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Masthead image: [Andrew Childs](#)

July 10, 2026

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Barnes Pond devastation after suspected avian botulism hits



Pictures show empty pond and Mother & cygnet recovering at Swan Sanctuary

ur new male swan, three of the four remaining cygnets, and multiple

O

ducks and geese on Barnes Pond have all been killed by suspected avian botulism.

The devastation seems to be a direct result of our recent heatwaves. The heat reduces oxygen levels in the pond, creating the perfect conditions for deadly botulinum bacteria to grow on decomposing vegetation, which is in turn ingested by waterfowl. It is not just our pond that has been hit, the Swan Sanctuary says is a problem that is widespread across southern England.

If caught early, birds can recover from the infection, and one small piece of good news is that volunteers from The Swan Sanctuary managed to rescue our female swan and one of her cygnets. Both have been treated with fluids and appear to be recovering well, although it can take weeks for the toxin to leave their system.

The question on everyone's lips is whether our remaining swans will be able to return to the pond, and the answer, for now, is no.

Before there is any reintroduction, it must be clear that the pond waters have recovered. Testing for the toxin in our pond water is not straightforward, and given the current wave of high temperatures, conditions for incubating the botulinum bacteria remain ripe. Ponds do recover naturally, however, particularly when temperatures fall and there is significant rainfall.

Staff at the Barnes Community Association (BCA) say they have been deeply saddened by the death of these birds and are talking to the council parks department about what can be done to ensure the health of the pond in future. Potential measures include planting more oxygenating vegetation and/or, for a quicker solution, introducing mechanical aeration to the pond, such as fountains or pumps with bubbling systems, to increase water circulation and oxygen levels.

Even birds that survived the initial wave of avian botulism have subsequently died and spare a thought for Russell Greaves the BCA's Greenkeeper who has been responsible for finding and disposing of the bodies of the dead birds. This week he has reported finding dead coots by the side of the pond.

We are all being encouraged not to feed the birds in the pond while conditions remain so poor as there is a risk of disease being passed on where birds congregate together to feed. It is also important that dogs do not enter the pond water although they are not at high risk of infection if they do.

The bigger concern for dogs is the current e-coli contamination of Beverley Brook, see story below.

STOP PRESS: The Bugle has just heard that the BCA will be donating the proceeds of sales of their reusable Pimm's cups at the Fair to the magnificent Swan Sanctuary who have saved the pond's much-loved female swan. We would always recommend drinking responsibly but may we suggest you have a glass of Pimm's when you go to the fair, or maybe even two...

Will Hammersmith Bridge ever reopen to buses & cars? The likely answer is no...



Hammersmith & Fulham Council has been accused of 'retreating from ambition' by Richmond Council after it revealed that its application for a contribution of the Government's structures fund would only cover funds to keep the bridge open for pedestrian and cyclists.

Last week the council revealed that its proposal to the structures fund is a bid of £128 million and that this huge sum is needed just to keep the status quo on the bridge; not to strengthen it sufficiently to allow buses, ambulances or cars to cross it.

Hammersmith & Fulham Council's cabinet met to endorse [this proposal](#) on Monday July 6. Addressing the meeting, Richmond Council's deputy leader Alex Ehmann made an impassioned speech saying: ***"This proposal is not good enough and shows a poverty of ambition. After years of full or partial closure, it is hugely disappointing to see Hammersmith and***

Fulham Council row back on fuller refurbishment that would enable public transport connectivity. The needs of residents who cannot walk or cycle over Hammersmith Bridge are not being properly considered. Residents have told us that they are restless to see buses and blue light services using the bridge again. Maintaining the bridge with its present uses is simply not good enough. This Council will continue to make the case for a ‘Better Bridge’ for our residents.”

While the decision of Hammersmith & Fulham Council doesn’t fully close the door on the possibility of the bridge ever being fully repaired to enable it to carry buses, ambulances and cars, it makes the likelihood very low indeed.

If the owner of the bridge (Hammersmith & Fulham Council) is no longer prepared to campaign for its ‘full’ reopening, something significant would have to change for full repair to ever be considered. This could either be intervention from central government or a change of ownership. Given the parlous state of many Thames crossings that their cash-strapped council owners can’t afford to maintain, many politicians are advocating moving ownership of London’s bridges to one central body such as Transport for London.

Every part of the bridge is rotten and it could easily close again



At this week’s meeting Hammersmith & Fulham Council’s leader, Steven Cowan was extraordinarily candid about the current state of the bridge ***“Every single part of it is rotten. Every single part of it needs to be restored***

or replaced. And that's part of the reason why this heritage bridge is (sic) £300 million to fix."

He talked about a history of underinvestment in the bridge's maintenance and referred to 70-90 years of untreated corrosion.

In what was a very political speech he accused his Conservative predecessors of spending just £63,000 on bridge maintenance compared during their term to £59 million spent by Hammersmith & Fulham Council to get the bridge to its current position.

