



Barbican Association Newsletter

www.barbicanassociation.com

May 2005

Crossrail and the Barbican Estate - Time for Action?



Route between Lauderdale & Shakespeare, under Defoe

Since the last edition of this newsletter, the BA sub-committee on Crossrail has held meetings with the Crossrail consultation team and its engineers, and with the Corporation officers dealing with Crossrail. We also arranged for a presentation from Crossrail at the BA annual general meeting in April. Members of the committee have also spent a lot of time studying the relevant parts of the 26 volumes of the Environmental Statement (ES) and associated

plans. Copies of all these documents are available in the Barbican Library.

The Crossrail Bill was carried over in Parliament prior to the general election and it is expected that it will get its second reading in May or June and be committed to a Select Committee. At this time a deadline will be set -- perhaps as short as 28 days -- for petitions to be lodged by "anyone specially and directly affected by the bill."

As a result of our investigations so far, we plan to submit a petition on behalf of the BA at the appropriate time, and we will be engaging professional advisors to help draft the petition.

At the time the Bill was carried over, the Department for Transport (DfT) set a deadline of May 17 for any comments on the ES, which will be presented in the House of Commons and published. On behalf of the BA, we are also planning to forward comments on the ES to the DfT within this deadline.

While we remain supportive of the concept of Crossrail, we have identified 5 main areas of concern:

1. The effect on the structural integrity of the Barbican Estate of the tunnel boring machines.
2. The effect on the structural integrity of the Barbican Estate of the construction of the "crossover" cavern under Defoe House.

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Next Issue
July 2005

Publication Deadline
July 15th 2005

Prodigal Bar Deal Likely to Go Ahead

In our last Newsletter we asked for feedback on a proposed deal with the Prodigal in Wood Street to allow them to operate to midnight on Thursday & Friday and Satur-

day, and until 2 am for private parties.

The little feedback we received was positive. We have to take the remaining silence

as assent. The BA will therefore not be making an objection when an application on these terms is made by the bar owners.



Who's Who in the Barbican Association

Officers

Chair	David Graves	209 Seddon House	7628 4371
Deputy Chair	Angela Starling	502 Gilbert House	7638 8201
Secretary	Richard Morrison	176 Defoe House	7588 9255
Treasurer	Alan Sturrock	610 Gilbert House	7256 7078
Membership Secretary	Gaby Robertshaw	706 Bryer Court	7638 4003
Auditor	Neville Littlestone	Thomas More House	

Sub Committees

Access	Robert Barker	33 Lauderdale Tower	7588 3694
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
Planning	Don Prichard	9 Thomas More	7588 6691
Roofs	Robert Barker	33 Lauderdale Tower	7588 3694
Service Charges	Keith Haarhoff	132 Andrewes House	7588 3429
TV and Broadband	John Tomlinson	133 Cromwell Tower	7628 3657

Elected General Council Members

Nicola Baker, Robert Barker, David Bradshaw, David Graves, Keith Haarhoff, Steve Quilter, Angela Starling, Richard Morrison

House Group Representatives

Andrewes House *	Steve Quilter	173 Andrewes House	7496 0562
Ben Jonson House *	Chris Punter	543 Ben Jonson House	7638 6571
Brandon Mews	Vacant		
Breton House	Lesley Johnson	15 Breton House	
Bryer Court	Gaby Robertshaw	706 Bryer Court	7638 4003
Bunyan Court	David Fisher	316 Bunyan Court	7638 5215
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 *	Jean Frances	64 John Trundle Court	7256 2034
Lambert Jones Mews	Robin Keen	1 Lambert Jones Mews	7588 2081
Lauderdale Tower *	Robert Barker	33 Lauderdale Tower	7588 3694
Mountjoy House *	Kevin Kiernan	606 Mountjoy House	7638 0794
Seddon House *	Jane Smith	307 Seddon House	7628 9132
Shakespeare Tower *	Alison Gowman	382 Shakespeare Tower	7628 6067
Speed House *	John Greger	62 Speed House	7628 7245
Thomas More House *	Don Prichard	9 Thomas More	7588 6691
Wallside *	Nicola Baker	7 Wallside	7588 2525
Willoughby House *	Richard Quarrel	315 Willoughby House	07973 417303

* Recognised Tenants Associations

Meeting Dates

BA General Council

9 June 2005
11 August 2005
13 October 2005

Location: St Giles Church
Time: 7.30 p.m.
Open to: Members (contributions welcome)

Barbican Residential Committee

18 July 2005
19 September 2005
21 November 2005

Location: Guildhall
Time: 12 a.m.
Open to: Public (observer only)

Resident Consultation Committee

04 July 2005
05 September 2005
07 November 2005

Location: Guildhall
Time: 6.30 p.m.
Open to: All Residents (observer only)

And so, it's Goodbye from Him and Hello from Me



For anyone wondering what sort of person becomes BA Chair nowadays, I am a white middle-aged male (plus ca

change) who earns his living as a lawyer and tries to spend time with his family (a wife and two children) time and other commitments permitting. I dipped my toe in the Barbican almost exactly 6 years ago, and moved from Breton House to Seddon House just over 4 years ago.

