



Barbican Association

Newsletter

October 2003

Bridewell Theatre Faces Closure

In 2004 the Bridewell Theatre will be celebrating 10 years of terrific artistic achievement as a producing and receiving venue that has a clear focus on the development of new musical theatre. Sadly, from the spring of 2004 the future existence of this theatre is threatened at its current premises. The theatre's landlord, the St. Bride Foundation who have generously supported the Theatre since it's beginning, are now unable to subsidise the rent or provide an annual operating grant. This situation has arisen due to the Corporation of London ending its financial support to the St. Bride Printing Library. The Bridewell Theatre now needs to raise at least an additional £100,000 or will be forced to close in April 2004.

The Theatre management and the Board of Trustees are doing all they can to meet the funding gap that has been created, however this is an enormous challenge to undertake. The theatre is working towards its continuation in the current building, moving to a new site, or even as a last resort keeping going as a theatre company without premises. To enable survival,



numerous initiatives are being pursued including involvement with the Arts Council, the GLA, the Corporation of London and a Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry.

At a time when the theatre is artistically achieving great things, gaining a wide and successful reputation within the arts and media industry, this financial setback is disappointing for all those who have supported the theatre through its history. It is particularly challenging for those who are committed to saving this theatre, a task that must be a priority if the Bridewell's future and artistic influence is to continue within the City of London.

If you would like more information or wish to help, please look at the theatre's website www.bridewelltheatre.co.uk. If you want to write a letter please write to your Common Councillor at the Corporation of London or Ken Livingstone at the GLA.

Tim Sawers

Executive Director Bridewell Theatre
020 7353 0259

Council Turns Teachers Dream Into Parents Nightmare

The three head teachers of three schools in the vicinity of the Barbican -- Prior Weston, Fortune Park and Richard Cloudesley -- had a dream to build an integrated school facility at the Prior Weston site. The idea was that this 'community facility' would be open during extended hours for 49 weeks of the year for a range of uses far beyond nursery and primary education; it would become an even more important focal point for the

whole community

However Islington Council now wants to close another nearby school, Moorfields Primary School, which it sees as a 'problem school' and merge with the other three.

At present, Prior Weston is a wonderful 'social meeting ground' for the residents of the Barbican and Golden Lane estates and the Bunhill ward of Islington in particular. The

nightmare scenario is that the relationship between the City and Islington parents that flourishes at present could be put at risk by this proposal. Some of those parents most committed to education - and the future success of Prior Weston - might vote with their feet.

Since Ofsted visited Moorfields 6 months ago, the parents, children and teachers have worked hard to transform their

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Who's Who in the Barbican Association

Officers

Chair	Stephen Horrocks	37 Speed House	7628 8178
Deputy Chair	Angela Starling	502 Gilbert House	7638 8201
Secretary	Richard Morrison	176 Defoe House	7588 9255
Assistant Secretary	Richard Gaskell	402 Mountjoy House	7628 3068
Treasurer	Tony Warren	353 Lauderdale Tower	7638 8826
Membership Secretary	Nicola Baker	7 Wallside	7588 2525
Auditor	Neville Littlestone	Thomas More House	

Sub Committees

Roofs	Lynne Brooke	18 Andrewes House	
Service Charges	Stephen Horrocks	37 Speed House	7628 8178
Planning	Don Prichard	9 Thomas More	7588 6691
Communications	Angela Starling	502 Gilbert House	7638 8201
Environment	Steve Quilter	173 Andrewes House	7496 0562
Estate Security	David Bradshaw	143 Cromwell Tower	7638 3005
Access	Robert Barker	33 Lauderdale Tower	7588 3694
Social	Mary Piper	109 John Trundle Court	7588 3920

Elected General Council Members

Nicola Baker, Robert Barker, David Bradshaw, Lynne Brooke, Keith Haarhoff, Stephen Horrocks, Mary Piper, Steve Quilter, Angela Starling

House Group Representatives

Andrewes House *	Steve Quilter	173 Andrewes House	7496 0562
Ben Jonson House *	Malcolm Morley	207 Ben Jonson House	7628 5949
Brandon Mews	John Bailey	8 Brandon Mews	7588 2954
Breton House	Joyce Taylor	46 Breton House	7638 4742
Bryer Court	Keith Haarhoff	708 Bryer Court	
Bunyan Court	Kurt Janson	214 Bunyan Court	7588 5502
Cromwell Tower *	John Tomlinson	133 Cromwell Tower	7628 3657
Defoe House *	Richard Morrison	176 Defoe House	7588 9255
Gilbert House *	Douglas Woodward	404 Gilbert House	7628 7307
John Trundle Court *	Mary Piper	109 John Trundle Court	7588 3920
Lambert Jones Mews	Robin Keen	1 Lambert Jones Mews	7588 2081
Lauderdale Tower *	Dave Rivers	121 Lauderdale Tower	7588 3594
Mountjoy House *	David Beech	501 Mountjoy House	7588 0790
Seddon House *	Jane Smith	307 Seddon House	7628 9132
Shakespeare Tower *	Alison Gowman	382 Shakespeare Tower	7628 6067
Speed House *	Patricia Norland	56 Speed House	7638 0362
Thomas More House *	Don Prichard	9 Thomas More	7588 6691
Wallside *	Nicola Baker	7 Wallside	7588 2525
Willoughby House *	Richard Quarrel	315 Willoughby House	

* Recognised Tenants Associations

Meeting Dates

BA General Council

13 November 2003
15 January 2004
11 March 2004
5 May 2003 - AGM
13 May 2004
15 July 2004
16 September 2004
11 November 2004

Barbican Residential Committee

17 November 2004
19 January 2004
15 March 2004
17 May 2004
19 July 2004
20 September 2004
15 November 2004

Resident Consultation Committee

10 November 2003
15 December 2003
5 January 2004
9 February 2004
1 March 2004
4 May 2004
5 July 2004

Location: St Giles Church
Time: 8 pm
Open to: Members
(contributions welcome)

Location: Guildhall
Time: 12 am
Open to: Public
(observer only)

Location: Guildhall
Time: 6.30 pm
Open to: All Residents
(observer only)



results and this summer the school had better results than the average for Islington! They don't want their school closed. Equally, the parents of Prior Weston and Fortune

Park have been shocked and are far from unanimous in welcoming the council's preferred solution.