However, the bid lays bare the state of the bridge and the document outlining the reasons for the size of the council bid reveals two things:

Just because the bridge is open now doesn't mean that no more money is needed

The report says : There is likely to be only a limited period before inspections identify the need for further major and costly works, or before the bridge may need to close fully, including to river traffic below. Restoring the bridge without strengthening it for motor traffic has previously been assessed as costing almost as much as restoring it for motor vehicles, at around £250m. This would be unaffordable for the Council unless a road user charge were available or grant funding were secured from the DfT and/or TfL.

Hammersmith Council is only asking for the money to repair the most at risk components of the bridge

The report says the £128 million bid covers 'repairs to the elements most at risk of forcing closure of the bridge if left unaddressed and includes the reinstatement of the architecturally important pedestal casings'.

**Fund deadline and traffic stats
given as reasons for low ball bid**



Hammersmith and Fulham Council has been in consultation with the Department for Transport ahead of making its bid for a grant from the Structures Fund. This has prompted speculation among some observers that it may have been signalled a grant for the bridge's full repair would not be forthcoming. The council's report does, however, make clear that the fund only covers work that can be completed by the end of 2030, which means council officers have had to focus their bid on the works most likely to meet that timetable.

At last Monday's council meeting, Steven Cowan said it would not be possible to fully repair the bridge by 2030, even if the council were able to secure the £300 million needed for a full restoration.

He also referred to the limitations of the business case for funding a full repair through tolling, arguing that Department for Transport traffic figures show overall traffic on neighbouring bridges has fallen, although the methodology of collecting that data and its interpretation remains contested.

Statistics: Supportive or illuminating?

The old adage that statistics are often used like a drunk uses a lamppost — more for support than illumination — is very much in play in the debate about Hammersmith Bridge.

The Department for Transport's traffic statistics which show traffic volumes falling across nearby bridges after Hammersmith Bridge's closure to cars are disputed by campaigners for the bridge's reopening, including Putney MP Fleur

Anderson. She argues that much of Putney's traffic misery is linked to the bridge closure.

Supporters of the bridge's long-term closure to motor traffic on environmental grounds say the DfT's figures are sound. While pro-bridge motor traffic campaigners say the DfT methodology means the figures do not compare like with like, and that year-on-year comparisons have been distorted by counts being taken during school holidays.

Given that the bridge's closure has also coincided with Covid-19 and wider transport changes such as new bus lanes and low-traffic neighbourhoods, there is so much 'noise' that it is almost impossible to draw a clear statistical conclusion about how much of the traffic chaos residents across Putney and Richmond experience on an almost daily basis is attributable to the closure.

Other arguments advanced against the claim that the bridge's closure has not significantly affected areas such as Putney emphasise that traffic volume and congestion must be considered together rather than in isolation. Critics note that when traffic on Putney Bridge is at a standstill, fewer vehicles are able to cross, which will inevitably reduce recorded volume figures.

[Putney.News](#) has published a useful analysis of those competing interpretations and how different interest groups use the same statistics to support opposing positions.

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Is the bridge a symbol of 'Broken Britain'?



Unsurprisingly, the news that the bridge is very unlikely to ever reopen to traffic has led to a great deal of press commentary. Articles in the Spectator and the Telegraph have used the failure to repair the bridge fully as a metaphor for Britain as a failing state.

Julia Llewellyn Smith the The Telegraph says ***“If Britain can’t fix a 200m bridge how can we even dream of completing HS2, not to mention bolstering our defences, or competing on the international AI stage?”***

In the FT, the bridge saga is used a cautionary tale for Andy Burnham and his plan for more devolved government. Be careful who you devolve power to seems to be the message.

This take is echoed by by Patrick West in The Spectator who says the story of the bridge exposes ***“the general ineptitude and financial profligacy of devolved and local government.”***

The other strand of political debate that the bridge is being used to exemplify is

frustration from right leaning press in particular about the impact of environmentalism. Both the Telegraph and the Spectator are excoriating about campaigners who want the bridge to remain closed to buses and cars on environmental grounds.

In the Spectator West says ***“There are some ecological types who rejoice in the bridge now being permanently allocated to walkers and cyclists, seeing it as heralding the sunny foretaste of things to come, when all motor vehicles will be banished from our urban spaces. It’s that same ecological utopianism, epitomised in Net Zero ideology, that terrifies so many people in its potential cost – both at a financial and social level.”***

Meanwhile Llewellyn Smith puts part of the failure of government to address the issue as fear of favouring motorists. She talks about ***“the vocal lycra-clad cycling lobby’s”*** influence saying ***“They smugly parrot that the bridge is still open – which is true unless you’re too old, infirm or otherwise unable to bike or walk the considerable distances involved.”***

