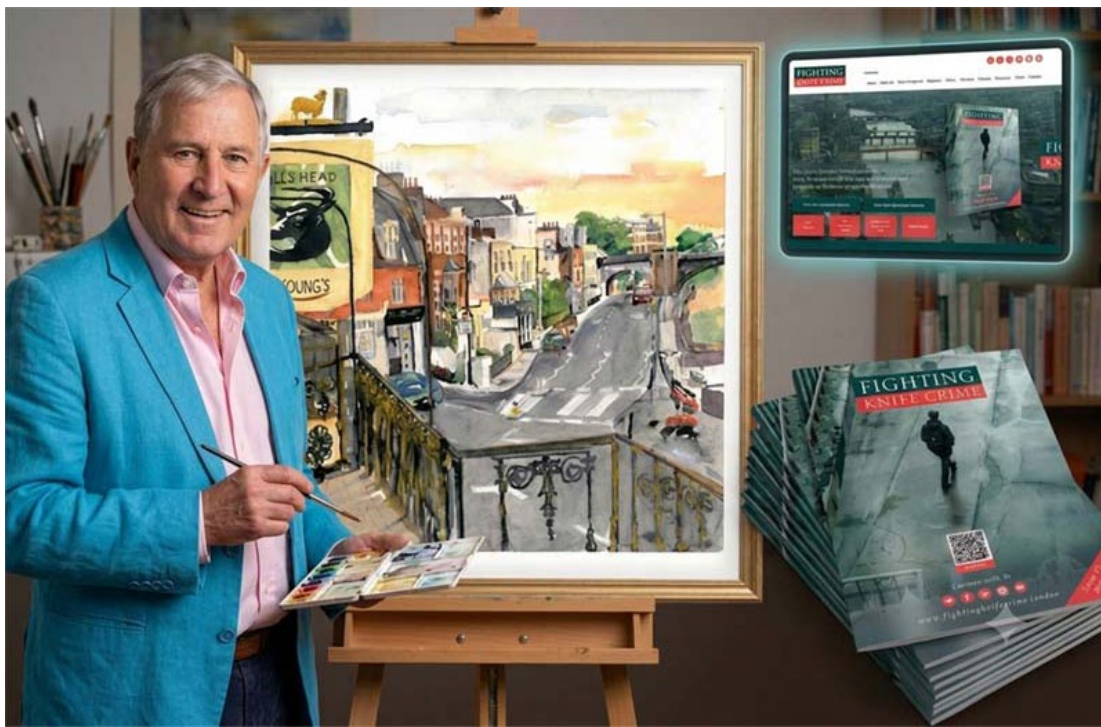
Children can get involved in creative writing, comics, chess, LEGO, live music, clay-mazing workshops with Aardman Animations, and there are lots of free things to do too around the pond. Find out more on the [festival website](#).

Pots of creativity



To celebrate the return of the London Children's Book Festival to Barnes this June, the extremely talented members of the Mortlake Community Association's knitting group have created a beautiful post box topper which is sitting in pride of place outside the Barnes Bookshop. It celebrates Paddington and very appropriately features a pot of marmalade and a marmalade sandwich.

The art of fighting knife crime



We live in one of the safest parts of London, but that does not mean we are immune to knife crime. In March, onlookers near Nassau Road were shocked to see the aftermath of a stabbing in broad daylight on a busy Saturday.

It was a rare event in Barnes, but one that served as a reminder that knife crime remains one of the most serious issues facing London. Over the past decade, recorded knife crime in the capital has risen sharply, although recent figures suggest the trend may finally be starting to reverse.

The problem is being tackled on many fronts. The police are working to target the most dangerous offenders, while grassroots charities such as the Ben Kinsella Trust are focusing on prevention, education and giving young people alternatives to the path that can lead to drug dealing, gang involvement and violence.

Barnes is fortunate to have two prominent anti-knife crime campaigners in its midst. Idris Elba has long used his profile to raise awareness and support grassroots work through his charity and wider campaigning. Less publicly visible, but no less committed, is Bruce Houlder KC, whose charity, [Fighting Knife Crime London](http://fightingknifecri.me), works quietly to support the many initiatives aimed at tackling knife crime.

Houlder, a retired barrister, has seen first hand the devastating consequences knife crime has for victims, families and perpetrators alike. It is an issue that troubles him deeply, and rather than spend his retirement playing golf, he has chosen to use his considerable skills and experience to try to make a difference.

What can one man do in the face of such a big issue? Plenty, it turns out.