Parents of children at Prior Weston first heard about the merger plans on Tuesday 7th October, only 48 hours before an Islington Town Council meeting at which the council was due to decide whether to consult interested parties on its plans at all or just go ahead with its preferred option. Parents who attended the meeting left the council in no doubt what they thought of the plans. To date Islington Council has done little to inform the wider debate other than post the report on its website; most parents appear unaware of the report's existence.

The 59-page proposal that was presented to the Council Executive leads one to draw precisely the wrong conclusion about the financial impact of the main alternative option which is in fact more favourable. It also contains a lot of performance data and school statistics that raises many questions but offers few answers.

- Why is the Council suddenly doing a U-turn on its stated policy and now wants to close Moorfields?
- Why close Moorfields if it is already better than the average in Islington?
- Why build a 420 pupil capacity school when parents clearly prefer a single-form 'village school'?
- Why close Moorfields in 2007 if, based on GLA projections, Islington will need another school by 2009?
- Why merge what the Council regards as 'the best with the worst' when the burden can be carried by five head teachers in the area instead of one who already faces a significant logistics challenge?
- Why 'waste' £500,000 on temporary

accommodation when the alternative solution doesn't require it?

- Why risk losing the wider social integration around Prior Weston if we don't have to do so?
- Why does the issue of doubling the occupancy density at Prior Weston go un-addressed in the report?
- Why is there no reference to prior experience elsewhere in the UK of the impact of closing a school?

Government appears to prefer new primary schools to accommodate 420 pupils and yet Hugh Myddleton and Moreland are 27% empty. Conversely, the 4 schools with 1-form entry in South Islington are 97% full (excluding Moorfields which still has only half the proportion of vacancies of the larger schools). Surely here's an example of parents voting with their feet.

As a BA member and Prior Weston parent, I felt obliged to report on this topic with some urgency. I still reserve judgment on the best solution to each issue -- indeed, it's impossible to know without more information -- but I'm far from convinced by the Council's arguments so far and I plead that we tackle each issue individually on its own merit first.

Let's debate those difficult issues in our mixed community as sensitively as possible to find a way of acknowledging other views and interests: without it we will never agree on the way forward.

To share your views with me about the process and issues rather than your conclusions at this stage, please write to me at 323 Lauderdale Tower, Barbican EC2Y 8NA (robert.doe@reynoldsdoe.fsnet.co.uk)

The Corporation has a part in the consultation process. Please make your views known in writing to The City Education Officer, P O Box 270, Guildhall, EC2P 2EJ (education@corpoflondon.gov.uk). Alternatively, please make your views known direct to Steve Hitchins, Leader of Islington Council, 70 St Peter's Street, London N1 8JS (steve.hitchins@islington.gov.uk).

Robert Doe
Prior Weston Parent

Grab This Chance to Feature Your Flat in New Book About the Barbican



Following on from last year's exhibition in the Curve Gallery documenting the history and development of the Barbican, a book entitled Barbican: Penthouse over the City, by the exhibition's curator, David Heathcote, is soon

to be published. A photo shoot is imminent and the publisher is seeking Barbican residents who would be

prepared to allow access to their homes for photography purposes. Of particular interest are penthouses in the towers and terraces, podium-level flats, and houses.

If you would be willing to assist, please contact Abigail Grater at John Wiley & Sons (Tel:020 8326 3817, Email: agrater@wiley.co.uk) by Tuesday 4th November.

The Joys of Being Chair of the BA



The hot summer months are behind us now, scarves and overcoats are being dug out, blissful holidays are fading into memory, and the bathroom floor is heated again. At the same time, four months have passed since my election as Barbican Association (BA) Chair. It feels like so much longer. I have fast

come to realise though that for those of us who spend so much time dealing with all the "issues", it is easy to lose sight of the reason all of us live here. In short, it's a great place to live and we want to keep it that way. So before exploring the "issues" again I thought it would be worthwhile to list the things I love about living here:

- The dramatic architecture, especially the towers against a bright blue sky
- The gardens
- The lakes and fountains (has anyone seen the newly resurgent fountains by the Arts Centre!)
- Having coffee by the lakeside on a sunny afternoon
- The bright airy flats
- Being in your theatre or cinema seat 5 minutes after leaving your armchair
- The diverse mix of people, and the passion they have about living here
- Mary Piper's social events
- The great restaurants and bars that are nearby

So now back to the issues.

New Volunteers

The response to our appeal for volunteers has been extremely good. As a consequence we have been able to launch a number of initiatives, especially in the area of communications. Many thanks to those who have come forward, and apologies to anyone who has not been contacted yet. I promise we will be in touch. The Association lives by its volunteers and the injection of new blood makes me very hopeful for the future.

Communications

I have committed to improved communications with you. The last newsletter was a start, and the very favourable response to it was very gratifying. I have become aware just how difficult it is to communicate and consult with 4,000 people. Angela Starling on page 5 has reported on the formation of a Communications Group, which will greatly increase the channels by which we can communicate with residents and members. I am especially excited about the development of a website which should enable us to alert you of issues much more quickly and make our

decision making much more transparent.



From left to right: Joyce Nash, Don Prichard, Mary Piper

Rebuilding Relationships

On 4th September the BA held a social with the Corporation to give us a chance to communicate with officers and Common Councillors on an informal basis. The event was a great success and well received. Thanks to Mary Piper for organising the catering, and Joyce Nash for providing the venue.

Rome was not built in a day, and with all the issues that are building up in the Residential Consultation Committee (RCC) there are inevitably going to be areas where we are not going to agree. We have, however, committed to a constructive dialogue with the Corporation and will endeavour to continue to keep to this commitment.



From left to right: Wendy Mead, Billy Dove

Role of the BA and the RCC

The BA General Council has discussed at length how it was going to work with the new RCC. There is a huge risk that all of us could end up attending multiple meetings on the same topics. As a consequence we

have agreed that the RCC is now the primary body that deals with all issues relating to the management of our homes by the Corporation (i.e. the services we pay for through our service charge). The BA will instead focus more on planning, environment, and community issues. It will also keep a watching brief on the work of the RCC, and will probably be the body that deals with any disputes on management that cannot be resolved through the RCC (i.e. referrals to the Lease Valuation Tribunal).

Consequently a number of issues that were being dealt with by the BA have been passed to the RCC, including the TV upgrade and window cleaning service. Because of their long-standing nature, the supervision and management issue and the roofs' upgrade will remain primarily within the BA's scope with respect of all charges paid up to April 2004. The BA is effectively stepping back

from detailed involvement in management issues although in practice many of the same people are involved in both the BA and the RCC. As you can see from the pages of this newsletter this still leaves us with much to do.