The Daily Mail’s story predicts the bridge will ‘NEVER’ open again to traffic and quotes various comments on X. Comments from those rejoicing in the announcement include ***“Fewer car journeys will happen as a result of this and more people will opt to walk and cycle. It’s a well studied phenomenon called traffic evaporation.”*** And ***“Wow. Fantastic. Now do all the other bridges. Chase these polluting f***** out of our city.”***

Those lamenting the news are quoted as saying ***“Whatever you support, pedestrians or cars, it’s pretty pathetic of us as a country not to be able to maintain such infrastructure.”***

And then there’s a rather pointed pop at the people of Barnes from someone who obviously doesn’t live within a stone’s throw of the bridge. : ***“So the gilded folk of Barnes get the world’s biggest cul-de-sac and the poor f***** of Sheen and Kew get appalling traffic and extra pollution. All to protect a crumbling relic that should be torn down and replaced.”***

Are driverless pods going to come to the rescue?



Picture: Simeon Underwood

Amid the political to-ing and fro-ing and the vituperative Twitter spats, it is the elderly and less mobile who have suffered most from the bridge's closure. Many of us have adapted to a life in which we walk or cycle to Hammersmith, but for some people the current situation presents real difficulty.

As we reported last month, a new initiative that sits above local politics is launching with the express aim of helping those most badly affected by the closure and improving their access to the transport, health and town centre facilities across the water.

Many readers will have seen these nifty driverless pods — see the picture above — on our local streets this week, and there will be a chance to look inside them on Barnes Fair Day. One will be parked by The Green and another near the bridge, outside Holy Trinity Church. The vehicles are made by Ohmio, the company behind autonomous shuttle trials currently under way in Milton Keynes, with further testing also taking place in Suffolk.

They are packed with fascinating technology, including LIDAR sensors that allow them to detect other vehicles and pedestrians.

BHELT, the community group behind bringing the pods to Barnes, says many hurdles still need to be cleared before they can begin operating, although it hopes none are insurmountable. The cross-river team behind the initiative believes that, with a feasibility study and strong local and London-wide support to persuade TfL and politicians to back the idea, the driverless pods could become a flagship scheme adopted across London and beyond.

The elephant in the room is that engineers say the bridge, in its current state, is not strong enough to carry the pods — and it is not yet known how much stronger it will be after £128 million worth of repair work.

Charles Campion, one of the key members of the consortium behind BHELT, said: ***“Now that it is clear the bridge isn’t going to open to traffic any time soon, it’s time for a radical solution that makes a genuine difference to people’s lives. We want to engage with local councils, TfL and national government to make sure that a solution like our driverless pods is factored into the plans for strengthening the bridge over the next few years.”***

BHELT’s PR and lobbying campaign is already underway, with Campion appearing on [BBC Radio London](#) and valuable contacts including MPs Sarah Olney (Richmond Park), Ruth Cadbury (Brentford & Isleworth, Andy Slaughter (Hammersmith & Chiswick) coming to Barnes this week to see the pods in action.

The response to the test rides has been overwhelmingly positive with Councillor Alex Ehmann the Deputy Lead of Richmond Council [tweeting](#) that the council is very keen to explore this solution further.

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This month's featured property

Detached house

Gated entrance

Six bedrooms

Large rear garden

Garage

Castelnau, SW13

£6,250,000

From the Thames to Beverley Brook there's something nasty in the water



Dog walkers are being urged not to let their pets swim in Beverley Brook after the waterway was found to be contaminated with *E. coli* bacteria. While some may assume the pollution is linked to the [major sewage spill near Hammersmith Bridge](#) at the end of June, that is thought to be unlikely.

Volunteers from Barnes Common, who regularly monitor the Brook's water quality, and the charity says the bacteria are more likely to have entered from domestic drains.

One recent source of contamination near Richmond Park has already been identified and resolved after sewage waste from a group of new-build homes was found to have been incorrectly connected to the surface water drainage by builders. The source of the current ingress has not yet been established, but the dry weather and high temperatures are thought to have allowed bacteria levels to rise more quickly, making contamination from faulty or damaged plumbing more severe than it would be in cooler months.

The Thames spill is also unlikely to have had a significant impact on Beverley Brook, which flows into the river rather than the other way around.

Come to the hub: Barnes gets a brand-new website



Barnes now has a website full of useful information for anyone living in, visiting or moving to Barnes. [The Barnes Hub](#) is designed to help us all make the most of life in Barnes, whether that means enjoying brilliant local activities, joining a club or volunteering. Additionally, it offers support by providing details of local charities that can help people through difficult times.

It's also a fount of information about the history of Barnes and Barnes' important place in literary and musical history.

The idea for the hub came out of the Big Barnes Ponder 2 and was brought together by a team of volunteers, including journalists, editors and marketing professionals. It has been a huge undertaking, requiring extensive information gathering and fact-checking. A large number of organisations are listed, but the site does not include local business listings, as there is not the capacity to keep that information up to date.

