



Barbican Association

Newsletter

February 2004

Lakes refurbishment goes ahead with some controversy

The Corporation Open Spaces Department has been looking at how to sort out the lakes, which are in a terribly poor state.

They invited contractors to tender proposals for both the refurbishment of the lakes and an ongoing integrated maintenance plan. Each contractor was asked to address the following problems:

- Nutrient control
- Odour control
- Introducing aquatic plants and algal bloom control
- Fish stock management
- Leaf litter
- Sediment control
- Circulation system and waterfalls
- Fountains

Three contractors submitted a tender and all of them drew attention to the need to review whether the lake liners needed replacing.

Of the three solutions Kingcombe Aquacare offered the most detailed and cost effective proposals which best met the specified criteria. They propose abandoning most of the existing pumping equipment and replacing it with an improved circulation system. They have also built in planting and fountains as an integral part of their proposals, which addresses the needs of the waterfowl and will provide improved landscaping. They propose five large aerator jets to create the overall effect of the original fountains, that will also provide effective aeration of the lake.

The estimated cost of these works is £225,400, with an additional £142,500 if the liners have to be replaced, a total of £367,900. Day to day

maintenance costs should stay the same once these works have been completed. The BRC gave the go ahead on January 12th, and the works should now start in March 2004 and be completed by June 2004.

There has been some controversy around whether residents should pay for these works and what proportion they should pay for.



Firstly the lease covers maintenance of the lakes and gardens, not capital works. The Corporation maintain that these works are maintenance and therefore re-chargeable under the lease - a point that could be disputed.

Secondly the lease states that residents should pay 85% of the cost of the lakes and gardens as marked on a plan attached to the lease. However over many years the charges have generally been split on the ratio

of 53% to the Estate Office (split 85% to residents and 15% to the City Fund) and 47% to the Arts Centre. We have therefore been charged 45.05% of the maintenance costs with other Corporation departments bearing the rest.

The Corporation Open Spaces Department now proposes that residents should be charged for 50% of the cost, again split 85/15% with the City Fund. This means that we will be charged for 42.5% of the total costs for the proposed works and the ongoing maintenance. In their paper they justify this by stating that "residents have approximately 50% of the lake's frontage".

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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 *	Robert Barker	33 Lauderdale Tower	7588 3694
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 *	Antony Stanley	40 Speed House	7638 2713
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

26 February 2004
11 March 2004
5 May 2003 - AGM
13 May 2004
11 June 2004
13 August 2004
14 October 2004

Barbican Residential Committee

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

Resident Consultation Committee

9 February 2004
1 March 2004
4 May 2004
5 July 2004
6 September 2004
1 November 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)

Members of the RCC undertook an exercise to measure the area to which we actually have exclusive access, and estimate that we have exclusive access to a maximum of 38% of the lake's frontage. This means residents should only pay a maximum of 32% of the cost.

What this means in cash terms is that if the liners are replaced, under the Open Spaces method residents will pay an average £77 per property for the works, under the RCC method residents will pay £58 per property

The RCC recommended that a proper assessment of exclusive access be carried out in order to assess the correct proportion. These points were considered at BRC but in the end they decided to accept the apportionment proposed by Open Spaces on the basis that the Corporation was offering a concession

to residents to split the costs on a 50/50 basis. This is the first time the BRC has over-ruled the RCC, a worrying development for the future of the new arrangements.

No-one wants the renewal of the lakes to be stalled, but there are issues of principle at stake. Despite the small amount of money, should we allow charges to be levied on an estimate of exclusive access which was not fully validated? Where is the dividing line between maintenance and capital works? Both of these points could be taken to Lease Valuation Tribunal which the BA will consider if there is sufficient demand from the residents.

In the meantime we can look forward to renewed lakes and new fountains this summer.

Nicola Baker

Will this City Point lift ever be fixed ?

The lift at City Point, next to Milton Court, has now been out of action since August. Some of you may be wondering what on earth is going on. It is an interesting and intensely depressing saga.

Initially the lift was vandalised, which put the control panel out of action. After this was re-fitted, it was found that the lift had in fact been installed incorrectly and City Point, concerned about safety, shut it down. The lift has been inactive ever since. Initially, I was told that a part had to be ordered from Germany but this was subsequently changed to the claim that the delay was due to a dispute between the lift maintainers (Konie), the lift manufacturers (Thyssen) and the lift installers (ALS) which was finally resolved just before Christmas. We have now finally been told that Thyssen, the manufacturer, will be re-installing the lift over the next month. We live in hope.

Thanks must go to Tony Manning of the Corporation who has been active in bashing some heads together, and to Barry Earp of City Point, who, once he knew how to contact residents, has been prepared to keep us informed. We have also been assured that



Thyssen will now be taking over maintenance, which should mean we do not hit this problem again.

This saga has raised an important issue: City Point is under a planning obligation to provide this lift, but that planning obligation does not say anything about the level of service that has to be provided, nor is there any financial penalty that can be levied on City Point to force it to keep the lift in service (surely some sanction could have been specified). There is only one other lift on this side of the estate, at the other end of the podium, and if this fails the only remaining disabled access is the ramp down the side of Moorfields

Highwalk.