He now devotes much of his time to compiling research, resources and practical information for people and organisations working in the field. His website is a mine of information and the quarterly magazine he produces is must-read for anyone working in the fight against knife crime. His work helps smaller charities and community groups by sharing best practice and disseminating news about ways knife crime is being tackled worldwide. Often, small charities rely on third-party funding and need data to help them draft funding bids. The information Houlder provides is invaluable to them.

It is careful, unshowy work, but it makes a real difference. In a fight against knife crime that requires action from so many organisations, providing a central point of information really counts.

Houlder combines his campaigning with another passion: art. The proceeds from the paintings he sells go towards supporting his charity.

For him, and for many others trying to tackle this epidemic, the aim is the same — to stop more young lives being lost to violence and to help those already at risk find a different path.

It is a message that feels particularly relevant in the wake of the Nassau Road stabbing. Police have said the incident appears to be isolated, that the victim does not come from Barnes. They add that there is no evidence of any ongoing risk to local residents. South West CID are leading the investigation, and anyone who witnessed the incident or has information is asked to contact police on 101, quoting CAD 3309/14MAR26, or to report it anonymously via Crimestoppers.

You can find Bruce Houlder's paintings including the one of the Bull's Head in the image above on [his website](#).

Bags of style





Last year we reported on a lovely initiative involving contemporary artist Michael Craig-Martin and Barnes Primary School. It came about through the work of local social entrepreneur Lauren Scott-Harris of [Earnt](#).

Lauren runs a scheme in which big names and big brands can team up with charities and other organisations that need volunteers. Earnt rewards those volunteers with exclusive event tickets, unique products and one-off experiences.

Recently Lauren has been working with Harry Styles who offered tickets to his concerts in return for people volunteering to give their time to spruce up schools and community spaces. Not surprisingly, thousands came forward.

Going back to the Michael Craig-Martin initiative at Barnes Primary, it came about through a similar scheme in which tickets for the Frieze Art Fair were given to those who came to help Craig-Martin create a mural at the school.

One of the volunteers turned out to be actor Russell Tovey making the mural painting event a rather star studded affair.

Generously, Craig-Martin has waived royalties for the image he created and now his design isn't confined to the mural in the school's entrance; you can find it on some lovely merchandise from bags, to water bottles to tea towels. All of the

proceeds from selling these lovely things will go towards providing art materials for the school students.

So if you want your very own piece of Michael Craig-Martin's modern art all you need to do is [click here](#) to secure a lovely piece of merch.

Barnes meet-up initiative inspires a new magazine



Every Tuesday evening between 6pm and 8pm, the Bull's Head hosts a popular new community gathering called Barnes Tuesday Local. The weekly meet-up gives local residents the chance to meet people beyond their usual social circles, while offering newcomers an easy way to get to know their new neighbours. What began just four months ago is clearly gathering momentum, with organiser Charles Campion saying new faces arrive every week.

“It’s great,” he says, “to see people of all ages and backgrounds coming together and having some fantastic conversations. People drop in whenever they like, there’s no need to come every week and there’s no particular agenda. Have a pint, a glass of wine or a soft drink; it’s entirely up to you. It’s simply a very welcoming space.”

The initiative has also won the support of the Bull's Head team, who are embracing community life in new ways. Last month they hosted their first supper club and recently launched their own magazine, simply titled "Bull's Head". The pub is one of Barnes' best-loved landmarks, and through the magazine, manager Karolina hopes to capture and celebrate the stories and memories that have shaped its remarkable history. She is keen to hear from anyone with funny, moving or memorable recollections of the pub, helping to bring its rich heritage to life in words and images.

Charles says the aim is to continue building on the success of the Barnes Tuesday Local meet-up, while using the magazine as another way of bringing people together in Barnes.

Anyone with a story to share can [email the Bugle](#), and we will pass the information on to Karolina.

So close, but yet so far

Dry cleaners closes with clothes trapped inside



After Royal Dry Cleaners on Church Road closed suddenly overnight and a baillif's letter appeared in the window, the Bugle has been contacted by customers wondering how on earth they are ever going to be re-united with their clothes, which they can tantalisingly still see through the window.

We've been in touch with the company Stiles Harold Williams, which manages the property on behalf of the owners, and they have given us an email address for anyone who wants to get hold of their clothes to use.

They say: *"We have been working closely with our landlord client and the previous tenant to make sure that customers can retrieve their belongings, including having held an open day for customers to collect. Any customer wishing to collect their clothes should email hello@spinwheel.co with their contact details and Spinwheel Dry Cleaning will reply to make arrangements to reunite them with their clothes.*

Archbishop of Canterbury comes to Barnes celebrate the life of Bishop Richard Harries



Bishop Richard Harries, who died last month, requested only a simple funeral at his local church. And so his life was honoured at St Mary's in Barnes. However, even though the service wasn't held at a cathedral, it was attended by the most senior clergy in the Church of England, which shows the very high regard in which he was held.