The project has been funded by sponsorship, and the One Barnes Ponder Group, which is responsible for the new website, is hugely grateful to The Olympic

Studios, The Barnes Doctors and Savills, without whom the site would not have been possible.

Do have a look at [the site](#), it's well worth checking out. And if you want to find out more some of the volunteers who worked on the site will be available to chat at the BCA stand at tomorrow's Barnes Fair.



ST MARY'S
BARNES

WE ARE HIRING

Church Administrator

The ideal candidate will have a background in administration and teamwork and be sympathetic to the Christian faith and the Church of England, and enthusiastic about our parish's mission, vision, and values.

They will be flexible and highly motivated in helping us deliver the new church strategy and modernise the working of the church office. They will be focused, able to work to deadlines, maintain good relationships, and communicate effectively.

They will need patience and sensitivity when dealing with visitors, alongside strong attention to detail, time management, and strategic thinking.

Applications by July 30, 2026

[Click here for job description](#)

Caretaker

The church has identified the need to have some more professional oversight of our spaces and events, especially out of hours, which has given rise to the need for this new position. We are a busy site, comprising church spaces and church hall, with routine maintenance, tidying, and key management needing additional oversight due to increases in demand. You will be a key figure in helping the church be a safe place in which the whole community is welcomed.

This will be a zero hours position, worked flexibly, as the work is required, with an expectation of, on average, around 2 hours a week. This position may be offered to more than one person, to work as a caretaking team.

Applications by August 30, 2026

[Click here for job description](#)



The Barnes Fair - it's a numbers
game



It's going to be gloriously sunny tomorrow at Barnes Fair, but cast your mind back to January 1, when temperatures were in single figures. That was when planning for this year's event began.

When you start to look at the logistics involved in providing 20,000 visitors with a great day out, it becomes clear why it takes seven months to get the show on the road.

The Fair's outgoing organiser, Charlotte Sharpe-Neal, has shared some of the challenges of putting on the biggest day in the Barnes calendar. When you look at the numbers, you realise why she and the team at the BCA's Rose House deserve much more than a pat on the back for their efforts.

Over the past few weeks, office staff have found Rose House inundated with books for the bookstall — 10,000 have been donated this year — while a very hot and bothered team of volunteers in the non air-conditioned Girl Guide Hall have been sorting them into categories from cookbooks to novels. Back at Rose House,

staff have also been avoiding tripping over nearly 100 bottles of Pimm's, which some of the Fair's 70 volunteers will mix with more than 150 bottles of lemonade for the refreshment stand.

One of Charlotte's first tasks this year was sifting through applications from fair exhibitors, and once 500 applications had been whittled down to 300, she has been liaising with every single exhibitor since then.

Then there is the wonderful old-fashioned fun fair to organise, as well as the programme of entertainment to put together. The Bugle is feeling exhausted just typing all of this, so imagine how tired the BCA team will be by the end of Sunday, when they will have seen a successful day completed and the Green returned to a clean and tidy state.

Charlotte says it is shaping up to be one of the most successful fairs she has ever organised. There are some great new exhibitors, including Petersham Nurseries, which will be showcasing a beautiful selection of plants, homeware and gifts, and an electric-powered afternoon tea bus.

Bugle favourites Jefferson's will be back, selling locally brewed beer, and food will come from some fantastic local pubs and restaurants, including the Brown Dog, The Crossing, The Bull's Head, Rick Stein and Home SW13. Look out, too, for barbecue maestro Pickle and Viande.

You can see a [full list of exhibitors here](#).

P.S. Tickets are available online now and at the Fair for the [Barnes Fair Prize Draw](#).

Local businesses who have donated prizes include The Bridge Pub who have offered a prize which includes dinner, bed and breakfast. You can win meals at Home SW13, The Sun, The Coach & Horses and afternoon tea for 4 at Petersham Nurseries. And fans of local author Bernard O'Keefe should look out for a special Barnes Fair competition launching online on Monday which includes books and free rides on The Gallopers.....if you've read The Carousel of Time, you'll know why!