Interestingly, the plans for the redevelopment of 21 Moorfields include removal of both the highwalk ramp and access to the second City Point lift, to be replaced by more lifts, leaving the Milton Court lift as the only disabled access point during the building works, with no access should there be a power cut. We have made these points to the City Planning Department.

One of the most irritating things about the whole affair is the lack of current information. This has meant that wheelchair users (or pushers such as myself) have had to go over the bridge and through Milton Court before finding that the lift was still not working and then trail back to the other end of the podium before being able to descend. Surely a notice could have been put on the podium side of the bridge.

In the meantime, if the Milton Court lift is not fixed by the end of February, we suggest that you contact Square Mile Real Estate Services on 020 7588 4292.

Christopher Haines

Happy Year of the Monkey (from Chairman Rabbit)



Christmas has passed, the year of the monkey has begun, and I am sure many of you, like me, are now trying repair the damage to our livers and waistlines.

On the back page we have advertised for paid help with administration and distribution. In my eight months as Chair it is these areas of running the Association that have given me and my colleagues the biggest headache. If you are interested please reply. Of course we would prefer you to volunteer but understand the time pressures we are all under in this modern world we have built for ourselves.

It looks like the television service we get on the Estate is becoming **the** hot topic. Those of you who browse barbicantalk.com will notice that this issue dominates all others (even skateboarders). The dreadful service we receive from NTL is obviously driving lots of you nuts, and the discussions about the upgrade to our cabling system continue. For this reason nearly four pages are dedicated to TV in this issue of the Newsletter.

We have published a letter from a concerned resident, whose views have been reflected in some posts to barbicantalk.com. It seems that people think the BA is deciding on the solutions for the TV. This is not the case. We do not make decisions like this and never could - we merely lobby the Corporation to do things which we have been told by other residents are in the interest of us all.

There is a TV Liaison Group made up of representatives from each house which has been looking at the whole TV issue and feeding back to the Corporation. The new Resident Consultation Committee will also be involved in the decision.

We have been pressing first NTL and then the Corporation to find a solution to the TV problem for the last 5 years. Some of you may have forgotten some of the history so I thought it might be best to remind people how we have got to where we are.

- Here in the Barbican we are now almost unique in urban Britain in not having access to digital TV. If this situation carries on much longer it will impact on the value of our properties.
- The current system was initially installed by Redifusion, and was not part of the original build (all this digital stuff was not envisaged in 1960), and therefore part of the service provided to us by our landlord.
- The system was then sold to BT and then NTL

- NTL refused to upgrade the system at their own cost (getting their money back through subscriptions). Given the state of their finances this is hardly surprising.
- The Corporation have taken legal advice on whether this item could be charged under the lease. This took nearly 3 years and the conclusion now is that they can.
- It was judged that the only way we could get control of the service was to bring it "in house" and maintained and kept up to date along with the rest of the fabric of the estate. We never want to be in the situation again where we were at the mercy of one company.
- The consultation in 2002 was inadequate. The BA tried to get it changed but the Estate office pressed on despite our concerns. In particular they had not done a detailed feasibility study (for instance how do they cable an estate this old, how would a fancy broadband network be managed) nor did they obtain proper lifetime costings. The options were based on a couple of letters from a friendly cabling company. That being said there was a clear majority for an upgrade with a 60% turnout (the highest ever on one of these exercises)
- The BA asked the Corporation to look again at the upgrade options. Whilst people had voted for the fancy all singing and dancing system, the flaws in the consultation needed to be ironed out before any contract was let.
- This is a specialist area and not within the Corporation's area of expertise. We had to use a consultant to do a proper feasibility study. You can see a summary of this report on pages 8 -10.

The only way everyone can get digital TV and radio is through this cabling exercise. Some of you have been lucky enough to get reception but you are the minority and fortunate because of the location of your flat.

The BA, House Groups and the RCC are united in driving this issue forward. However none of us make decisions about what the Estate should or should not have. Our landlord does. However along with the House Groups and the RCC, we do lobby and cajole the Corporation to get things done. We are just a group of residents who volunteer our time to try to get things done in everyone's best interests.

If you want to find out more about the TV issue please read pages 8-10 and the letter on page 15, look at the consultant's website or contact the Chair of the TV Liaison Group John Tomlinson.

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Stephen Horrocks

Moorfields school is closing - it's official

Islington Council is closing Moorfields School and Prior Weston will take these pupils from next September. If their decision is ratified, a school on the Barbican's doorstep that has been failing will be taken over by a highly-regarded, inspirational headteacher running one of the best primary schools in London. This can only be good news for residents.

As part of the proposed scheme, a brand new educational facility will be built for Prior Weston on their existing site in Whitecross Street. While building works are in progress, Prior Weston will use the Moorfields site on a temporary basis from the start of the school year in September 2004.

By 2007, the Barbican area will have gained:

- a much needed state-of-the-art primary school building,
- an early years centre,
- a special needs school,
- a building for community education.