As the BA representative on the RCC, I have reported on the key proceedings on page 7. However the RCC will in future be issuing its own newsletter jointly with the Estate Office under the banner of "Barbicanews", as well as through a Corporation hosted website.

We will keep these arrangements under review for the time being.

Review of the BA Constitution

The Constitution of the BA was last amended in 1992. Our last secretary, David Rivers, identified a number of anomalies that need addressing. A member has volunteered to help with the review of the constitution, and the BAGC will be having its first discussions

at the meeting on November 13th. If you have any strong feelings about the way we are constituted we would love to hear your views.

Last but not least...

I see the BA as one of the catalysts for creating a vibrant community here in our little concrete piece of heaven. If there is an initiative you would like to get going here in the Barbican please come to us and see if the BA can help. The existing volunteers are probably at full stretch, but the BA can help provide a platform for you to get your initiative going.

So in the words of my least favourite piece of trash TV: "Come on down!"

Stephen Horrocks

Chair

stephen.horrocks@tiscali.co.uk

Jaw Jaw - A New Communications Group Has Been Set Up



Following the Chairman's request for volunteers in the first issue of the Newsletter, we now have an enthusiastic team working on a newly formed Communications Committee.

The members are: Robert Doe, Stephen Horrocks, Ronan Kavanagh, Gillian Laidlaw, Val Southon and Lawrence Williams. The committee is chaired by myself, Angela Starling.

This Newsletter will continue to be produced regularly, as it has proved rather popular, and will cover the work of the Barbican Association and its various sub-committees. The newsletter will be distributed to all residents and will be edited by Ronan Kavanagh. Ronan expands on his plans for the Newsletter on page 6

We are also up-dating the 'Urban Village' information booklet that many of you may have received when you joined the BA, with many more useful addresses for local services, restaurants etc. Thanks to Val Southon

and Gillian Laidlaw for the hard work they have put into this.

The magazine will also be re-launched, focusing on features about life here in the Barbican, in contrast to the Newsletter which will be news orientated. It will be distributed to members of the BA only. Lawrence Williams has reported on his plans on page 6.

Finally two residents have come forward volunteering to build and run a website for the Association. We hope to make this a primary source of information about the work of the BA and what is going on in the area.

As you can imagine, to regularly produce these publications is rather time consuming, so if anyone is interested in helping with these or with the website that we are hoping to set up for the Barbican Association, we should be very pleased. If you are interested please contact me.

Angela Starling

Chair of the Communications Committee
angela@barbican99.fsnet.co.uk

Introducing Your Newsletter Editor



We hope you enjoy this second issue of the new Barbican Association Newsletter. The Newsletter is intended to be interesting, topical, news focused and informative.

I have had the pleasure to live in the Barbican for eight years now in various flats on the estate and one thing that has always struck me is the diversity of interesting people who also choose to make their home here. There have been many changes in the locality in recent years, most, from the resurgence of Clerkenwell to the boom in new construction surrounding the estate, as well as the changes within the Barbican itself, which makes it all the more important to have a means to communicate community news.

This newsletter will attempt to reflect the diversity of residents interests and issues. If you have any comment about the content, or suggestion about items you would like covered in future editions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Also, if you want to submit an article we would like to hear from you. We will also in future provide a forum for readers to raise issues that concern them in a "Letters to the Editor," section so please send any letters to me.

Ronan Kavanagh
Newsletter Editor

312 Bunyan Court, Barbican, EC2Y 8DH,
Barbicaneditor@yahoo.co.uk

Calling all Clubs and Societies

Do you have an event you want to publicise or report on?
Please contact our Newsletter Editor

New Barbican Lifestyle Magazine on the Launch Pad

Major changes are planned for Barbican Resident magazine – the community/lifestyle glossy publication that Barbican Association (BA) members have received free of charge in the past.

For some time now, the magazine has been produced by a local commercial organisation, which undertook the production and distribution in exchange for the advertising revenue. The Barbican Association's contract with that organisation has now expired and we are planning to take the magazine back under our control, with revenues benefiting the Association.

Initially we are looking at the idea of a quarterly publication distributed to BA members free of charge.

We intend the publication to be community-related, focusing more on what it's like to live here rather than on some of the more contentious issues, such as licensing and planning, which we hope to be able to cover in greater depth in this regular newsletter.

We are seeking writers to help us and are more than willing to consider ideas for regular themed articles. For example we would like to continue features like the local restaurant reviews, articles about what is going on at the Barbican Centre, and carry a more comprehensive Barbican club and society news

section (club and society chairpersons please take note).

We are also perhaps looking to introduce a new regular interior design feature that looks at how some residents have decorated and furnished their apartments – which would be of interest to all of us who are looking at transforming our own residences, but are still searching for design ideas. So, please do get in touch if you would like your flat to be featured.

Overall, the aim is to produce a lively and provocative community magazine that will be of interest to all readers. Those of you of a literary persuasion are requested to contact us with ideas and articles for publication.

We would like prospective advertisers to also get in touch. The Barbican community as a whole has an inordinately high spending power and as an advertiser you would be able to reach this audience at low cost, whilst supporting the magazine and the Association at the same time.

Lawrence Williams
Magazine Editor

5 Brandon Mews, EC2Y 8BE
barbicanbjh@aol.com

Membership Levels on the Route to Recovery



Following the distribution of the Survey in the last newsletter, 40 new subscriptions have been received, 12 of which are by Standing Order and 28 by cheque.

These bring the level of membership up to 1,171 (58%) for 2003. We have still not reached the membership level of last year so please join by taking advantage of the offer below.

In addition 15 residents have used the form enclosed with the Survey to change their method of payment from cheque to Standing Order with effect from 2004. It would be much appreciated if others would do the same as this greatly reduces the work for both me and our Treasurer.

£7 for 2 years' membership offer

If you have not yet joined the Association you can now join for this year and next for £7. Each House Group Chair has been given a pack of £7 offer forms to distribute to those who are not currently members. If you receive one please take advantage of this fantastic offer and complete the survey on the back of the form. Payment is by Standing Order only.

New Membership Database

Membership records used to be kept on a manual card index system. This has been transferred into an Excel database which automates the old paper-based records and makes it much easier for us to administer membership records and produce reports. All reporting and reminders can now be generated by the database which saves an enormous amount of time. The transfer of records onto the new system did cause a delay in sending out membership cards to new members whilst the database was being created. This was unavoidable and I would like to thank those concerned for their patience during this period of changeover.