For me, the Barbican environment is a wonderful oasis of relative calm in the hurly-burly of the modern metropolis - something I hope will continue despite Crossrail and the demands of this job.

One of the pleasures of being the chairman of any organisation is that you don't have to do everything yourself. The Barbican Association is no exception, with a fine team of people with different skills, but all harnessed to protect and to promote the interests of this community.

My predecessor, Stephen Horrocks, leaves an organisation in fine fettle and, I think, ready to meet the challenges of the future. He deserves our thanks, and certainly gets mine, for his hard work on our behalf. In particular, all present and future residents will have much to thank him for in the revisions to the Listed Building Management Guidelines he helped to secure.

What then of the challenges of the future?

Crossrail

The February edition of the Newsletter came out before the Crossrail Bill was published, but the Bill

has confirmed the fear that a major construction site is proposed for the corner of Aldersgate St and Beech St. To add insult to injury, the worksite is required because of the need to build a 'crossover cavern' under Defoe House which carries with it significant risk of subsidence.

However, Crossrail propose an alternative solution to switching between eastbound and westbound tracks. This dispenses with the 'crossover cavern' and the associated works in Aldersgate/Beech St, and may be a solution bringing the benefits of Crossrail to the Barbican, while significantly reducing the potential for noise and disruption, never mind subsidence.



Richard Morrison, our secretary, chairs the BA sub-committee dealing with the Crossrail project. Meetings have already been held with Crossrail and with the Corporation, and Crossrail attended the BA's annual general meeting. Their AGM presentation was disappointing, focussing on the engineering aspects of the project while giving very little information on the issues most relevant to residents.

It was odd that they were unable to handle topics such as noise levels beyond general statements that they planned to reduce noise to 'acceptable' levels. The cynical (and perhaps unfair) view would be that they knew such matters were bad news issues for the residents, so the less said the better. We shall see, but if that was the

case they badly misjudged their audience.

It is still early days, but with the state opening of Parliament on May 17, we could find that formal objection by 'petition' will need to be lodged within a matter of a few weeks thereafter. We are making plans to ensure that we are ready to meet formal deadlines for submitting our 'petition.'

My impression is that the majority of residents support the Crossrail scheme in principle, so long as residents' concerns are adequately addressed. We therefore need to hear from you so we can see to it that those concerns are fully addressed. Richard will have his work cut out on this, and so we need to give his efforts our full support (see page 1).

Annual General Meeting

The BA held a very well-attended AGM on April 7 at the City of London School for Girls. Apart from the formal business, the entire meeting was devoted to the Crossrail presentation and questions, followed by discussions over drinks.

TV Upgrade

At last, the roll-out of the upgraded TV system has begun. A vast amount of work was done to get to this point, with a joint working party of Barbican residents and the Corporation examining options, a consultant appointed to prepare a report and make recommendations, and a vote taken across the Estate to determine the preferred option.

Those involved will now have a considerable stack of paper reflecting all this effort. According to the Estate Office information in the March edition of its publication *Barbicanews* the changeover process is simple for those people who just need the 5 terrestrial channels and therefore only require a standard single socket for their TV to plug into. The contractor in such cases will replace the

existing socket with one that will deliver the terrestrial channels and will also supply the standard Sky services if a subscription is taken.

What is far less clear is how extra sockets will be installed, for any residents taking this option. Obviously, residents will want additional cabling to be as unobtrusive as possible, but examples of what has actually been done would help to assess this.

The position becomes more complex still if Sky+ is what you want, as the existing cable to the aerial point in your flat will probably have to be replaced -- if you don't want Sky+ the implication is that only the socket needs to be replaced, not the cabling.

I think it's fair to say that the information provided by the Corporation to date does not fully address all of the issues residents are likely to raise. This may be short sighted if the result is that many more people call the Estate Office seeking guidance than would have been the case if more information had been provided. We proposed that a sheet of answers to frequently asked questions be prepared to help everyone, and take some pressure off Corporation staff, which I hope is of some use (see page 6).

Supervision & Management

This issue has been running for almost 10 years. It began in about 1996, when the Corporation realised that the charge for supervision and management did not recoup the entire cost to the Corporation of actually providing the service.

At the time, the charge was fixed annually by an external consultant with experience of private residential property management, with the intention to produce a

figure per flat in line with general practice in the public and private housing sectors. The Corporation announced that something like a 60% increase in charge was required to balance the books -- turning the average charge per flat of £270 under the old system to £422 per flat.