The above will contribute massively to the already burgeoning revitalisation of Whitecross Street. Many residents will have seen how shops, restaurants and cafés have sprung up there over the past 5 years and this can only be enhanced by the Prior Weston development.

Option A

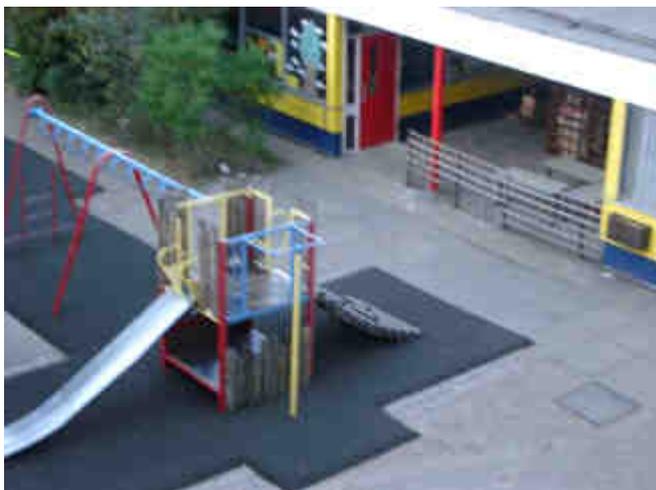
On 9th of January 2004, the Executive of Islington Council unanimously agreed to close Moorfields Primary School, and to expand Prior Weston Primary School so as to include the Moorfields pupils from September 1st 2004. This was "**Option A**" in the Council's consultation document. The final decision will be taken by the School Organisation Committee in March.

We are parents and governors of Prior Weston, and can report that Option A was the school's and the governors' preferred choice if

Moorfields School were to be closed. As it became clear that Moorfields stood no chance of continuing, we are delighted that Islington Council adopted Option A, rather than simply close it down, sell the site and distribute the kids to different primary schools. Instead, what is envisaged goes much further than closing one school and expanding another and it starts when the decision is ratified, with the opportunity to build one school community.

Three great schools into one site

The proposal is for Prior Weston, Fortune Park Early Year's Centre and Richard Cloudsley Special School primary department (in Golden Lane) to come together to



provide a fully inclusive foundation stage and primary school that also serves as an education and community resource. This inclusive facility will be built on the Prior Weston site for occupation in September 2007.

These three institutions are widely recognised for the exemplary quality of the services they provide to the children and families in their care. They each have inspirational headteachers who have built up a close working relationship over the past 20 years and groups of children move between the three schools every day.

In the new facility, education and care with a unique emphasis on

physical and sensory therapy will be provided for both educational and local use. Health professionals would be based on site to support children and their families. The new school will be open for adult education through the year, and as a library and ICT resource that could help elderly or physically challenged adults as well as parents of very young children returning to work or wanting to return to work.

Meetings and opportunities

In the last newsletter a parent in Prior Weston viewed the proposed changes with concern. Within Prior Weston, parents sat down in a series of meetings in October to debate the issues before the "official" consultation began. By the end of the consultation process, the majority of parents and other interested parties were behind Option A. There were concerns about transition and because of these, the head of Prior Weston, Mary Caven, put particular pressure on the Council to ensure the transition phase is properly resourced.

The governors of Prior Weston are committed to it continuing as an inclusive community school serving this area and its children. Therefore, if Moorfields School is finally closed, Prior Weston will always welcome all children of our community who wish to join Prior Weston and will work hard with everyone to ensure that the transitional period and the eventual new school is a resounding success.

This is an amazing opportunity to create a 21st century resource for children, families and all local residents. It will be a beacon of best practice and an inspiration for all, while contributing massively to the area. *Barbican Association Newsletter* will receive regular updates.

Lucy Musgrave and John Kenny

NTL delay the return of Sky One refunds available

Following discussions with both ntl and the Barbican Estate Office (BEO) it now transpires that there is no set date for the restoration of Sky One across the estate, even for those not on the basic package who are currently successfully receiving other Sky channels.

Originally, it was stated that the same equipment fault was the source of problems with both News 24 and Sky One. Now that this equipment has been fixed and News 24 is back – if you only get it in black and white it needs to be fine tuned to receive colour – it appears that this is not the cause of the Sky One problems.

It is rumoured that there is a problem between ntl and Sky One over negotiation of rights to broadcast Sky One on the basic package. However, this does not explain why those on other packages, paying for additional Sky channels, are not receiving it.

Please note that despite ntl's statements to some residents that refunds will be automatically processed,

ntl have informed me that this is not the case. In order to receive a refund for the services that have not been, and are still not being received, residents must write to ntl to formally complain and request a refund. They will only respond if the author of the letter is the named account holder.



The ntl fault centre has been contacted by Cliff Rose, ntl's area network manager for central London who has "authorised reimbursement of fees to any subscriber who has been affected by any loss of service. Subscribers will get a pro-rata reimbursement for loss of service."

In the event of any problems, Cliff Rose can be contacted by phone: 020 7967 5650, fax: 020 7967 5648, mobile: 07811 262286 or email: Clifford.Rose@ntl.com.