New members discount scheme

We are planning to launch a scheme whereby members can get discounts on goods and services with local businesses. If we can get this off the ground it will greatly increase the value of your membership. If you would like to help launch this initiative or are a local business who would like to join please contact Lawrence Williams, the proposed magazine editor.

Nicola Baker

Membership Secretary

Resident Consultation Committee Forges Forward

The RCC is providing a central point for dialogue with our landlord, and bringing focus on key issues. As ever with something new there are some birth pains. In particular with the growing effectiveness of the committee, there are simply not enough resources to cope with the workload being generated.

The RCC will shortly be issuing its own detailed newsletter on its work. As the Barbican Association representative, I have summarised the key issues. The TV and Pintxos issues are explored in more detail on pages 8 and 11.

Service level agreements

As promised in the ballot this is a key deliverable. The intention is to draw up a definition of the existing services and their target quality level. Only once this has been done will we start looking at improvements and their consequences. The work is taking longer than we all anticipated but

the target completion date is still April 2004. There is some discussion over who pays for this work. The resident view is that this is a landlord expense as a service definition should have been in existence prior to sale of the lease. We are awaiting a definitive answer.

Service charge accounts

We have undertaken to look at the format of the service charge accounts. The current format is designed for approval within the Corporation committees, but our view is that they lack clarity for service charge payers. One particular point raised was the profits made on the baggage stores. Over the last 6 years the profit before notional cost of capital totals £1m, which is not credited back to the residents. Given this level of surplus we have asked why the charge for baggage stores has been increased above inflation in the last 2 years.

Termination of lift maintenance contract

The lift maintenance contractor has terminated the contract early. The lack of an adequate notice period in the contract has meant that an emergency contract has had to be let for the time it will take to let a new long term contract. This short term contract will cost 30% more than the existing contract. We have asserted this extra cost is a landlord cost as it is a direct result of an inadequate contract which allowed early termination on the part of the supplier on too short a notice period and without a financial penalty.

Lakes

Responsibility for the lakes, which used to be split between a number of departments, has now been put entirely within the responsibility of Open Spaces. Funding has also been approved for a consultant to draw up a management plan for the restoration and upkeep of the lakes. Thanks must go to Alder-

man Hall for the speedy progress on this issue. The split of cost between residents and landlord has to be finalised. However we all agreed that this should not delay progress on this very important matter.

Listed building management plan

The Corporation is setting up a working party to draw up a listed building management plan for the estate. The working party will consist of representatives from the Corporation, English Heritage, 20th Century Society and the residents. Initially the proposal was for only

one resident. We have requested this be increased to 3 to ensure all the residents' concerns are addressed. A consultation exercise will take place with residents before the plan is finalised.

Christmas Decorations

On a lighter note, Eddie Stevens has agreed to make sure that the lights for the waterfall Christmas Tree will be renewed. This was a personal request from my mother who was deeply disappointed last year that the tree was illuminated by 3 rather lonely and garishly coloured bulbs. I hope the residents will not mind that I re-

quested tasteful white lights. Christmas has indeed come early this year! Mind you Safeway already has a Christmas foods section

Getting your voice heard

It is still early days for the RCC, but all involved are very optimistic about its future. However to be effective the RCC needs to know about the issues that matter to you. If you want something to be raised you should contact me or your House Group Chair.

Stephen Horrocks

BA Representative on the RCC

Progress At Last on the TV Upgrade



Some progress has been made recently with the project to upgrade the current cable television system in the Barbican to give access to the full range of digital

television channels that are now available.

Because there was concern in the TV Group that the supporting information given to residents in last year's ballot on this subject had not been based on a full technical and commercial evaluation by experts, the Corporation's Barbican Residential Committee has agreed to appoint consultants to carry out such an evaluation and report back.

The Corporation carried out the necessary enquiries and the TV Group saw presentations from the two short listed firms on the 28th of August. The Group agreed on a preferred consultant and subsequently was heavily involved in drawing up the brief for the work to be done.

The Corporation is now in final negotiations with the selected consultant, Concero, over price and other issues and it is hoped that their work will start shortly. The results of the study will be pre-

sented to the TV Group and subsequently to the Residents' Consultation Committee.

Depending on the outcome it may be necessary to again consult residents as a whole, but the Corporation is confident that in any event work will start on implementing the chosen system early in the 2004 financial year.

This is all taking far too long, but a lot of money is involved and the issues are quite complex, so it is important the evaluation is done properly this time.

Concero's brief is to carry out an initial evaluation of the communications infrastructure to produce a solution that meets the needs of the residents with due respect for technical, financial and service requirements.

In its August 28 presentation, Concero, suggested the use of an Integrated Reception System otherwise known as (IRS). An IRS provides the following features & benefits: one dish and antenna array to cover the whole estate, the option of additional "free to air" TV and radio channels, digital audio broadcasting and FM radio, access to all digital television signals (satellite and terrestrial), a community channel (not including programming) and the ability to receive premium television channels (BSkyB).

Concero envisages a single satellite dish and antenna array with a fiber optical backbone, with coax distribution within each block. And to provide a broadband solution to the Barbican, Concero has initially suggested the provision of a permanent internet connection. This connection would serve the whole of the estate and would be purchased on a wholesale basis.

The benefit of this approach is that wholesale purchase reduces cost of each residents access to broadband, provides always on access for each resident, 1mbs access speeds, a choice of competing service providers, and service level agreements incorporating service delivery guarantees.

Concero is also looking at means to "future proof" the system, allowing the introduction of new technologies in the future with minimum of future disruption to the residents and the estate as a whole. A digital video door entry system could possibly be installed over the proposed infrastructure reducing installation costs and disruption to the residents. The use of the infrastructure can also allow the rapid deployment of an estate wide CCTV system or dedicated cameras to problem areas.

John Tomlinson

TV Liaison Group

Setting the Record Straight on the BA Agreement with Urbium

At the Licensing Hearing about Digress on 22nd October 2003 and in leaflets to residents, one of our resident Common Councillors made assertions about the agreement that the BA has entered into with Urbium. It saddens me that her actions force me to have to write this article to set the record straight.

Certainty versus Risk

The Barbican Association entered into the agreement with Urbium on the licensing hours of Digress in order to gain absolute certainty for the future.