Both the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, and the Archbishop of York,

Stephen Cottrell, came to celebrate his life at a service that was presided over by Christopher Chessun, the Bishop of Southwark, and St Mary's own Rector Callum Zuckert.

The service featured William Byrd's Mass for Four Voices and drew a congregation of more than 400 people, all gathered to pay tribute to a man who was deeply loved and respected. The final blessing was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury before the funeral procession continued to Mortlake Crematorium.

Osteria arrives on White Hart Lane



The Italian restaurant on the corner of First Avenue has a brand-new look and a brand-new general manager. Alessandra Lupo hails from Puglia and is a pharmacist by profession, but has worked in hospitality throughout her life.

She is taking a break from her day job and bringing some Italian flair to the new restaurant. She has even brought in a top Italian chef (Francesco Cavalli) to train the kitchen team.

In Italy, an osteria is a casual, rustic restaurant with simple food and a short menu, and our own Osteria will be just that. It will offer a simple selection of

dishes from across Italy, along with a few from Puglia to make Alessandra feel at home, such as orecchiette with cime di rapa. There will be pizzas and pastas, classic meatballs and a *Menu per Bambini* too.

Alessandra says locals are really enjoying the well-made, simple Italian food and wants to thank everyone who has visited for being so welcoming.

Goodbye to a Barnes institution as the Pavilion Montessori closes



As we mentioned above, plans are afoot for a major development of the Vine Road recreation area and those plans will include the removal of the old bowling green pavilion which for 42 years has been home to the wonderful Barnes Montessori School.

To proposed changes have come at a time when the team behind the school - Caroline Holyoak and Gina Dashwood were looking to retire so they have made the decision to bow out gracefully and the Pavilion Montessori school will teach its last classes this July.

Generations of Barnes children have enjoyed the wonderfully gentle style of Montessori teaching at a school that made most of having the Vine Road Rec and

Barnes Common on its doorstep.

Caroline and Gina say *"We would like to invite all ex-pupils and families to come and bring a picnic on Thursday 9th July anytime between 4-9pm or please just come and say goodbye. If possible spread the word to any ex-pupils who have moved out of the area."*

"Also due to closing we have to get rid of all equipment, books, puzzles, construction, desks, chairs and outdoor equipment. We are therefore holding a sale on Friday 3rd July from 2pm-6pm and on Saturday 4th July from 10 am-1 pm at Vine Road Recreation Ground."

Bugle Classifieds



Tree Surgery and Landscaping

Hi, I'm Mark Spriggs a qualified and insured tree surgeon & landscaper. If you have any questions at all, please contact me for some no obligation advice, or if you need a specific job doing, I can come and have a look!

I have many referees and will be happy to help you.

Call: 07950 254425

Advertise your service for only £25

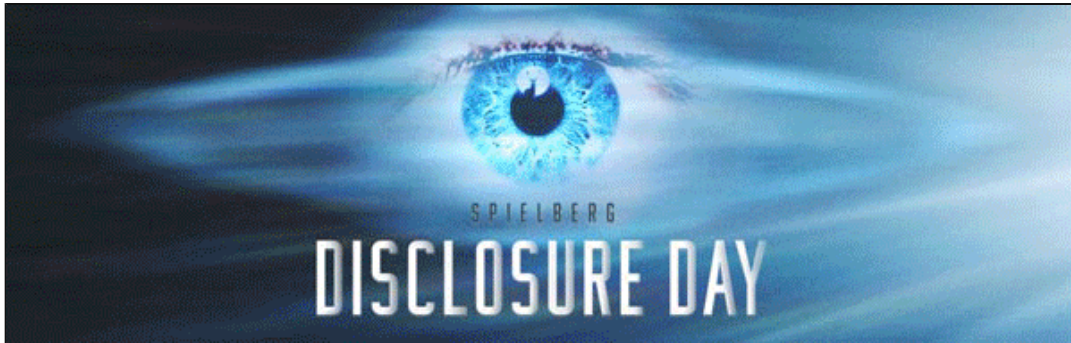
The Bugle has well over 5,700 subscribers and where else can you reach that many people in Barnes for such a small cost? £25 gets you up to 100 words to publicise your service. That's more than enough space to say what you do and provide your contact details. To advertise in the Classified section just 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 June?