Such a horrendous increase was vigorously opposed by the BA, which set up a working party to discuss the matter with the Corporation. The discussions failed to reach any agreement, and starting with the 1999-2000 service charge year, the Corporation imposed the revised basis for charging, over a standing objection by the BA. When it came to actually imposing the new basis for calculating the charge, the increase was more like 50% than 60%, with an average charge of £403 per flat for 1999-2000, but this has grown since then.

Discussions to resolve the impasse continued over the following years, but no resolution came into sight. Just over a year ago, a new approach was proposed by the BA, whereby the services provided be divided into categories such as accounting and providing IT support, so that the cost of such services could be benchmarked against the cost of services elsewhere. If the Barbican's costs compared poorly, we would want to know why.

The consultants providing the benchmarking analysis were appointed this year. Their report should be ready in May and will make for interesting reading by both sides. We hope it will represent a breakthrough in this long-running dispute, given that the increased charge has now been levied for 6 financial years. If the ultimate conclusion were a judgement of Solomon, whereby the difference is split equally between residents and the Corporation, this would average out at £80 per year per flat and total £480 over the 6 years, or nearly £1 million for the Estate as a whole. If the Corporation were entirely un-

successful, the total would come to nearly £2million!

"City Together"

This project, if one were cynical, might appear to be another scheme to show that the Corporation, as a local authority, is meeting the government's agenda in terms of resident involvement. I think that would be unfair. Whatever the motives, this scheme is an opportunity for the Barbican Association to become involved in a wider forum with other City resident groups to discuss matters such as the arts, culture, transport and so on. We have nothing to lose by participation, and potentially much to gain by adding our distinctive voice to the broader discussion that will happen anyway, whether we participate or not.

Hopefully therefore, the BA's General Council will support our involvement and we will then need to find people able to support this initiative across the various subject areas.

Lakes

The lakes were refurbished last year. There was a high level of support among residents to do something about the defunct fountains in the lakes themselves, the opaque green water and the general sense of many years of neglect. It is surprising then that the results have caused such controversy.

The berms in the lakes -- small islands of natural vegetation intended to add interest and colour while offering shelter to encourage wildlife -- were pecked out of existence by the ducks. The replacement fish either took on sufficient camouflage to disappear from view, or migrated to the water by Wallside, which had a profusion of lily pads and natural cover for them to hide under.

The fountains caused so much noise the Girls' School complained, and obtained restrictions on the hours the fountains could play. Mountjoy House reported strange whooshing noises associ-

ated with their largely invisible fountain, and residents close to the lakes complained of unheard of numbers of blood-sucking insects -- able to breed happily after some 2,000 expensive carp specimens were removed from the lakes (one wonders where to) prior to the refurbishment. Despite looking at the water intently at the end of April, including along Wall-side, I only managed to spot a single fish (an impressive 18" orange specimen). Has anyone had better luck?

You may or may not be surprised to learn that the whole scheme was devised and implemented by expert consultants. Work continues to get the lakes to deliver their promised benefits, and a highly visible fresh attempt is under way to protect the newly planted berms.

To give credit where it's due, the cost of the agreed remedial work is coming from existing budgets, and will not be passed through to the service charge account (see page 9).

Fann St Garden

This is a wildlife garden forming part of the Estate to which Barbican residents have exclusive access -- the gate unlocks with a standard resident's key and is at the top of the ramp that leads to the Bunyan/Bryer car park. I

would encourage residents to go and have a look at the nettles, thistles, dilapidated seat, and consider the value it provides. If the intention is for the garden to become a wilderness for local wildlife, it is well on the way to that destination. In my view it offers little to residents in its current state, unless all you want is a garden for wildlife rather than for people.

What surprises me, is that the garden maintenance contract shows the cost for the Fann St garden (1,998 square metres) for calendar year 2003 at £18,919.70, whereas the cost for Speed House Garden (1,704 square metres) is £19,826.47. Given the current dilapidated state of the Fann St garden I wonder what work is actually done for the £19,000 per year, 85% of which is paid by residents through the service charge. Whatever work it is, it makes the £19,826 paid for the Speed House garden look like fantastic value, by comparison -- or should it be the other way round? If anyone from City Gardens is able to answer this conundrum, I would be very glad to hear from them.

Perks/Discounts

For the extremely reasonable annual membership fee of £5 per flat we offer this quarterly Newsletter, a quarterly glossy magazine, *Bar-*

bican Life and a number of discounts with local shops and services. In addition, BA members may place advertisements of approximately 10 lines free of charge in *Barbican Life*. Do try to make the most of what is on offer (see page 12).