Following the hearing last year, at which I was the main resident witness, James Rankin, our licensing barrister, advised us that Urbium would most likely apply for later hours once they had been in operation without incident. Our chances of success would be far less at a second hearing. They would then make a series of further applications, slowly but surely extending their hours, with the chances of successful resident objection reducing all the time. Even if at the hearing the residents were successful, the licensee has a right to appeal to magistrates. Licensee appeals to magistrates hardly ever fail.

Just as our barrister had warned, Urbium approached the Barbican Association in April saying that they intended to apply for an extension, ideally until 12:30 a.m. from Monday to Friday. Our barrister advised us that given the lack of formal complaints, they had a very high chance of success either before the licensing panel or the magistrate's court on appeal.

Following discussions with the BAGC, and consultation with each House Group we decided to negotiate a small extension in hours in exchange for a legally binding guarantee that neither Urbium nor any of its associates would ever apply for further hours.

This removed the risk of a gradual extension of operating hours to unacceptable times of the morning, and gave us absolute certainty for the future, even under the new Licensing Act.

In exchange, the BA agreed not to raise an objection to the application. As part of the negotiations, Urbium reduced their initial proposal to 12 a.m. Thursday and Friday from January to November, and 12 a.m. Monday to Friday in December, a time chosen because the Underground is still operating.

The legal advice

The BA took legal advice on whether or not it could enter into a contract. We were advised that the Association could enter into an agreement following a resolution of the General Council.

On the agreement itself, James Rankin advised us that it represented the best possible outcome for the residents as it provided absolute certainty which we could not guarantee in a contested hearing. Indeed he was surprised that Urbium had conceded the hours they had. He strongly advised us to sign.

It was negotiated on behalf of the Association by Farrers, through a partner who is also a Willoughby resident. We ensured that it specifically allowed for individual residents, even BA members, to object if they so wished and that it in no way affected individual residents' statutory rights.

It was signed on July 28th 2003 by myself. I was given the authority to sign through a unanimous resolution of the BAGC on June 26th 2003. Support for the agreement was unanimously re-confirmed on September 11th 2003.

It is a shame that our Common Councillor did not check these

facts with us before maintaining at the hearing that I did not have the authority to sign.

Consultation

This Common Councillor has also maintained that the BA did not consult properly before we signed the agreement. This is grossly unfair. We kept every House Group informed throughout the negotiation process, and each House Group consulted with their residents in the way that it felt appropriate.

At the time I was not Chair, but I was a Speed House Committee member. I know that Speed House leafleted every flat, contrary to what was stated at the hearing, and no objections were raised. Other Houses chose different routes. This can hardly be said not to constitute consultation. Just like the Common Council, the BA acts through representatives who make decisions which they believe to be in the interests of the residents.

The future

The pressure from licensed premises is increasing all the time and the model of objection and negotiation is proving our best and only defence against a serious deterioration to our living environment. This has already proved the case in our discussions with Sex in the City (see page 10). The withdrawal of their proposal is a direct result of our ability to demonstrate that we could both oppose and negotiate.

The Urbium agreement is a compromise but one that ties up Urbium for the future for a very small concession of hours. Without the agreement, the risk of far more hours was and would have remained great, particularly under the new Licensing Act.

Stephen Horrocks
Chair

The Pressure Increases from Late Licensed Premises



Urbium

The hearing about Urbium's application for the Digress licence took place on Wednesday 22nd October. Urbium was granted a revised licence until 12 a.m. Thursday and Friday for January to November, and 12 a.m. Monday to Friday in December. The panel granted the extension based on the trouble free operation since last November. Because of its' agreement with the BA, Urbium will never again apply for an extension of its hours. If, however, Digress causes you any disturbance, register your complaint with Environmental Health and talk to your House Group Chair.

Essence Tapas Bar

Spirit Bar on Carthusian Street – located below a block of residential flats – has ceased trading. A new business that's opened at same premises, 'Essence Tapas Bar,' has requested a renewal of the existing licence. They have made an application to Islington Council seeking opening hours until 11 p.m. Monday to Wednesday, 12 p.m. on Thursday and 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. These are exactly the same hours that Spirit kept.

Islington had placed a number of restrictions on the Spirit licence, including no new admissions after 11 p.m., noise limiters and door staff on Thursday and Friday, which it will seek to re-impose on Essence.

John Trundle Court and Defoe House have not had problems directly associated with this bar in the past. As this is effectively a renewal of an existing licence and we believe it doesn't damage our interests, we will not be lodging an objection. If, however, you do disagree with this course of action then please contact your House Group Chair.

Sex in the City

This interestingly named bar, which is managed by Nylon, has

now opened under normal pub hours. It replaced The Vaults on Chiswell Street. They originally wanted to open 6 days a week until 2 a.m. and possibly 3 a.m. at weekends. This has caused great concern to Ben Johnson House and Cromwell Tower which overlook the premises. Our concerns have been shared with the Whitbread Estate (above Safeways), which has also had problems in the past with noise from The Vaults.

We have again been in touch with Islington and have received help from the Secretary of the Whitbread Estate and the local Islington Councillor.

We are alarmed at the idea of 400 hundred people leaving between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. every night of the week causing a disturbance in the area below Barbican residents' bedrooms.

Having heard about their proposal before they had made their application we have been able to persuade them not to do so for the time being. They have now scaled back their planned opening hours to 12 a.m. on weekdays and possibly 1 a.m. at weekends.

The Environmental Committee had been in discussions with Nylon about the problems that we have had with their operation next to 125 London Wall. To date, they have assured us that they will not apply for an extension of their hours until we have considered a proposed agreement from them similar to the one with Urbium.

There is no doubt that the combination of our success at the first Urbium hearing and the subsequent agreement with them for a small extension of hours, has played a key part in their willingness to negotiate with us.

Any proposal will be subject to legal advice and the full scrutiny of the Barbican Association General Council on which every House Group is represented, and consultation with residents.

Sundial Court

The Guildhall School of Music and Drama student accommodation block has applied for a Public Entertainment licence until midnight from Monday to Saturday. After initial concern, the Corporation of London's Environmental Health officer Andy Whittington kindly researched the details for us and said that this is actually an application for the renewal of a licence that was granted by Islington in 1999. The bar is underground and we are not aware of any problems with noise or disturbances to date.

Legal Developments.