Time to book for the Bookfest

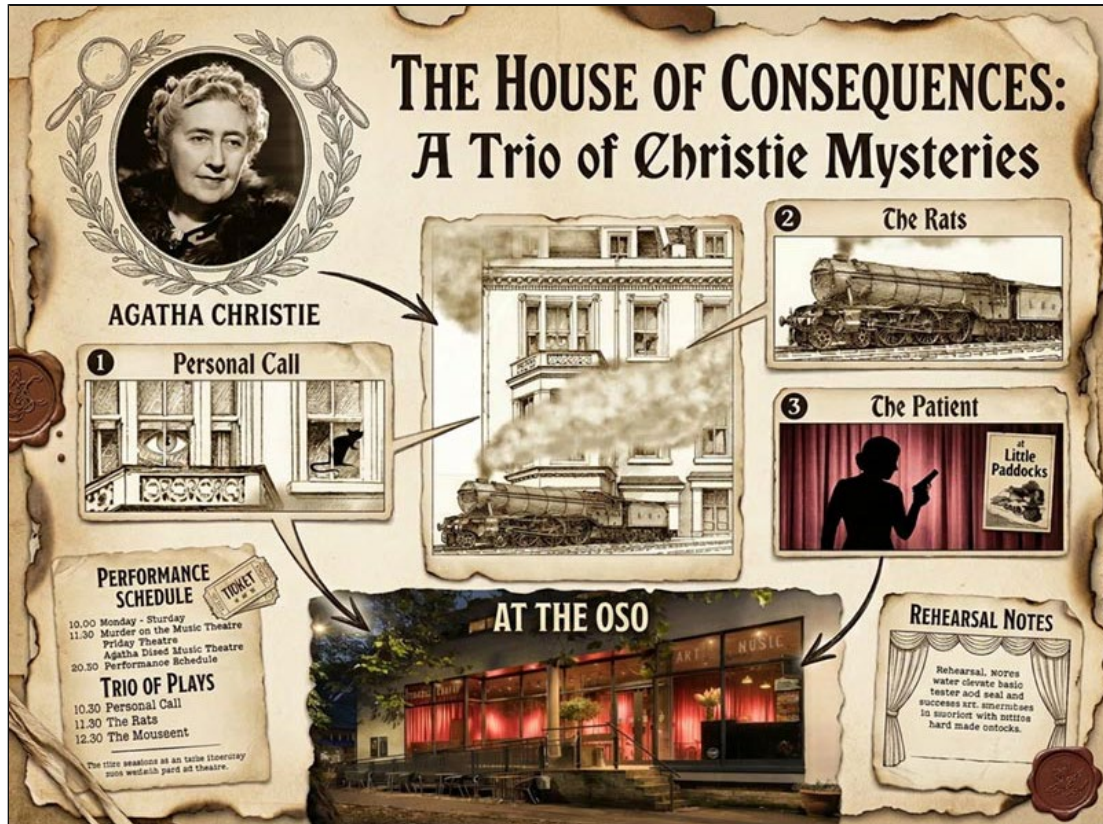


Tickets for this September's Barnes Bookfest go on sale this month and, true to form, there is a cracking lineup of authors taking part. Former politicians Sajid Javid and Vince Cable, leading historians Joanne Paul and Antony Beevor, art historians Andrew Graham-Dixon and Wendy Hitchmough lead the stellar list of non-fiction writers. And when it comes to fiction, bestselling authors William Boyd and Sebastian Faulks, award-winning novelist Emily Howes and new writers Imani Thompson and Leodora Darlington will all be talking about their books.

The Bugle is really looking forward to the session featuring Professor Alex Edmans who gave one of the standout talks of last year's BookFest. The leading economist considers the wild booms and busts of recent global markets and analyses why smart investors make crazy decisions and how to exploit their mistakes to your own advantage.

It is talks like those given by Professor Edmans that give the Bookfest its unique flavour. Yes, events featuring star names pull in the crowds, but it is often the sessions involving up-and-coming novelists or writers of quirky non fiction books that prove to be the most rewarding. We'll focus on a few of these under the radar talks next month as many of them sound completely fascinating. You can see a full line up of all the Bookfest's authors and events on [its website](#) and tickets will be on sale from July 15.

Mystery abounds at the OSO



Our brilliant local theatre company, The Barnes Community Players, will be taking up residence at the OSO for four nights this month to perform three rarely performed short plays by Dame Agatha Christie.

They are all set in the same Kensington house over three different decades, and originally written for radio.

In *Personal Call* a voice from beyond the grave leads a wife to confront a shocking truth, and a husband to come face-to-face with his past. *The Rats* features two loves and an unexpected assignation and *The Patient* tells the story of a locked-in and paralysed patient trying to communicate with her doctor.

It's a must-see for lovers of Christie. [You can find out more and book tickets here.](#)

Church Road post office's closure date confirmed



There are reports online that local councillor Andy Hale has confirmed that the Morrison's convenience store that houses the Church Road mini post office will close on August 1 - leaving Barnes with just one working post office at Verdun Road.

The Verdun Road post office and store is a small gem of a place but there are concerns that long queues will build up as customers who would have used the Church Road post office are forced to go to Verdun Road for post office counter services.

BCA director Emma Robinson and local councillors are all trying to see what can be done to encourage other local retailers to apply for a post office licence to maintain the current level of post office coverage in Barnes. There is no sign yet however of any potential retailer stepping up to the plate. We'll keep you posted.