Please Get in Touch

We exist as your voice, so don't feel shy about getting in touch with me at the email address below. We will never be able to keep all of our members happy all of the time, but we will do our best to keep most of you happy for most of the time, and use our influence positively. We could also try to arrange more for members on the social side of things, so if you have any ideas, again don't be shy. One way or another, I hope I will get to meet many of our members before next year's AGM comes along.

And Finally

I would especially like to pay tribute to our members who, in January this year, renewed their membership after joining 30 years ago. Your loyal support is much appreciated.

David Graves

BA Chairman

Email: BAChair1@aol.com

Have You Seen the Barbican Association's Website?

The Barbican Association now has its own website. You can visit it at www.barbicanassociation.com. The site sections include:

Home Page -- An introductory page with background on the BA and the 'hot topics' with which it is involved.

The Barbican - A very interesting history of our urban village.

Who we are -- A List of BA Council members and contact details if you need to speak to them. **Purpose & Aims** - What the Barbican Association aims to do and its constitution.

Issues -- Topics that the BA is looking into for residents.

Meeting Dates - Not only are all the BA General Council meeting dates here, which all members are welcome to attend, but also the dates for this year's

meetings of the Residents Consultation Committee and the Barbican Residential Committee.

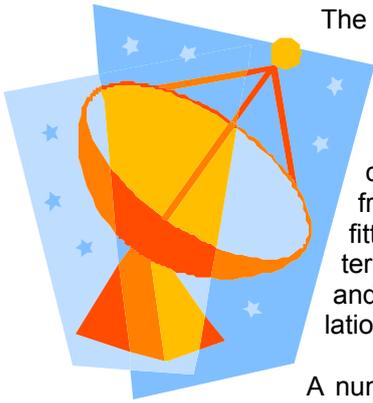
Become a Member - Subscription form for those people who are new to the Barbican, or have not yet had time to join and who would like to be part of this active association.

Publications - Information on the BA magazine 'Barbican Life', its regular Newsletter and its useful booklet 'Urban Village'. There are also details about David Heathcote's book *Penthouse over the City*, a must for Barbican residents.

We hope you will find the information on this site useful, don't forget to visit it, and tell us what you think, by letter to the magazine if you like. Happy browsing!

Angela Starling

TV Upgrade Issues



The TV upgrade project is now running about six weeks late, but there is confidence it will be caught up. Reports from people already fitted are good, both in terms of picture quality and efficiency of installation.

A number of unexpected issues have emerged, including problems in cancelling contracts with NTL, although this has been dealt with by providing those being connected with the correct phone number, not the one on NTL's statement!

Just before going to publication Sky+ installation in the corridor blocks has also become an issue. The problem is not properly understood yet but all efforts will be made to find a solution.

Some asbestos has been discovered, but this is being dealt with highly professionally by the Corporation.

Problems with arranging appointments have led to contractor's staff time being severely underutilised, and this is being addressed as a matter of urgency as it could result in major cost and time overruns.

There have also been higher than expected demands on Pam Rampasard, the Corporation's person dealing with residents queries, and to assist with this we have developed the following list of frequently asked questions:

- Q.** If all I want is five terrestrial channels, do I need any sort of electronic box or will the aerial on the Tower bring me normal terrestrial TV?
- A.** *The aerial on the tower will give you the five terrestrial channels, no need to purchase any extra box.*
- Q.** Will it make any difference once the NTL signal is switched off, if so, when will it be switched off and what are my options then?
- A.** *Once the NTL signal is switched off you will continue to receive the five terrestrial channels and see an improvement in picture quality. Technical Services are advising each block when to terminate their contracts with NTL, the number to call is 0800 952 0345. Additional channel options available: Freeview box, Top Up TV (via compatible Freeview box) or subscribing to Sky or Sky+*

Q. Unless I want Sky+, or extra TV points, will there need to be any extra cabling inside my flat?

A. *No.*

Q. If I want Sky, what number do I call?

A. *Contact June Dowling of SCCI (the TV upgrade contractor) on 0800 652 2341, Sky themselves on 08705 800 874 or any supplier of your own choosing.*

Q. If I want Sky+, do I need special cabling, and if so, do I need to speak to SCCI, and what is the phone number?

A. *Contact June Dowling of SCCI on 0800 652 2341 to arrange for an engineer to survey your flat. Expect to be told that replacement cabling inside your flat will be required.*

Q. Is there a bulk buy scheme for residents wanting a Freeview box? Can SCCI supply a box, and if so how much does it cost?