If you would like the BA to take action on behalf of residents please let us know.

Nicola Baker

What has happened to the Podium lights?

Some of you may have noticed that the lights on the Podium at the east side of the Estate have changed this year. The lighting has become harsh, grey and in some instances dazzling (try walking south along Gilbert Bridge some time). This effect can most easily be seen if you stand on Gilbert Bridge and look to your left and your right. The west side of the Estate is bathed in a golden glow, the east side is harshly lit in bright grey white light.

It took some time to find out what on earth has happened. The Estate Office knew nothing and queries were raised at RCC. It turns out that the Corporation is running lighting trials on all public walkways - and particularly in residential estates - in response to a Home Office crime reduction initiative. Old style lighting of such areas has generally been fixed at some height above the walkway and used coloured light. This meant that pedestrians moved between pools of light and darkness and the "vertical lighting" made it

difficult to see the faces of other pedestrians.

The new initiative provides that lights should be white and that they should provide a greater degree of "horizontal lighting".



Over the last 18 months, the Department of Technical Services (DOTS) has run trials with different light fittings, to satisfy the "horizontal light" requirement, and they appear to be satisfied with these results. However for the last 6 months or so, they have been

running trials of different types of lamps (bulbs) in these fittings.

They recognise that some of the lamps have generated a very harsh light and some have generated a substantial level of glare, but they have been unable to ascertain this until the lamps have actually been installed on site against the Barbican concrete finish.

They expect to complete their trials in the next couple of months and will then invite residents comments on the results. The final choice of lamps will be installed at the east end of the estate and will be able to be readily compared with the original lighting at the west end of the estate. Following consultation a final decision will be made about the future lighting of the podium walkways.

It would obviously have helped if this could have been explained before the trials started!

Richard Morrison

Recycling scheme set for extension



Caroline Telford, the Corporation Recycling Officer, is currently working on expanding the existing household recycling service to include glass, plastic bottles and cans (along with paper and card) collected from your doors, as well as locating an Oxfam textile recycling bank on the estate.

Plans are in their early stages and there is a lot to organise in the meantime. Work starts in April so hopefully it won't be too long to wait. As always, information will be sent out in advance to Barbican House Groups and then to residents.



Local Pub applies for 2 a.m. license



The Globe

The Globe pub, at the corner of Moorgate and London Wall, has applied for a music and dancing license for Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 2 a.m. This pub is very close to the estate and we are deeply concerned that if it gets a late license other bars and pubs in the area will have a precedent and will also get late licenses.

This could easily be a wedge for Moorgate becoming a late night bar area. The Barbican Association will fund the cost of a barrister to oppose this application. We also sent around a flyer to every flat asking residents to send in their objections by the deadline of January 28th.

Our experience has shown that the combination of numerous objections and a professionally prepared objection, carry huge weight with the licensing panel. At the time of going to press c. 100 objections had been received. Please write in, even though it is after the 28th as it does carry some weight.

We are not aware of all the facts and have put further plans on hold until the new commercial arrangements are clear. The MD of Laurel Pubs has informed us that any late license plans have, for the time being, been put on hold. Any future proposal will, as always, be subject to legal advice and the full scrutiny

Essence Tapas Bar

This new bar operating on Carthusian Street - below a residential block in a premises that was formerly occupied by Spirit Bar - has requested a renewal of the existing license, allowing it to stay open until 2 a.m. Ben Jonson House Group has looked at the application and feels the conditions currently included will maintain the peaceful running of the bar. Ben Jonson is therefore considering withdrawing its objection.

Sex in the City

This bar, managed by Nylon, replaced the Vaults bar in Chiswell Street. They had informed us that they were intending to apply for a late license (12a.m. / 1a.m.) about which we had started negotiations. However, around Christmas, a change in the commercial arrangements between Nylon (the licensee and managers) and Laurel Pubs (the owners) resulted in a dispute.

The Brewery is also looking at grinding the bottles before collection so that the crashing sound of bottles hitting the steel floor of a lorry is not made.

of the Barbican Association General Council, on which every House Group and residents are represented.

The Brewery

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Finsbury Square special events

Noise from Finsbury Square has been heard over the period leading up to Christmas. A new semi-permanent structure has been erected there and can accommodate hundreds. The management of the facility has been contacted and has been responsive in turning down the loud music. This is a new problem, which may reoccur from time to time.

Steve Quilter

Fore Street Post Office set to move

The Post Office has announced that it intends to move Fore Street post office to 53 Moorgate (south of London Wall). A consultation exercise was completed on December 29th and although the results are not yet known, it is unlikely that the move will not take place. This move is



cited as securing post office services in the area. The new office will be open plan, have better access for the disabled and purpose built counters. Full details of the new facilities are available at Fore Street Post Office. We wonder, though, if re-development may not soon follow.

TV Consultants lay out the options for an upgrade

The last edition of the Barbican Newsletter reported that the Corporation's Barbican Residential Committee had appointed a consultant to carry out a detailed evaluation of the options for upgrading the television system to give access to the full range of digital satellite and terrestrial free-to-air channels that we cannot currently receive.