Red Lion voted Barnes Pub of the Year



Pub landlords Angus McKean and Claire Morgan say that they are hugely touched and honoured that The Red Lion has been voted as the Barnes Pub of the Year by the Facebook Group, The Barnes Massive. ***“That people took the time to vote means a lot to us”*** says Angus. ***“We always think that some local residents don’t think of us as a Barnes pub as we aren’t on the river or in the village centre, so winning this makes us realise that we are part and parcel of the fabric of Barnes.”***

In a close-run contest, the Red Lion won with 32% of the votes pipping the Coach & Horses into second place. However, as Josh Harrington of the Barnes Massive says in his post announcing the result that ***“the real story is just how close the voting was across the board. The Brown Dog, White Hart, The Crossing, The Bridge, The Sun Inn and Bull’s Head all received plenty of support, and every one of them deserves it.***

“How lucky are we? Very few places can boast this many brilliant pubs within one small community. From traditional locals to riverside favourites, we’re genuinely spoiled here in Barnes.”

We asked Angus from the Red Lion about the challenges and joys of running a pub in Barnes and he said ***“Every pub landlord will tell you that it’s a lot of hard work but that when things go well it all seems worthwhile. We loved staying open late for the England Mexico game, the atmosphere was amazing. We ticketed the event, so we knew we weren’t going to be overwhelmed with numbers, and we showed the match indoors as we weren’t going to disturb neighbours by using***

the big screen in the pub garden in the early hours of the morning. The delayed kick off was a bit of a problem and we sold a lot of coffee in the run up to the match as punters tried to keep alert, but none of us had a problem staying awake once the game started.” Angus like all of Barnes’s other landlords is now preparing for Saturday’s big game which this time will be shown on the pub’s outdoor screen.

Horsing around



Picture: Simeon Underwood

Serendipitously, just as we discovered the Red Lion was pub of the year, a Bugle reader sent us this picture of a horse tied up outside the pub in the manner of a Western Saloon.

We asked the landlord Angus if there was any explanation for the picture and he said that a customer had just turned up on horseback and popped in for a drink. ***“I got quite a shock when I looked out of the window as saw a horse’s rear end.”*** he says. Angus who is fascinated by the Red Lion’s history (find out more about it here on the pub’s website) says that it must have been over a hundred years since a customer arrived at the pub on a horse.

Barnes Primary gets a spruce up thanks to Harry Styles



The enterprising team behind local start up Earnt certainly have a knack for hooking up with star names. Last month we wrote about the new range of merchandise designed using the artist Sir Michael Craig Martin’s mural at Barnes Primary School as a central motif. The mural was created by Craig Martin with the help of volunteers who all received tickets to the Frieze Art Fair in return for giving up their time to brighten up the school.

This month even more volunteers have been helping out at Barnes Primary painting walls, tidying the playground, and much more, having received free tickets to Harry Styles’ recent sell out gigs at Wembley in return for pledging their free time.

The partnership between Earnt and Styles is a world first. He kept back a portion of tickets for each of the gigs on his tour and offered them to people who would volunteer to take part in community projects organised by Earnt.

As every Styles fan knows tickets for his shows are like gold dust - over 1 million people applied for tickets just for recent sold out Wembley run.

So when fans learnt about the EARNT project in which they teamed up with schools and community centres across the country the EARNT site was inundated with applications. Earnt founder Lauren Scott Harris (top left in the image above) says 'the response was phenomenal'.

"Our collaboration meant that Styles' fans could show some love and upgrade spaces used by thousands of young people every day. Music has always generated energy. This is what happens when that energy is given back."

It's not just Barnes Primary that has benefitted, do check out this lovely [BBC report](#) about projects in Manchester that had a revamp thanks to tickets donated by Styles and a whole lot of project management by Earnt.

Round the Clock gets a revamp



The Round the Clock pharmacy on Church Road is now sporting a smart new interior and exterior in a refurb that took 17 weeks. The long turnaround time was due to the need for the chemist to stay open during the work, and the change has meant that a once-tired interior is now beautifully designed. The

main intention of the update was to introduce a new easily accessible consulting room as the pharmacy is offering a range of services from a weight loss clinic to vaccinations. The beautifully tiled shop fascia is a nod to the traditional Victorian green tiles that can be seen across its Church Road parade of shops. ***"We wanted the new-look pharmacy to have a great balance of traditional and modern"*** say the owners of Round the Clock ***"and we're very happy that this is what's been achieved."***

Controversy over bus stop changes in Lonsdale Road



A new layout for bus stops in Lonsdale Road has been welcomed by some but is causing much concern for other residents.

The stops are being put in place to accommodate the 419 route on Lonsdale Road. This key route is important for residents of North Barnes and has a very popular hail and ride section of the route where bus users can just hail the buses like a taxi on part of the route.

TfL held a consultation about buses in the area three whole years ago which involved taking away a portion of the hail and ride route and also trying to reduce the inconvenience to residents in streets south of Lonsdale Road.

The revised route in 2024 for the 419 had no hail and ride services in Lonsdale Road and some hail & ride continuing between a stop by St Paul's school and Verdun Road.