A. *SCCI do not supply Freeview boxes. Local retailer's prices vary from £39 upwards.*

Q. Do I call SCCI if I want extra TV points?

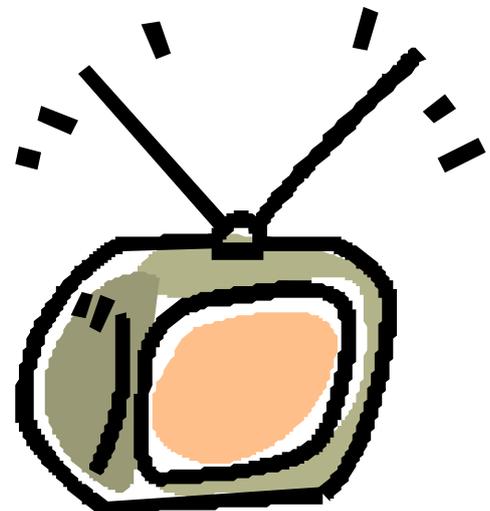
A. *SCCI will provide you with a quotation for this work if requested, but residents are not obliged to use SCCI. Any suitable installer may quote and carry out the work.*

Q. Can I receive FM radio as well as digital radio?

A. *Yes.*

Q. Will the engineer who calls expect any payment?

A. *No. Even if you are commissioning additional work via SCCI, you will be invoiced separately by them for this.*



TV Options – A Handy Guide

There are a number of options available for those people who want more than the basic five terrestrial TV and FM radio channels. After so many years of limited choice here in the Barbican, the wide range of choices may seem a little bit bewildering, so we have tried to outline some of the options available.

Freeview



Freeview offers digital TV for no monthly fee. It gives access to over 30 free-to-air TV channels and 20 digital radio channels. All you need is a decoder box,

available from a wide range of retailers from around £39 upwards. Many new digital televisions come with Freeview capability as standard, doing away with the need for a separate set-top box. Further details about Freeview can be found at www.freeview.co.uk.

Top Up TV



Top Up TV provides an extra 10 channels on top of the existing free-to-view Freeview channels for a monthly subscription fee of £7.99. There no need to buy any extra equipment as it works with existing Freeview boxes. See

www.topuptv.com for more details.

SKY



To receive Sky's satellite channels, you will first need to acquire a Sky box. Currently, Sky offers its boxes free of charge to new customers signing up to one of its subscription packages. You can find full details and costs, as well as sign up online on

Sky's website www.sky.com.

Sky offers numerous different subscription packages, which range in cost from £13.50 per month for its most basic "Value Package," which gives you access to a limited number of Sky channels and other non-subscription satellite channels as well as digital radio, or pay £19.50 per month for Sky's "Family Package", which gives you a wider range of entertainment, lifestyle, music, news and documentary channels. If you want to have it all, for £41 per month the "Sky World" package also gives you all five Sky Sports channels, the nine Sky Movie screens, Sky Cinema and four Disney channels.

You can compare all of the different packages at www.sky.com/ordersky/channelpackages/packagecomparison.

Freesat



If you want avoid signing up to for a monthly subscription package, but still want satellite TV and radio, Sky now also offers its own version of Freeview, called "Freesat from Sky," for a one-off cost of £150 (for the decoder box). For no monthly fee it offers over 120 digital TV channels plus over 80 digital radio channels, and also allows you to upgrade in the future, if you want, to any Sky subscription package. See www.freesatfromsky.com for more details.

Sky+



A digital video recorder and satellite receiver in one, Sky+ lets you record and store programs to watch whenever you like. You can also record two programmes at the same time and auto-record a

whole series. Another handy feature of Sky+ is that you can pause and rewind live TV.

There are two types of Sky+ boxes to choose from: the standard one which has 20 hours recording capacity (£99), and Sky+ 160 which has 80 hours (£399). If you subscribe to more than one Sky premium channel i.e. Sky Sports 1 & 2 and Sky Movies 1 & 2, the Sky+ subscription is free, otherwise you will have to pay £10 per month, on top of the cost of your basic subscription package.

Please note though that if you want to get Sky+ you will need special cabling to be installed in you flat at an extra cost (see accompanying FAQs for details).

Ronan Kavanagh



3. The effects on the environment of the Barbican Estate and surrounding areas of Crossrail's construction operations -- and in particular the "crossover" worksite at Aldersgate Street.
4. The effects on the environment of the Barbican Estate and surrounding areas of Crossrail's railway operations.
5. The deficiencies of the Crossrail Bill in many areas e.g. there is no analysis of the noise and vibration impacts of the construction works or subsequent railway operations; no analysis of the combined traffic impact -- including pedestrian impacts -- of the proposed worksites at Lindsey Street, Aldersgate Street and at Moorfields/Moorgate; no clear schedule of the work program and the overlap of construction works at neighbouring worksites; etc, etc.