The consultants, Concerco, have now reported back. They have outlined and given very indicative costs for each solution. You will find below an edited version of Concerco's presentation.

If you want to read it in full visit www.concerco.co.uk/barbican. The username is "concerco", the password is "feasibility". The key issues identified are those of the TV Liaison Group and RCC. The final section is my personal commentary.

Solution 1 - Integrated Reception System (IRS)

This system is in use in nearly 2m homes in the UK. It is designed to receive and distribute the full range of digital services and the existing analogue television services for as long as they remain. All the services from both terrestrial and satellite networks are transmitted through the system, giving residents the freedom to choose for themselves, which, if any of the services, they want to receive.

Not as yet commercially deployed, it is also possible to operate an entry-level broadband internet service, which can operate utilising a satellite broadband service or a suitable sized connection from a fixed line provider.

Installation overview

The new aerials and dish will be installed on the roof area of Shakespeare Tower. From here a series of fibre optic cables will be installed throughout the estate, via the service tunnels that link all the high and low-rise blocks.

In the basement areas of each block, new equipment will be installed and cabling fitted through the building risers to each floor. From the distribution risers on each floor, existing cables to the flats will be able to be re-used (subject to serviceability). In each flat a single outlet socket will be installed to replace the existing television socket.

There are two types of cable infrastructure to choose from,

- a 5-cable system that allows for a single satellite, such as Sky Digital, Astra and others,
- a 9-cable system that would allow for multiple satellites, such as Hotbird and Asian channels. (This will have a significant impact on costing).

Benefits of solution

- It's the recognised industry standard for delivering satellite, terrestrial television and digital radio in apartment blocks (i.e well proven technology)

- Able to deliver a broadband service although not as yet commercially deployed.
- Allows individual choice to subscribe to and receive premium television channels (BSkyB).
- Residents can continue to receive just the old analogue services for as long as they are broadcast, or can upgrade to digital whenever they wish.
- One dish and antenna array to cover the whole estate

Residents not wishing to receive or subscribe to the BSkyB premium channels have the possibility of receiving additional "free to air" TV and radio channels.

Key issues to resolve

- *Is a 5 or 9 cable solution appropriate*
- *How do we ensure SkyPlus can also be received*
- *What cabling is needed for flats with multiple televisions*

Solution 2 - Wireless Broadband

A Wireless local area network (WLAN) uses radio frequency (RF) technology to transmit and receive data over the air.

Installation overview

With this solution it has been difficult to determine an outline installation strategy. The equipment will be installed in discrete locations around the estate.

Installation time will be in the region of three and six months. Consideration will have to be given to the estates's grade II listed building status.

Implications of solution

Designing a radio network for an environment such as exists at the Barbican involves deploying a dedi-

cated resource for to study current conditions and perform various tests to determine the possibility of implementing a successful deployment.

Currently there are technical questions with regard to the ability of wireless technology of this type to transport television signals.

Until a detailed survey and design are produced, it is not known if sufficient bandwidth for TV can be created. It is likely to at least double the existing pricing.

Benefits of solution

- Broadband internet offering a minimum 1 Mb per dwelling, up to 4Mbps available to some dwellings.

- Door entry system (infrastructure cost only included). Not included is the additional equipment due to the bespoke nature of the current door entry arrangements.
- CCTV to include up to 30 cameras around the site, with all streamed pictures viewable in one central control centre, based for example at the Police Station
- Wireless networks are easy to set up providing benefits in areas whereas wiring is difficult to deploy and valuable for historic buildings where wiring is difficult, or undesirable.

Key issues to resolve
It is highly unlikely that this option will be able to deliver TV services at a reasonable cost, if at all.

Solution 3 - IP Television and Ethernet

This involves an ethernet solution where TV services from satellite and terrestrial broadcasters are delivered over an IP network. It is at the leading edge of technology and therefore is greater in complexity than some of the other solutions. Issues exist in some areas with respect to cable installation and equipment location. These are likely to be overcome but may involve some extra cost.

It may be necessary to draw out the existing infrastructure to create space to install new cabling. This may involve the loss of the current TV service for periods up to 48 hours and issues with ntl, the operator of the incumbent system.

A suitable place somewhere on the estate is required to locate video servers, broadband management servers, content servers and equipment for other services. This may lead to the need for a data centre type environment depending on the extent of the equipment.

Depending on the type of connection used to wire up individual flats to the wider network, rewiring may be necessary, although one option is to use the existing TV cables or telephone lines.

Another consideration for the final system is the overall management of the solution. This includes operations such as billing, administrative processes, network management and other activities.