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

The Big Releases



All hail the big releases, the ones with the sizeable marketing budgets which you know will be getting the full Screen 1 treatment at The Olympic

The bona fide blockbuster this month is **Disclosure Day** directed by Stephen Spielberg. It's an alien-themed film harking back to Close Encounters, in which a series of unexpected events begin to indicate the arrival of alien life on earth. It stars Emily Blunt and, the much-in-demand Josh O'Connor, ably supported by Colin Firth and Colman Domingo. Critics are saying this is very much a return to form for Spielberg.

Then there's **Toy Story 5**, a “toy meets tech” story, with Buzz, Woody, Jessie and the rest of the gang facing a new threat to playtime in the form of Lilypad, a tablet device with a superior demeanour. Critics say it marks a return to the emotional heart of the series, and what could be more emotional than a reunion between Woody and Buzz?

Tuner sounds great. Another British leading man, Leo Woodall, turns in a bravura performance as a blue-collar piano tuner whose extraordinary hearing skills are co-opted by some bungling gangsters, who realise he would make a great safecracker. Woodall more than holds his own against Dustin Hoffman, who plays his mentor Harry Horowitz, and the crime caper suspense is balanced by a sharp script and a gentle romance between Woodall's character and a classical pianist played by Havana Rose Liu.

There's also **The Sheep Detectives**, a Babe meets Thursday Murder Club

cosy-crime mash-up. It's had rave reviews with a 95% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes and has proved to be a huge audience hit in the US.

Finally **The Devil Wears Prada 2** is still packing them in. It's been a worldwide hit grossing \$663 million globally against a \$100 million budget. Not bad for a film starring two actors from South West London - Emily Blunt (Roehampton) and Stanley Tucci (Barnes). Apparently the film also features some other big names but unless they're from East Sheen we're not mentioning them.

New and Notable



Playing second fiddle in terms of promotion and marketing budgets but not in terms of quality, are a selection of films that may or may not merit Screen 1 but will be very enjoyable to watch in the cosier Screen 2.

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's a feel-good movie, full of 70s detail and a must-watch for jazz lovers.

Savage House is a hoot. It's a period drama set in 18th-century England during a pox outbreak and the Jacobite uprising. It stars Richard E Grant (another South West Londoner, hurrah) as an unscrupulous rake, Sir Chauncey Savage, married to the long suffering Lady Savage (Claire Foy). Together they are a pair of grifters trying to keep one step ahead of their many creditors. Their social climbing and scheming reaches its apotheosis with a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. It's one of those films in which you inexplicably find yourself rooting for two truly awful protagonists.

Finally there's the new Olivia Wilde film, *The Invite*. It's a 'couple's night gone wrong' plot in which a married and unhappy couple (Seth Rogan and Wilde) meet up with the unmarried and very happy Edward Norton and Penelope Cruz. Critics say the movie has shades of Woody Allen's best work.

Culture & Music



Les Liaisons Dangereuse is the hottest ticket in town. A shirtless-at-times Aidan Turner (as Valmont) schemes with the extraordinary Lesley Manville's Marquise de Merteuil. The reviews have been fantastic and now's your chance to see it from the comfort of your local cinema.

Away from live theatre there's also an intimate documentary about Linda Perry, the singer, songwriter and producer who first became famous as the front woman of 4 Non Blondes before reinventing herself as one of pop's most successful behind-the-scenes hitmakers.

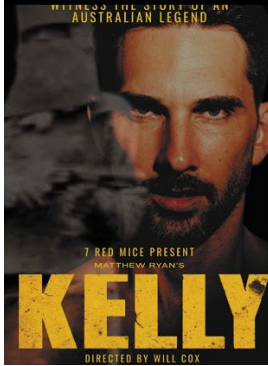
World Cup



Where could be a better and more civilised place to watch a world cup match than the Olympic? Unlike watching in a pub you won't be craning your head to see the screen. You'll be sitting incredibly comfortably enjoying a great picture, fantastic sound and maybe a glass of wine or beer or two. You'll be surrounded by fellow football lovers too. What's not to like?

What's on at The OSO?

DRAMA & MUSIC



Kelly

June 11 -13

This multi-award-winning play and performance comes to us from Australia and is making its UK debut at the OSO. Matthew Ryan's *Kelly* dramatises an imagined meeting between the outlaw Ned Kelly and his brother Dan. It is set on the last night of Kelly's life in Melbourne Gaol. In reality, Dan burned to death months earlier, and the play explores both Kelly's life and the family dynamics that shaped him.

[More info](#)

Don Juan: The Dazzling Irreverence of Lord Byron

June 17-19

The wonderful Tama Matheson is back at The OSO with a show that celebrates the scandalous, seductive life of the poet and rake Lord Byron. Performing alongside pianist Clare Hammond, Matheson mixes storytelling, dramatic readings and music. Byron's life will be woven around that of his eponymous hero Don Juan. The show is a 'heady fusion of art forms that entertains, edifies and delights'.