Proposed site for Cross Over Boring Tunnel Entrance

need to exert as much pressure as we can to persuade Crossrail to drop its proposal for the "crossover" cavern under Defoe House. Crossrail must be encouraged to settle either for an alternative site or for an alternative construction method -- such as the one identified in its own documentation (para 8.8.143 of the ES) which can be effected from within the tunnels themselves.

This would avoid the risk of the "particularly significant settlement impacts" for Defoe House identified by Crossrail's own experts and similar risks which according to their latest information may affect Lauderdale Tower. It would also avoid any need for the worksite at Aldersgate Street and the

ensuing 4 years of disruption, noise and other impacts which would result. It would also avoid exacerbating the traffic impacts that will result from the worksites to the east and west of the estate.

While the BA committee will continue to press Crossrail and the Corporation of London on this and other matters, we now need to mobilise as much help as we can from Barbican residents.

Over the next few days we will be circulating a letter to all residents which will outline our points of concern in detail and provide the addresses of the people with whom these concerns need to be raised. Once you have received this, please make time to write to one or more of the people on the list to ensure that they understand the strength of feeling across the Barbican Estate that was so evident when the Crossrail team tried, and failed, to address residents concerns at the public meeting last month.

At the same time, we will be writing to all members of the Court of Common Council and to our Aldermen to enlist their support. We will also be raising these issues directly with the Crossrail team and will keep you advised of our progress.

Richard Morrison

From our discussions with Corporation officers, it is clear that they share these concerns, in addition to many others. We understand that they will also be petitioning the Select Committee at the appropriate time and we will continue to work closely with them.

Some of these issues can be addressed directly in negotiations with Crossrail or will be dealt with by the Select Committee in its hearings. However I believe we

Security Matters



Now that the General Election has drawn to a conclusion with its associated feelings of excitement, frustration or pure boredom -- depending on one's viewpoint -- it is time to focus back on local issues and events.

In my previous article, I was pleased to announce that the City of London presence on the estate is to be expanded. These plans are pro-

gressing well and if Barbican grapevine gossip has not reached you yet I can confirm that, in order to accommodate the agreed expansion, the new home for our local 'bobbies' will be in the former Central Stores area in Shakespeare Tower.

The new office is due to open later this month and I'm sure that a Grand Opening notice is imminent, and may well come before you receive this newsletter. In the meantime it will be business as usual from PC Dave Whitbread's Tardis-like office under Willoughby House.

In terms of contact, the telephone number will remain the same: 020 7601 2406. For those of you on the internet there is also a very useful website at www.cityoflondon.police.uk -- from there click onto 'community' which provides detailed information about community policing, for example, the names of our police officers, including: the newly appointed community support officers and our ward constables; how to contact them; the role of the community support officers; scheduled surgery meetings; and the means to ask questions by email.

Our current team of officers has been expanded by PC Simon Headley, PC Paul Gilmour, PC Steven Wright and Special Constable Chris Hall, and I would like to take this opportunity, on your behalf, to welcome them.

Crime remains low on the estate BUT as always please remain vigilant at all times and report anything you regard as being suspicious. Do not let strangers in.

David Bradshaw

Useful contact numbers:

Barbican Police Office - 020 7601 2456

Snowhill Police Station

Front office - 020 7601 2406

General switchboard - 020 7601 2222

Emergencies (landline) -999

Emergencies (mobile) -112

Work to Resolve Lakes Problem Underway



You will have noticed that there has been more activity around the lakes recently.

In order to find out what is happening to improve this amenity, we telephoned the Corporation's Open Spaces Department who gave us details of their work to date.

Q. Will the re-planted berms, presently under cages, not increase the silting up of the lakes?

A. *No, on the contrary, the berms once established will help direct the water flow, as is needed, and draw nutrients from the water which will prevent the build up of algae.*

Q. Is the water still as clean as was hoped after the works last year?

A. *The water will never be crystal clear, it is an urban lake (not a natural water source) and only half a metre deep, but with the berms and a phosphate binder -- a chemical, harmless to plants and wildlife, which ties-up the algae, i.e. an algae reducer -- the discoloration of the water will be kept to a minimum.*

Q. There was a problem with the fountain at the foot of Mountjoy House. It was a most unpleasant noise, is the problem solved?

A. *Yes, a plastic cup was jammed in the fountain head! The Barbican Centre has been very cooperative in reducing rubbish blowing into the lakes; they are regularly cleaning the lakeside and bagging the rubbish, so this should not happen again.*

Q. Is the flow of water from the fountains going to be lessened to satisfy the school, so that we can enjoy the fountains on a daily basis again?