Benefits of solution

This system could deliver:

- Digital TV and radio
- CCTV
- Video entry phone

- IP telephony
- Community broadcasting
- Building management facilities

The ethernet solution is scalable to provide the following optional features:

- Video on demand (VOD) -- One of the principle advantages of TV over IP is the simplicity of video on demand services. Video on demand provides the user with a service exactly like playing a DVD or VHS video.
- Network personal video recorder --Network personal video recorder works in much the same way as video on demand, however it gives the user the ability to record and play back programmes in a manner similar to a video recorder. A comparable feature is the service offered by Sky Plus.
- Gaming applications and email -- Users can be offered an email service without the need for a PC. Other applications such as gaming and web browsing are attractive features of this solution.
- SMATV -- Based upon systems that are placed in hotels, a set number of channels are purchased from Sky whether premium or other. The Barbican Estate or the Corporation of London could create their own TV packages and charge accordingly. Sky invoices a single customer and therefore this will involve a need for a management company.

Key issues to resolve

- Technologically cutting edge - only in use in 2 housing estates worldwide in Dubai and Milan
- TV over IP is unproven technology -high risk
- Requires extensive network and service management - an additional cost over other solutions

Solution 4 - ADSL - TV down the phone line

Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) is a modem technology that converts existing telephone lines into access paths for high-speed communications. The major installation of equipment is required within British Telecom exchanges.

Broadband internet services for many Barbican homes. A small company, Video Networks Limited (VNL), have developed a technology which they claim would enable TV to be carried in addition to internet services. This is not yet launched commercially.

requirement to drill or install riser's to enable the installation of new cable due to the use of existing British Telecom's last mile copper infrastructure.

Residents will only be required to allow access for the installation of a set top box, which will have wireless connectivity for TV and PC.

Currently ADSL is used to supply

Within the estate there will be no

Telephone service remains unaffected because all services operate simultaneously.

Implications

- Aligning with a single operator ensures no relative autonomy or control over infrastructure, now or in the future.
- Other options provide opportunities for revenue generation this option will not allow this.
- Currently television content for some premium channels including Sky Movies are still under negotiation.
- There will be a recurring cost of £9.99 for free-to-air digital TV channels and some VOD, plus pay per view content. This is more than is currently charged for the basic channel line-up from NTL.

Benefits

VNL claim a number of benefits. Although the DSL solution aligns the estate with a single provider, and some television content is still under negotiation, there are a number of benefits:

- There will be no requirement to diamond drill or install riser's to enable the installation of new cable.
- Viewers can watch traditional broadcast channels while TV content can also be accessed instantly from powerful servers and streamed to the viewer on-demand, therefore viewers are no longer dictated to by the TV schedule.
- Customers can get broadband internet access to their PCs at speeds up to 1Mbps through the same box, with simultaneous broadband TV and internet access.

- All residents receive the full VNL product set, including internet access, for an initial period of 12 months at a discounted price of £9.99 a month per resident for the full multi-channel, VOD and Internet service.

VNL have also offered to provide a free trial of their system to the Barbican Estate to allow a period of assessment prior to a decision being made on the preferred solution.

Key issues to resolve

- Only on trial
- Aligned to one supplier
- Commercially and technologically unproven
- If VNL fail then we will be left with no TV service at all, as old infrastructure will have been abandoned by NTL

Initial conclusions and next steps

The consultants presented to a joint meeting of the RCC and TV Liaison Group. The meeting immediately concluded that Option 2 was not a runner because it did not meet the primary need of providing digital TV. Option 4, while superficially attractive, was also dismissed because it meant we would be dependent yet again on one supplier who was not even operating commercial services yet. These options will not be investigated any further.

Option 1

Option 1 clearly meets the primary need and is being developed to provide internet services. It is installed in nearly 2m homes in the UK and is well proven technology. Whilst BskyB would be the primary supplier of premium services, if a 9 wire system is installed, residents would have the option to subscribe to alternative satellite premium services (though few are available at the moment).

The indicative installation cost is between £300-£600 per flat depending on whether a 5 or 9 wire system is installed. Implementation of Skyplus feeds and internet would be extra. The indicative annual maintenance cost is between £10-15. Service management costs of this solution would be minimal.

Option 3

Option 3 caused much discussion. It was acknowledged that the potential services most nearly matched the option voted for by residents in 2002. The option might be technologically exciting, but that also means it is high risk. TV over IP has only been tried in two other estates in the world, IP telephony has barely been adopted despite being touted for a

number of years (try finding an IP enabled telephone that you can buy).

The indicative installation costs are in the region of £900. Annual maintenance costs are in the region of £280 per annum. Annual service and network management costs would be in addition to this, and would not be insignificant. Just as with Option 1 residents who wanted broadband and premium TV services would have to pay additional subscription fees.

This would represent at least a 13% increase in service charges, which a number of people deemed as unacceptable. Some members of the group believe their hands are tied by the ballot, but it should be remembered that the costs indicated in the ballot were £535 to install and £35 p.a. to maintain.

More crucially, unproven technology could prejudice the continuity of the TV service, making existing problems with NTL seem trivial.

Next steps

A further meeting of the TV Group is taking place on February 3rd to assess the issues in more detail. If the conclusion is that Option 3 is not really a viable option then the RCC will have to decide whether a further ballot is appropriate.

There is still much work to do, but the intention is still to get a contract let by April so that by the Autumn we can all access the TV services that everyone else in urban Britain already can.

John Tomlinson

Security matters !