The new bus stop that's planned by the sheltered housing at Walnut Tree Close, is being welcomed by locals. However, the positioning of a proposed new stop by St Paul's has some residents and school parents up in arms. Their concerns include reduced line of sight to the crossing for approaching vehicles and the shortening of zig-zags near a heavily-used school crossing.

The BCA/ Travel Barnes Ponder Group is liaising with Richmond Council to better understand the safety issues around the St Paul's stop and suggesting that it be moved further down the road towards Hammersmith Bridge to give the less mobile better access to the bridge.

Everybody needs good neighbours



The best chefs always talk about how the best produce is seasonal and local, and the talented pastry chefs at our new Castelnau patisserie [The Fat Goose](#) have accidentally stumbled upon some excellent local suppliers.

A chance conversation with a customer has led to a collaboration with growers at

The Barn Elms Allotments around the corner. So now you will find Barnes-grown rosemary on the Fat Goose focaccia, and you should also look out for some beautiful fig leaf cordial.

Jemima from the Fat Goose says she's thrilled to have local produce to work with and raves about the beauty and tranquility of the allotment space. ***"It's magical to watch the bees busily pollinating all the fruit and vegetables and buzzing happily amongst the lavender."*** she says

Save our saplings



If you have a newly planted tree in your street it's easy to assume that somebody else is responsible for watering it. However, unless we water them there's a very real risk of young tender trees dying in the current extreme heat. The BCA is appealing to all of us to get our watering cans out, with so many awful things happening in our local green spaces as a result of the heat, it's the least we can do.

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 July?

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



Richmond lad Tom Holland owns the big new releases this month; not only is he back as **Spiderman** he and his new wife Zendaya, have key roles in Christopher Nolan's latest blockbuster *The Odyssey*. It's been getting rave reviews from critics and even Tom Holland's historian namesake has said that ***"it is by some way the best cinematic adaptation of a Greek myth I have ever seen. It honours Homer while simultaneously making something new of him."***

The other big new movie to look out for is **The Invite** a 'dazzling sex comedy' directed by the actress Olivia Wilde who also stars as one of a pair of couples at a tense dinner party where a conventional married couple is invited to partake in a spot of swinging by the louche couple living upstairs (as you do). The screenplay satirises modern social conventions mercilessly.

It's always a good sign when movies from last month are still attracting an audience. So, if you haven't yet seen **Disclosure Day** (Spielberg Sci Fi), **Tuner** (Leo Woodall and Dustin Hoffman in a caper movie about a safe-breaker/piano tuner) and **The Devil Wears Prada** (it's about fashion apparently) you can still catch them.

Kids



As the summer holidays beckonn so do the great kids films. The Olympic have got a special offer on for families this summer with £10 tickets for all children under 14 and great value kids menus. All which means there's no excuse to miss *Toy Story 5*, the new *Minions* film, *Masters of the Universe*,

Spider-man and the live action Moana. In fact you can get this special deal at any film that's classified for under 14s to see.

Culture & Arthouse



Not to be missed is a wonderful exhibition on screen film being re-shown in tribute to the master of colour **David Hockney**. Another film that also sounds intriguing is Jodie Foster's debut in a French-speaking film - **A Private Life**. Her character a renowned psychiatrist mounts a private investigation into the death of one of her patients, whom she is convinced has been murdered. Foster is fluent in French having learnt it at the French Lycée in LA when she was a child, Then there's a quirky little English film to try. Based on Virginia Woolf's funniest novel, **Night & Day** is an unromantic comedy about a passionate astronomer who does everything she can to avoid romantic love and marriage. The story of heroine Katharine Hilbery's bold challenge to the Edwardian patriarchy is set against the backdrop of the suffragette movement and advances in science and technology, at the turn of the 20th century.

Classics



'Are you talking to me', 'Never rat on your friend and always keep your mouth shut'.

If you can guess the film from these quotes you're going to be making a beeline for two classic re-runs this month. Don't miss either of them.

The Footie



And finally, there are a handful of tickets left to see the match of the millenium in the comfort of the Olympic so you'll have to rush to get a place.

What's on at The OSO?

DRAMA



Agatha Chritie's The House of Consequences

July 14-17

Three rarely performed short plays by Dame Agatha Christie, originally written for radio, and subsequently adapted by the Dame herself for stage and presented at the OSO for the first time.

Set in the same Kensington house over three different decades, each story is a self contained mystery linked by Dame Agatha's common themes of adultery, money, deception and revenge.

[More info](#)

Top Gunchained

July 23-24

This uplifting comedy brings you a jet-powered tour through your favourite characters, and all the romance and action of Tom Cruise's aerial blockbuster, alongside the heartfelt story of father and son superfans who can't agree on anything except their favourite film.

Can Maverick and best friend Goose beat Iceman to the Top Gun trophy?

Can instructor Charlie get a drink without anyone singing at her?