A. *The Open Spaces Department has prepared a paper on this point, which is going through Committee next week. The Lakes Working Group has made suggestions which should please everyone. Details will be advised once the Committee has met.*

Q. Fish: will they be returned to the lakes, as already in spring the mosquitoes were very bad?

A. *There are fish in the lakes already! Open Spaces were aware of the increase in insects. An ecologist took samples from the lakes and only two small larvae of mosquitoes were found, they were removed. The number of insects which have been noticed are probably mayfly. This is a native fly, about 2 cm. long which live in the water as larvae all but one day a year when they fly around and mate. They don't all do this on the same day, of course! They are helpful in maintaining the balance in the lakes as they live on 'nasties', bits of algae etc.*

I hope you all find this up-date useful. It does show that the Corporation is very aware of our worries and is doing a lot to resolve them.

Angela Starling

Barbican Music



Barbican Music is alive and well. We have had more and better offers than ever of concert tickets at greatly reduced prices. Even so we sometimes could not satisfy the demand, especially in the case of the Evgen Kissin piano recital. The programme has been more varied, e.g. we visited St John's Smith

Square and also St Luke's Old Street for a Brahms recital. The good news is that in future we may get some reduced tickets for the Great Performers series, the first one being a performance by the Orchestre des Champs Elysees of Beethoven's "Missa Solemnis" in early May.

We have also had a successful and well attended annual general meeting. After the official part, Rich-

ard Wigmore gave a fascinating illustrated talk about Schubert, exploring the composer's lesser known dark and melancholic side.

Twenty people have booked to go to Edinburgh Festival, an annual event organised with great efficiency by Valerie Wise. As usual the group will start their days with a concert at the Queen's Hall. Highlights will be Monteverdi's Cocerto Italiano and two operas, "Ariadne auf Naxos," by Richard Strauss and "The Death of Klinghofer," by Adams.

We now have a record number of members but will always welcome more, especially newcomers to the Barbican. We are a friendly group and no previous musical experience is required.

Anyone wanting more information should contact

Susan Gold, 131 Shakespeare Tower, Barbican, EC2Y 8DR, email susan@goldfamily.org

Barbican Tuesday Club Events

Tuesday June 28th	Summer Outing to Leeds Castle
Tuesday July 26th	Summer Party, YMCA Barbican
Tuesday September 13th	Leslie Beardmore, Wine tasting
Tuesday October 18th	AGM
Tuesday November 1st	AGM Forum
Tuesday December 6th	Annual Christmas Party
Tuesday December 13th	Annual Christmas Lunch, Barbican YMCA

Rosemary Caroline Croot - 16.1.1914



It was with great regret that all at the Tuesday Club heard of the death of Rose

Croot. I attended the dignified funeral service which ended with Mozart's "Air on a G String."

Rose was a long-time resident of the Barbican and for many years chairman of the Barbican Tuesday Club.

Both Rose and her husband Charles gave their time and energy to help those in need.

They were long-time members of the Friends of St Bartholomew's and would often open up the shop on Sundays and/or bank holidays.

Many of her friends here in the Barbican remember going to have a "gargle" with Rose, who loved a glass of red wine in the evening, especially if shared with friends. And we in the Tuesday Club remember her "bloody sponges" as she called them, when it was her turn for tea -- they were however delicious.

Rose was a lively member of the Horticultural Society, the Music Club and City Heritage. She was a great help to Charles, her husband of many years -- they were married during World War 2 -- and a former chairman of the Barbican Association.

Four representatives from the Barbican attended the funeral, and there was a lively discussion with her family including Rowena, Rose's daughter from Australia, who gave a heart-warming homily on her mother's strong and steadfast character.

Audrey Ballard

Barbican Association Membership 2005

Currently only £5 per flat*

Fill out this form if you would like to become a member or renew your membership

Please return this form to your House Group Chair or:

Gaby Robertshaw, Membership Secretary, 706 Bryer Court, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8DE Telephone 020 7638

Barbican Address	Names for membership cards
.....	1.
Mailing Address	2.
.....	3.
.....	4.
E mail	5.
.....
Tenure	Leaseholder / Corporation Tenant / Sub Tenant (Please delete as appropriate)

*For addresses outside of the Barbican add £3 for UK, £6 Europe, £9 rest of world to cover postage costs

We would prefer you pay by standing order. It saves our volunteers much time. Please complete the form below.