Introducing our village bobby

At a time when our media is dominated by reports about terrorism, violent crime, drug abuse, increased domestic violence etc., it is good to see the return of a direct presence on the estate by the City of London Police in the form of David Whitbread, our very own Community Beat Officer.

For those of you new to the Barbican, David, or Dave as he is mostly called, can be found at podium level at the southern end of Willoughby House in a small office, which is unmistakable with its City of London (Police) crest ingrained on the window. Dave, an extremely friendly and approachable chap is basically a "village bobby" -- his words not mine -- but a fitting description since the Barbican has for a very long time now been referred to as an urban village.

Dave has 17 years of service behind him, including time as a scene of crime official, a local intelligence officer, a patrol officer and he has spent the last 17 months as a community beat officer. His principle role in this unique village of ours is to provide an interface with the Barbican community, particularly residents, but he is also responsible for liaising with the Barbican Centre, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the City of London School for Girls, St Giles' Cripplegate as well as local companies and shops. I believe his responsibility even extends into the local pubs occasionally; talking of which, I do not believe he is related to the Whitbread brewing family, but if he is, he is certainly keeping quiet about this!

Dave's office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday. However, Dave is

not meant to be office-bound - indeed, we want to see him patrolling the estate. When he is not in his office there is a voicemail system and email contact -- this information together with other useful contact numbers is provided at the end of this article.

As Barbican residents, we are extremely fortunate to live in a low crime rate area. Compared with most of London, the City generally, and especially the Barbican can truly be described as a safe haven. BUT there is no room for complacency. There have been serious crimes committed here including burglaries.

Burglaries in the Barbican have almost all been due to criminals 'tail-gating' into blocks behind residents, or being let in by pressing other residents' buzzers.

We should all remain vigilant, especially during these troubled times and not allow anyone into any of the residential areas unless we know that they are fellow residents.

I know it is difficult to challenge "strangers" but we should and must. And for the ultra feint-hearted among us, why not wait until a stranger has moved on; this will normally happen within minutes especially if you walk past the entrance to your home and 'circle-back' a little later.

Dave, our local bobby, is a member of the Barbican Estate Security Committee, a sub-committee of the Barbican Association's General Council. Originally formed in 1995, the committee consists of Barbican residents and representatives of the Barbican Estate Office and the City of London Police. I have the privilege of serving as its current Chairman.

At a recent meeting of the Barbican Estate Security Committee, Dave summarised the estate's current problems -- albeit at an extremely low level -- as



mainly resulting from anti-social behaviour as opposed to hard crime. This, however, apart from being at a low level, is also transient and sporadic. For example, we are experiencing intermittent problems with passing drunks who seem to delight in kicking 'six bells' out of the panels in the Beech Street tunnel. The solution to this, currently under consideration, is to install steel re-enforced panels! Another example he quoted was that

of a minor graffiti problem, which was removed instantaneously and the culprits cautioned. And, of course, an old favorite, skateboarding - but more of this in a moment.

New Police Cycle squad

Stealing bicycles these days often tops the offenders' poll and the resultant cyclists are now being challenged in a very innovative way - through the formation of the City of London Police Cycle Squad. Yes, that's right, cycles! Rather special cycles. They feature police markings, have 27 speed gears, full suspension, disk brakes front & rear and are fitted with flashing blue lamps and two-tone sirens. Each officer is supplied with specialist cycling gear, including a marked police helmet and lightweight body armour.



The City's original squad of eight, drawn from Bishopsgate divisional officers, was formed 18 months ago and has been highly successful in providing fast response to calls and as a highly visible deterrent.

The squad was conceived specifically to target cyclists who ride recklessly in our streets, for example, by ignoring red lights, cycling on pavements and now occasionally even on the podium! Due to its speed and manoeuvrability the squad is ideal to use in areas where cycle related crimes are committed and where cycles are used in the 'commission of crime,' for example, ride-by phone snatches.

Within the first seven weeks of being formed the squad had recovered around £150,000 worth of stolen vehicles, apprehended a drugs dealer, caught two scooter thieves in the act, found a missing person, prevented a suicide attempt from Tower Bridge, caught six illegal immigrants, assisted with 42 arrests, answered in excess of 200 emergency calls and issued 146 fixed penalty tickets (mostly to cyclists).

Last autumn, the squad became the first police cyclists to routinely carry a scaled-down defibrillator while out on patrol, from which they are able to

determine whether or not electric shock is required to regulate or restart a victim's heart beat.

Riding on the back of this success (if you'll excuse the pun) an additional squad of eight was formed just before Christmas at Snow Hill Police Station, which is responsible for the Barbican area. At the launch, Inspector Peter Herriot, who leads the new Snow Hill unit as part of his community policing division said, "having bikes on this division will build on our crime reduction work as well as helping us to focus on anti-social behaviour by cyclists and skateboarders."

As Churchill may have said if he were still alive today, is this the beginning of the end of the Barbican skateboarder!?