The government's new licensing regime is due to be implemented in the spring of 2004 and I have requested a copy of the new Licensing Act, which is still under revision. The main thrust of the Act is to make licensing more permissive. As such, a licence will be granted unless there are compelling reasons not to do so.

The Corporation of London is well aware of our concerns through our actions with Urbium, and the Corporation's Licensing Panel, chaired by Dr Peter Hardwick, kindly supported our cause with the Urbium hearing in November 2002.

The Barbican Association Environment Committee will continue to work with the best legal advice we can obtain to permanently lock down the hours of bars and clubs that wish to operate near our homes.

Steve Quilter

Chairman
Environmental Committee



Pintxos Tapas Bar Closes

The prospect of an Indian restaurant at the foot of Shakespeare Tower was floated briefly in September - and disappeared again fairly swiftly.

The issue came up because the current lessee of Pintxos wine bar wanted to assign his lease to another restaurateur who planned to open an Indian restaurant and takeaway serving the estate. The Corporation, as freeholder, can't reasonably refuse the assignment of the lease, but it has to give permission to any change of use. At present the space occupied by Pintxos is designated as a wine bar with ancillary food provision. A restaurant would have thus represented a change of use.

The proposal has since been withdrawn. The restaurateur is now considering the old Biroums premises on Aldersgate Street about which the RCC is being consulted. The lessee of Pintxos is canvassing opinion on converting the premises to residential property.

The request raises some wider issues. One is the problem of finding the right balance between providing facilities that residents may find useful and not disturbing the peace of residents who are close to such amenities. Another relates to the viability of such facilities: Presumably Pintxos is having difficulty remaining commercially viable, and there is no guarantee that a restaurant would prove any more viable. The end result may be a vacant property.

Does anyone have any ideas what the premises might best be used for, especially as the Central Services office is also to be vacated soon. Perhaps this could be the first debate for our new letters page.

Jane Smith
Seddon House

Planning Applications Affecting the Barbican Estate



As noted in the last Newsletter, there are two major developments being planned that will have an effect on the Barbican Estate in the relatively

near future.

21 Moorfields

The first, and most imminent of these, is the development of 21 Moorfields. The developers have promised to arrange a public meeting so that Barbican residents can understand what is being proposed and be in a position to voice their objections.

This meeting has been delayed because the developers/architects are having discussions in order to resolve a number of issues, and until this process is completed, it is not considered reasonable to hold a public meeting. A date for a meeting is now not likely, in my opinion, before the end of October.



21 Ropemaker Place

The other development is of Ropemaker Place. Representatives from the Barbican Estate have held a meeting with the developers/architects.

This, I think it is fair to say, was not entirely satisfactory. Subsequently, in relation to disturbances associated with service vehicles to the new building, a letter was received indicating that the majority of deliveries can be expected to take place within normal office hours, and in any case, not be before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m.



Objections have now been made about the height of the building, the location of the loading bay on Moor Lane, and a request for access to retail premises to be limited to before 11 p.m. (to avoid another Urbium).

Other Developments

There is no new information available on developments for Milton Court or the St Alphage House site. It seems that with 17% of office

space in the City vacant, a number of these developments are being put on ice.

Transport Issues

The Corporation of London's policy in relation to rail strategy for the City was presented to the most recent meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee and endorsed by it. The Rail Strategy Summary Document highlights the fact that transport problems are one of the Corporation's major problems -- especially relating to overcrowding and delays that cause considerable losses of productivity each year. The full (and fairly massive) document will be available in due course on the Corporation's web site for anybody who may be interested.

The Committee also received the Quarterly Public Transport Review. This highlighted problems with frequency of some bus services and those services that had improved. Concerns were particularly expressed in relation to routes 253 and 341 -- although these two services are probably of little interest to Barbican Residents.

Don Prichard
Planning and Monitoring Group



Mary Piper's Social Column

Midsummer Fayre

Saturday, June 21st dawned sunny, dry and warm for the Barbican Midsummer Fayre.

We were honoured that Chief Inspector Victor Olisa of the City of London Police kindly agreed to open the Fayre and give out prizes for the children's Fancy Dress and "Garden on a Plate" competitions.

The many stalls at the Fayre included a cake stall, tombola, coconut shy, bric-a-brac and arts and crafts made by residents. We were also fortunate in having our own Tarot-reader, "Madame Nina" and Indian Head Massage performed by Amanda.

The entertainers at the Fayre included face-painter Emma Watson, balloon modeller Shaharig, portrait-



sketcher Anna Fraser and "Charlie Chaplin." The local Crime & Disorder Reduction Unit attended with representatives from the Police, Fire Brigade and Corporation of London.

Throughout the afternoon, the Elysian Brass Quintet from the Guildhall School of Music & Drama played some outstanding and appropriate music. These performers are students and appeared by kind permission of the Principal.

The Social Committee thanks everyone who helped beforehand, on the day and afterwards to ensure that this community event was enjoyed by so many people. Volunteers from our residents and their friends had offered to help in a wide variety of ways such as making signs, putting up the gazebos, fetching and carrying tables, chairs and other important equipment, running stalls and clearing up afterwards. We are also grateful to the City of London Girl's School, the Barbi-



can Center, and the Barbican Estate Office (Central Services) for the loan of equipment and assistance.

Some of the stalls raised money for their own charities, whilst others raised money for the Committee's chosen charity, The Guild of the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew's. The Barbican Association presented the President of the Guild, Mrs. Joyce Malpas, with a cheque for £1,062. This money will go towards providing amenities for the patients and staff of Barts, which are not available through the NHS.

The Guild also raised over £100 from its own stall at the Fayre, which included some of the stock from hospital souvenir shop, pot plants and flower arrangements made by volunteers. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Guild or in becoming a volunteer at Bart's, then please contact Karen Potter, Voluntary Services Coordinator on 020 7601 8339 or karren.potter@bartsandthelondon.nhs.uk





Future Events

Friday October 31st - Halloween Party



Halloween Party at the City Boot, Moorfields Highwalk. Cost £15 to include supper, (vegetarian options available). Tarot readings will be available and there will be a pumpkin face competition. You are invited to attend in costume if you wish.

Please send your cheque made payable to the Barbican Association to Claire Sharples, 24 Thomas More House.

Saturday November 22nd - Team Quiz Night

Team Quiz Night with supper at the Living Room, West Smithfield.



This is one of our most popular events and gives residents the opportunity of pitting their wits against others in a diverse range of topics.