[More info](#)

Five Pianos

June 25

When Niall Ashdown was nine years old, he took his first and last piano exam and vowed never to play again. But ever since, the piano has kept finding its way back into his life. *Five Pianos* is a funny, intimate and honest exploration of that enduring relationship, told through original songs and reflecting on the role music has played as lover, liability and lifesaver. Ashdown, an actor, comic improviser and writer, is a familiar face from *The Comedy Store Players*, *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and *Jackanory*. This is his first solo project in some years

Chinese Boxing

July 1-3

What happens when an ex-British ambassador, the Boxer Rebellion and a touch of unexpected role play collide? *Chinese Boxing* is a smart, solo show that explores the complicated history between China and the West. Set in Barnes in 1912, it begins as a former ambassador to Peking prepares to give a talk on "China and the West Today". The lecture soon becomes something far stranger, taking the audience back to Peking in 1900 and the siege of the foreign legations during the Boxer Rebellion. Mark Kitto, who spent nearly 20 years in China, turns memoir,

[More info](#)

history and performance into a sharp, immersive piece.

[More info](#)

FOOD & COMEDY



Bollywood Night

June 24

An evening of epic curry and dynamic dancing as The OSO transports you to the world of the colourful and highly theatrical dance style of Indian films from the Bollywood stable.

The evening will kick off with a performance by some brilliant Indian dancers, to music provided by a DJ. A meal will follow and you'll then have the opportunity to work off the calories with a Bollywood dance workshop.

[More info](#)



The Comedy Store

June 26

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

POPPY BAKER  THE BULLS HEAD JAZZ CLUB	ALAN PRICE BAND
	
The Bulls Head Barnes Saturday 20 June thebullsheadbarnes.com • £15 adv / £17 door • 8.00pm	The Bulls Head Barnes Friday 26 June thebullsheadbarnes.com • £22 Adv • 7.45pm • Bulls Head SW13

Poppy Baker

Sat, June 20, 8.00pm

If you like Eva Cassidy, Laufey or Stacey Ryan, then you'll love Poppy Baker. She's one of the UK's most exciting young singer-songwriters and her work straddles the jazz, soul and indie genres.

A regular performer at Birmingham's Eastside Jazz Club, Poppy studied jazz vocals at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire under Sara Colman and Noemi Nuti.

[More info](#)

Alan Price Band

Fri, June 26, 8.00pm

A bona fide musical legend in our local pub? Of course Alan Price's gigs always sell out, but he's got two concerts in June and if you rush you might be able to secure tickets for the second one on June 26. Expect sardonic commentary, virtuoso piano playing and greatest hits including, if you are lucky), Lucky Man, House of the Rising Sun and Simon Smith and his Amazing Dancing Bear.

[More info](#)

Wetland Wonders



Summer Bug Walk

Saturday June 27

Join entomologist Connor Butler for a special Insect Week guided walk through London Wetland Centre on 27 June.

In celebration of Insect Week, this walk will help you discover how to find, observe, and identify invertebrates in the wild. If you've ever wondered how to distinguish a shieldbug from a beetle, or how to identify common species of woodlice, this tour is for you.

You'll learn how to use a hand lens and sweep net, how to search for and observe bugs in their natural habitats, and pick up practical tips for identifying different invertebrate groups. Whether you're a complete beginner or already curious about the tiny world beneath your feet, this walk is a wonderful opportunity to slow down, look closer, and appreciate the small creatures that keep our wetlands thriving.

[Find out more here](#)

Wetland Wellbeing Workshop – Nature Printing

Saturday June 27

Spend a relaxing hour immersed in nature at the beautiful wetland centre. This guided workshop introduces you to the art of nature printing, using leaves, flowers, and natural materials to create unique prints to take home.

[Find out more here](#)

Classical Concerts



**Schofield-Clarke
Saxophone & Piano Duo**

Thursday June 18, 7.30pm

St Mary's Barnes

Scottish saxophonist Richard Scholfield, who has been praised for his “silken” sound, joins pianist Iain Clarke for a programme spanning Bach to Piazzolla.

Highlights include Debussy’s Rapsodie for saxophone and piano, Schulhoff’s jazz-infused Hot-Sonate, and Ravel’s Mother Goose Suite. The duo brings fresh perspective to classical repertoire while showcasing the saxophone’s versatility.

An evening of colour, storytelling, and virtuosity in a beautiful setting.

[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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