The Barbican Association keeps a database of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e mail addresses of Association Members. Information from the database is used by our General Council and Affiliated House Groups for maintaining and increasing membership, distributing our publications, managing and reporting on our finances and accounts, and carrying out other objects of the Association. We also disclose information about our membership to the Corporation of London (including the Barbican Estate Office) in order to maintain their recognition of the Association. By becoming a member of the Association, you consent to the use of your information for

STANDING ORDER

To	Bank	Branch Address
Branch		

Bank	Branch Title	Sorting Code Number
Citibank PLC	Booth	72-00-05

For the credit of

Beneficiary's Name	Account Number *	Quoting Reference
Barbican Association	07028605	

Commencing

Date of first payment	Amount of first payment (if different)	Amount in figures	Amount in words	Due date and frequency
	£	£		1 January annually

And thereafter the sum of

Date of last payment	
	£

Until further notice in writing or and debit my/our account accordingly

Name of account to be debited	Sort Code	Account Number

This replaces my/our previous standing order for the transfer of £ to the same account (cross out if not applicable)

Name(s)	Signature
<small>PLEASE CAPITALISE PLEASE</small>	
Address	Signature
Postcode	Date

Join the BA for These Great Discounts



As a member of the Barbican Association you get access to the following great discounts.

Abacadabra Services: 5% discount off regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly cleaning prices and a 10% discount off prices for one-off spring and end of tenancy cleans. Contact Abacadabra Services Ltd., 10 Glasshouse Yard, Barbican, London EC1A 4JN or call Allan Lee on 020 7336 7686. Fax: 020 7336 7687. Email: allan@abraserve.co.uk. Website: www.abraserve.co.uk.

Barbican Dental Care: 10% on all services including tooth whitening and revolutionary healO-zone treatment. Ground Floor, 80-83 Long Lane, London EC1A 9ET. Phone: 020 7600 4147. Contact Nikki Skews.

Barbican Dental Practice: 10% discount on procedures on produc-

tion of membership Card. (5% discount for all Barbican residents). 1 Wallside, Barbican. Phone: 020 7638 8200 for appointment.

City Boot: 10% off food and wine. Moorfields Highwalk (above Boots). Contact Susie@ 020 7588 4766.

Elite Home Maintenance: 10% off labour costs for painting and decorating, plumbing, tiling, carpentry and electrical work. Contact: Steven Richards, 153 Amhurst Road, LONDON E8 2AW. Phone: 020 7241 3957 or 07976 352 395. Email: srichardspaint@supanet.com.

Heads & Tails Restaurant/Bar: 15% discount. Phone: 020 7600 0700. Email: headsandtails@hartfordgroup.co.uk.

Hermes Health: Osteopathy: including cranial osteopathy and visceral osteopathy, pilates rehabilitation in fully equipped studio 5 minutes from the Barbican estate. 10% discount for

BA members on initial osteopathic consultation and treatment (around 45 minutes) and 5% discount for further treatments (each around 30 minutes) up to a maximum of six in any six month period. For pilates rehabilitation a 5% discount on individual sessions (60 minutes) or 10% if a block of 5 is paid in advance. Information: Hermes Health Ltd., Templeton House, 33-34 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4SF. For appointments, phone: 0870 246 1460, fax: 0870 246 1641 or email: info@hermeshealth.co.uk. Web: www.hermeshealth.co.uk.

Quinn Interiors: 10% off curtains, blinds, soft furnishings and re-upholstery. Contact Quinn Interiors, 78 Hermon Hill, Wanstead, London E11 1PB. Phone: 07050 159156. Fax: 07050 259256. Email: info@quinn-interiors.com. Website: www.quinn-interiors.com.

Rudland & Stubbs: Fish restaurant. 10%

discount for BA members who book and indicate membership at the time of booking and present BA membership card at restaurant. For reservations call 7253 0148. 35-37 Greenhill Rents, off Cowcross Street, EC1

Spice Corner: Indian restaurant and takeaway. Aldersgate Street (opposite the Hogshhead). 20% discount for BA members for takeaway and 15% if you eat in. Barbican residents who are not BA members are given a 15% takeaway discount and 10% eat-in. Phone: 7600 4747.

Susannah Hall Tailors: 10% off any purchase of bespoke or ready to wear, mens or womens suits, shirts and fabulous range of ties and accessories. 110 Clerkenwell Road. Phone: 020 7253 4055. Email: susannahhall@aol.com.

The Sutton Arms: 10% off restaurant charges. 6 Carthusian Street, London EC1M 6EB. Phone: 020 7253 0723.

Dear Readers

We all hope that you have enjoyed this latest issue of the BA Newsletter. Thanks to all the contributors, and others who helped to make this possible, especially Gillian Laidlaw for chasing contributions, and Stephen Horrocks for layout and production.

It's our goal to keep you informed of at least a few of the things

going on around the Barbican, ranging from the serious to the lighter side of things. We can only ever hope to scratch the surface in a place with such rich offerings as these environs.

As we rely on the volunteers and the initiative of our contributors in coming to us with story ideas, and sending in material, we appeal to

all you budding authors to start tapping away at your keyboards!

If anyone would like to submit an article or letter, the deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **July 15th 2005**. Please send your contributions to: barbicaneditor@yahoo.co.uk

Ronan Kavanagh
312 Bunyan Court

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