Teams of five people may be made up of house group members, club and society members, groups of friends or any other combination. If you cannot find enough members to complete your team, or if you wish to take part but do not know of anyone else who is interested, please contact the Social Committee who will bring like-minded folk together.

Please send your cheque for £12 per person, which includes supper, payable to the Barbican Association to Mary Piper, 109 John Trundle Court, Barbican, EC2Y 8NE; Tel: 020 7588 3920.

We are not organizing anything in December as there are so many other events competing for our time and cash. However, we look forward to seeing you on: Tuesday January 13th for the Christmas Medieval Banquet with entertainment.

The Social Committee is very grateful to the following sponsors of the Midsummer Fayre:

Foster & Partners, architects and designers, Riverside Three, 22 Hester Road, SW11 4AN
Hamilton Brooks, Estate & Letting Agents, 73 Long Land, EC1
Kohn, Pederson, Fox Associates, architects, 13 Langley Street, WC2
Moseley & Webb, planning consultants, 75 Cannon Street, EC4
Skanska, First Floor, St Alphage House, Fore Street, EC2
Mulalley & Co. Ltd., Teresa Gavin House, Woodford Avenue, Woodford Green IG8 8FA

Prizes were gratefully received from:

Mark Field MP
Abbaye, 55 Charterhouse Street, EC1
Baracca Restaurant, 2c Cherry Tree Walk, Whitecross Street, EC1
Carluccio's, West Smithfield, EC1
City Boot, 7 Moorfields Highwalk, EC2
Coconut Lagoon, 7 Goswell Road, EC1
Coq d'Argent, No.1 Poultry, EC2
Digby Trout Restaurants (Museum of London Café, EC1)
Firkin Beer Co. (The Shakespeare, Crescent House, Goswell Road, EC1)
Hogshead, 171 Aldersgate Street, EC1
Ian Logan Design Company Retail Shop, 42 Charterhouse Square, EC1
Marks & Spencer, Finsbury Pavement, Moorgate, EC1
Noto Restaurant, 2-3 Bassishaw Highwalk, London Wall, EC2
Pizza Express Restaurants Ltd.
Ryman Stationers, Cherry Tree Walk, Whitecross Street, EC1
Searcy's at the Barbican, EC2
Smithfield Tandoori, EC1
Sun Tavern, 66 Long Acre, WC2
Sutton Arms, 6 Carthusian Street, EC1
The Living Room, 2-3 West Smithfield, EC1
Vecchio Parioli, 129 Aldersgate Street, EC1
Yming Chinese Restaurant, 35/6 Greek Street, W1



Clubs and Associations in and Around the Barbican

There are many clubs, associations, and other opportunities in and around the Barbican that may be of interest to residents. The list that we have compiled here does not claim to be representative, but we hope that it gives a taste of the broad range of activities that are available. If your organisation is not mentioned, and you would like it to be, please contact Gillian Laidlaw on 7638-0069 so that details can be included in future updates.

Adult and Community Learning in the City



The Corporation's Education Services Department publishes two useful booklets, "Learning in the City" and "Spotlight on the City". You can pick up a copy from the Education Department's office on Bassishaw Highwalk or phone the office on 7332 3542 for more information.

The Corporation also offers a Study Voucher Scheme whereby residents of the City can claim a subsidy for certain courses. Call the same number at the Education Department for more information.

Barbican Art Class



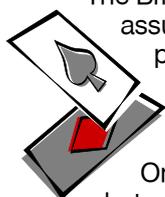
A weekly art class, organised by the Corporation of London, is run on Wednesday mornings on the Barbican Estate. All levels of experience are welcome. For more information contact the Community Education Centre on 7608 2753.

Barbican Book Group



The group meets in members' flats at 8 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to drink wine or coffee and discuss the current book. All kinds of books - novels, biographies, history and popular science - are suggested and chosen by members, and are available from the library or in paperback. Anyone who enjoys reading and would like to be introduced to new books and have a chance to talk about them should contact Sallie Cooper on 7628 3947.

Barbican Bridge Club



The Bridge Club welcomes new members but assumes that newcomers can already play. They meet in the ground floor meeting room of Shakespeare Tower twice a month. Bring a partner.

On the first Monday of the month starting between 6:30 for 7 p.m. to play duplicate bridge, or the second Monday if it is a bank holiday. They also meet on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. to play cut-in bridge. Refreshments are available at a modest price.

For more information on Bridge Club activities contact Ivy Sharp on 7920 0529 or Pam Ovenell on 7407 7429

If you need to brush up your skills, consider joining the Intermediate Bridge Class on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. also in the Shakespeare Tower meeting room. Contact Gordon Rainsford on 7229 1680 for more information.

Barbican Horticultural Society



In July 1980, at the suggestion of the late Sir Edward Howard, Jean Langmead founded the Barbican Horticultural Society so that the Barbican could be included in the gardening competitions of The London Garden Society.

In those days most of the walkways were windswept and desolate. An "Adopt-A-Tub" scheme was introduced with the help of the City Parks and Gardens Department and there are now 30 tubs which members of the society plant and care for.

The society's program includes talks, visits, spring and summer competitions and a party or two! This year the society was honoured at the Trophy Meeting of The London Gardens Society when Nicola Baker won 1st prize and a cup for her roof garden at Wallside, Father Bruno Healey won 1st prize for his "Quiet Garden" in a public place at St. Joseph's Church and the Barbican Horticultural Society won the Wakefield Trophy for the highest number of points awarded to a society.

An offshoot of the society is the Barbiduck Association formed in 1981 to promote the welfare of the ducks on the lake. If you are tempted to feed the ducks, please ensure that it is brown bread, not white!

Membership of the Horticultural Society is not restricted to just Barbican residents. New members are welcome at any time. If you join in time for the Christmas Dinner Party your annual membership will be carried over to 2004. For further information please contact Jill Smith on 7638 3787.

Barbican Library Users



Barbican Library Users (BLU) is a group, formed nearly four years ago, which aims to represent the interests of the Library's users and to safeguard and promote its facilities and activities.

We have a current membership of about 170, of which over half are Barbican residents, on whose behalf we maintain contact with those responsible for the Library service. We produce a six monthly newsletter with news and articles particularly relevant to the Barbican Library, as well as items of more general interest.

On Wednesday 5th November 2003 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tim Moorey, creator of the Times Cryptic Crossword, is giving a talk for BLU members entitled The

Most Popular Indoor Activity: How to Solve and Compile Cryptic Crosswords.