[More info](#)

COMEDY



Gyles Brandreth Up Memory Lane!

July 19

Gyles Brandreth is on his way to Edinburgh and coming via the OSO with a new show: Up Memory Lane! He is going to be unpacking his childhood memories (and yours), and sharing hilarious stories of the best (and worst!) moments of his unlikely life - when he can remember them.

He's being joined on stage by his friend Harriet Jaime, the producer of his multi-million download podcast, Rosebud

[More info](#)



Pre-Fringe Festival: Matt Forde & Pierre Novielle Work in Progress

July 29

Matt Forde is a leading political satirist. His podcast The Political Party has enjoyed sold-out runs in the West End. He also wrote and voiced characters for Spitting Image.

Pierre Novelle is a comedian and podcaster. He co-hosts the podcast Frank Skinner Off the Radio and Budpod, which has over five million downloads.

[More info](#)



Pre-Fringe Festival: Iain Stirling & Sophie Duker

July 30

Comedian Iain Stirling is best known as the voice of Love Island. He has also appeared on Taskmaster, hosts CelebAblit and released his debut stand-up special, Failing Upwards, in 2022. Sophie Duker is an award-winning British stand-up comedian, writer and actor. She won Taskmaster Series 13, has appeared on several TV panel shows.

[More info](#)

MUSIC



Fire & Rain & American Pie

July 22

A heart-warming, musical homage to the great American singer-songwriters of the late 60s and early 70s, featuring timeless songs from James Taylor, Carole King, Simon & Garfunkel, Joni Mitchell, Don Mclean, Bread, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, America, Mamas and Papas, Carly Simon and more. The show has a relaxed acoustic style, matching the spirit of Laurel Canyon, the suburb of L.A. where many of these artists were neighbours.

[More info](#)



Fior Uisce/ True Water: An Evening of Irish music

July 25

Ri Rua is a Hammersmith-based traditional Irish folk band. This concert will explore some of the origins of Irish folk songs and instrumental pieces, using photography, maps and personal connections with the musicians themselves. The band will take you on a journey from the toe-tapping drinking songs of Kilburn to the mournful slow airs of Donegal.

[More info](#)

Music at The Bull's Head

**ALAN PRICE
BAND**



**The Bulls Head Barnes
Thursday 30 July**

thebullsheadbarnes.com • £22 Adv • 7.45pm • Bulls Head SW13

Alan Price Band

Thu, July 30, 7.45pm

A bona fide musical legend in our local pub? 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](#)

Aspects Productions presents
**The Jazz and Blues
'All Stars'**



The best in jazz and blues with an 'All Star' line-up including Bob Haddrell, Robin Bibi, Esta Rae, and Kat Pearson
Saturday 1st August 2026

Doors: 8.00pm
£18 Advance / £21 Door
Enquiries: 020 8876 5241

The Bulls Head
373 Lonsdale Rd
Barnes
SW13 9PY

Online Bookings from: thebullsheadbarnes.com

The Jazz & Blues All Stars

Sat, Aug 1, 8.00pm

A '5' star line up of musicians and singers, including the critically acclaimed Bob Haddrell Trio, award-winning guitarist / singer Robin Bibi, top jazz vocalist and TV personality Esta Rae, and blues vocalist and radio presenter Kat Pearson.

[More info](#)

Wetland Wonders



Wine & Walk: An Exclusive Evening of Wine and Wetlands

Friday June 17

Enjoy expertly selected wines while discovering the seasonal wonders of the wetlands on this unique guided evening experience.

Set within the tranquil surroundings of WWT London Wetland Centre, Wine and Walk combines expertly guided wine tasting with seasonal wetland discovery, creating a truly unique experience that changes with every event.

Enjoy five carefully selected wines and delicious canapés as you explore the reserve with wine specialists Valerie and Colin, alongside members of our Living Collections and Reserve teams. Together, they will reveal the stories behind each wine and the fascinating wildlife, habitats and seasonal spectacles unfolding around you.

[Find out more here](#)

Dragonfly Festival

Saturday July 18 to August 31

A summer of dragonfly-themed events and activities

Explore the magical world of dragonflies and dive into a summer full of wondrous new wetland experiences

[Find out more here](#)

About the Bugle

The Barnes Village Bugle is an independent publication. People often think it's produced by the Barnes Community Association, but no, they

have their own excellent email Prospect Plus.

At the Bugle we endeavour to simply report what's going on in Barnes in as comprehensive and entertaining a way as possible. We have no agenda apart from spreading the word about the huge number of genuinely interesting things happening in and around Barnes and sharing information about local campaigns and news events. If you have a story you would like to see featured in the Bugle do email us by clicking [here](#).

We can't guarantee that we'll run it, but if we think it's going to be interesting to our readers then we'll publish your information. If on the other hand you want to publicise a commercial venture then it's easy to advertise with us. Our mailing list has over 5,800 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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