If you enjoy using the Library, have ideas for its enhancement/improvement and would like to meet other enthusiasts it is simple and inexpensive to become a member of BLU. Please complete one of our membership forms, available at the Enquiry Desk, and put it in the BLU box (also on the desk) together with a minimum contribution of £2, which we request annually to cover our costs.

For further information please contact: Helen Hulson, 523, Ben Jonson House, Barbican, London EC2Y 8NH Tel. 020 7588 4534 or email hahulson@onetel.com

Barbican Music



We are not sure when Barbican Music was founded, certainly it has been in existence for nearly 30 years. It has 150 members and is therefore probably the oldest and largest of the special interest groups formed by Barbican residents.

It is an informal group of music lovers living in the Barbican who enjoy meeting in each others homes to listen to records, watch videos of operas, also visiting concerts and other musical performances together and, incidentally, taking advantage of reduced group rates.

We support the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with occasional financial donations, by attending their performances and engaging their students on occasions. We have been attending performances by the touring company of Glyndebourne each autumn. We also take several flats in Edinburgh University, offering a group of our members the opportunity to attend the annual festival in August.

All music lovers are welcome to join, there is no need to be an expert or to play an instrument. The annual subscription at present is £8 per person or £12 for two living at the same address. This covers the administrative cost of notifying members when tickets at reduced price are available. Barbican Music is a registered charity.

For further information please contact Susan Gold, 2 Andrewes House, Barbican, London EC2Y 8AX, Tel: 020 7628 6228 or email susan@goldfamily.org.

City Heritage Society

The Society was founded in 1973 as the "Barbican Association Conversation Group". Although membership is now from far and wide, there has always been a solid core of Barbican residents.



The City Heritage Society is the amenity and conversation society of the City of London and registered as such with the Civic Trust.

Its objectives are:

- The preservation of buildings in the City, which because of their architectural merit or historic interest demand to be retained for future generations.
- To ensure that new buildings are of high quality and harmonise with their neighbours
- Generally to encourage high standards of quality in the built environment

The Society monitors planning applications submitted to the City Corporation and makes recommendations about them, which are a significant factor in the Corporation's decision-making process.

The Society arranges social and educational events including lectures, visits and walks. The Society's Annual Dinner is a notable occasion in the City calendar.

Each year since 1978 the Society, in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Painter-Stainers, presents the City Heritage Award for what is considered to be the best refurbishment project in the City of London. The award is presented each year by the Lord Mayor.

Applications for membership to Mrs Ann Woodward, 404 Gilbert House. Annual subscription is £5 for personal membership.

City of London Access Group



The Corporation has a strong commitment to access for all. The City of London Access Group is a group of volunteers, most of whom are disabled, who work with the Access Team of the Corporation to promote development of a City that is fully accessible for people with disabilities. It is one of nearly 30 Access Groups in London.

The Group has a particular role in raising public and professional awareness of the difficulties caused by inaccessible buildings and services.

The Group holds regular monthly meetings at the Guildhall where members discuss particular access issues with planners and with service providers.

Some disabled people find it especially difficult to get to meetings and the City Access Group now also has a corresponding membership. Corresponding members receive information about the meetings and activities of the Group. They are expected to keep in touch and to contribute to discussion and debate when they can by phone, email or by letter.

If you would like more information about the Access Group please get in touch with the City Access Office Tel: 020 7332 1995/3795, or by email: access@corpoflondon.gov.uk

Playreading Group



Our purpose is to enjoy an evening of spoken word through play readings.

Meetings are a lot of fun and often bring surprises.

We meet on the last Tuesday of each month (with the exception of December) at 8 p.m.

The meetings themselves vary: one month we might read a play and the next, we have a "bring your own" event. The group decides which plays and which themes to cover on a quarterly basis. Recent play readings have included "Lady from the Sea" by Ibsen and recent themes have included "Truly, madly, deeply".

Anyone who enjoys the theatre is likely to be interested. No acting experience is required.

Contact: Paula Tomlinson, 133 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2Y 8DD. Tel 020 7628 3657 or email: paula@johnandpaula.com

Spanish Conversation



We are a friendly little group of fans of Spanish with various levels of fluency. This is not a class.

We meet in principle fortnightly in members' flats and may read some text and discuss it, or we may not even get around to reading and just talk (a glass of wine or two improves our fluency, we find).

Whilst the levels vary, the minimum required is an ability to speak and understand Spanish at a moderate speed.

There is no teacher but an Argentinean and a Spanish native attend regularly and help us along. In fact, we could do with more of those.

For information please call Elisabeth Fantino on 7628 7147.

Tuesday Club



The Tuesday Club is the oldest club in the Barbican having been formed originally as the Daytime Club over 30 years ago. The club is open to all residents, not just ladies; we have several male members and meet every Tuesday at 3 p.m. at the back of the Services Office in Shakespeare Tower. We operate in conjunction with the Forum for Older People in the City of London and have speakers plus visits to the theatre and trips out of London. Here is our program up to December 2003.

- Tuesday 4th November, by invitation of the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Alderman Gavyn Arthur, we are going to tea at the Mansion House at 3 p.m.
- Tuesday 11th November, a talk by Keith Manaton, physiotherapist from Community Care in the City
- Tuesday 9th December, Christmas party
- Tuesday 16th December, Christmas lunch at the YMCA Barbican with the Forum

For more information about the Tuesday Club please contact Audrey Ballard on 7588-4330

Volunteering in the City



There are two local opportunities in which you might be interested

Volunteering in the City of London with City RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme) run in partnership with the Corporation of London's Social Services Department. They have many different types of project in which volunteers can become involved. Contact Laura Coutts on 7332 3027 for more information

The Guild of the Royal Hospital of St Bartholomew is the League of Friends of the hospital which was founded in 1911 and which provides amenities for patients and staff that are not available through the NHS. As well as becoming a volunteer you could also become a member of their Guild. For more information call Karen Potter on 7601 8339.

Appeal for for a new Assistant Secretary

Richard Gaskell has served as Assistant Secretary to the Association for 5 years. He has said that after such a long and sterling service he wishes to stand down by the next AGM.

We need someone to take over, and it would be nice to have a handover period. The duties are mainly administrative and involve organising General Council Meet-

ings, taking and writing minutes, distributing (usually by e-mail) various documents and keeping the records of the Association in good order. Much of the Association business is done by e mail these days so you need to be computer literate.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Richard Morrison, 176 Defoe House, 7588 9255