David Bradshaw
Chairman,
Barbican Estate Security Committee

Useful contact numbers:

Dave Whitbread: 020 7601 2456

e-mail: david.whitbread@city-of-london.police.uk

Snowhill Police Station (front office): 020 7601 2406

Snowhill Community Beat Office: 020 7601 2452

Planning: Ropemaker Place, 21 Moorfields and Cross Rail



A public meeting took place on November 25th 2003 about the proposed **21 MOORFIELDS** development.

The meeting was well attended by interested residents, who were not entirely satisfied by the presentations that were made. Following the meeting, the architects, Foster and Partners, were contacted requesting a meeting to discuss design aspects. At the time of writing this, no reply has been received.

Contact has also been made with the lighting expert retained by the developers requesting a copy of the calculations used in assessing the loss of light to the flats of Willoughby House. The figures are in the process of being revised and we have been promised a copy.

In the meantime, an independent consultant has been contacted

and it is hoped that arrangements can be made to use his expertise to examine the figures. The Chairman of the Willoughby House Group has written to the Chief Planning Officer of the Corporation requesting that until there have been satisfactory discussions with the architects and the lighting experts, the application will not be submitted for planning permission.

Another development that impacts the Barbican is **ROPEMAKER PLACE**. Representatives from the Barbican Estate were present at the Islington Planning Committee meeting and made objections on behalf of the residents and the Barbican Association. The representations we made were listened to, but essentially ignored, and planning permission was granted. There is no indication when the demolition/building work will proceed.

The **GSMD** only just received planning permission for its lecture and rehearsal rooms in Milton Court. Residents concerns were listened

to and some conditions of use imposed.

There is no new information available on the re-developments for **Milton Court** or the **St Alphage House** site.

There is some interesting news on the **CrossRail Project** (which will pass directly under the Barbican Estate in a deep tunnel). A private initiative has been developed that will avoid the Government having to put any money into the project. This initiative is now under consideration by the relevant Minister. Full information on the project can be found on two websites, which I suggest that you consult: www.crossrail.co.uk and www.londonregionalmetro.com.

A number of planning applications for changes to flats and internal works in the **Barbican Arts Centre** have been made recently. House Group Chairmen have been informed of these.

Don Prichard

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 Barbican Association members, not just ladies -- we have several male members -- and meets every Tuesday at 3 p.m. in 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 theatres and trips out of London.

Below is our programme for 2004. All events are scheduled in conjunction with the Forum for Older People in the City of London.

For more information please contact Audrey Ballard on 7588-4330

February (date to be confirmed):	Mary Rogers, "A day in the West End."
March (date to be confirmed):	Thelma Stollar, "Sydney Bridge and adventures in Sydney."
April (date to be confirmed):	Joan Jones, "Holidays in the Baltic."
Tuesday 20th April:	Party to celebrate Peggy Titchenor's 90th birthday on 19th April
May (date to be confirmed):	WPC Samantha Faux, "Crime prevention."
May (date to be confirmed):	Member of the Fire Brigade on obtaining free smoke alarms for seniors
June:	Annual outing to Eastbourne.
Tuesday 27th July:	Summer party at the YMCA Barbican.
August:	Club closed for holidays.
September (date to be confirmed):	Rev. Martin Dudley, "On being the chaplain to the Sheriff."
Tuesday 19th October:	AGM Tuesday Club.
Tuesday 26th October:	AGM Forum for Older People in the City.
November:	Proposed visit of City Archivist.
Tuesday 7th December:	Christmas Party.
Tuesday 14th December:	Christmas Lunch together with Forum at YMCA Barbican.

Friends of the Guildhall Gallery



The Guildhall Art Gallery in the heart of the City of London is a rich resource of British works of art

from the sixteenth century to the present day.

The splendid building, designed by Richard Gilbert Scott, is the permanent home to a unique collection. Highlights are Victorian

paintings and sculpture including famous pre-Raphaelite works, plus fascinating views of London and London life over the centuries.

The Friends of the Guildhall Art Gallery (FoGAG) was set up in May 2002. Our aim is to make the art collection and the Guildhall Art Gallery better known, to provide pre-arranged access to parts of the collection not generally on view and to create a stronger identity for the Corporation of London in relation to its art galleries in

general. We are determined to build a strong group of supporters, capable, as we develop over time, of raising funds for specific projects or purchases.

The Gallery offers a programme of changing exhibitions and is entirely re-hung annually. The Friends run a programme of events for members each year and in 2004 are hosting visits to the Old Bailey, Mansion House and the Guildhall Library and Print Room, as well as

organising gallery and conservators tours.

By becoming a Friend you will be able to play a part in the life of the gallery and help to secure its future. Friends' membership runs from January 1st each year and currently costs £13 pa (£8 OAP/student).

Benefits of membership include: free admission for you and a guest, free private views of exhibitions with the curators, behind the scenes visits to the conservation studio, special events and lectures and visits, a quarterly newsletter of gallery news and regular updates on forthcoming exhibitions. Members also receive a 10% discount on all purchases and collage prints at the gallery shop.

Please contact FoGAG at the following address for further details:

Friends' Office
Guildhall Art Gallery
Guildhall Yard
London EC2Y 2EJ

Tel: 020 7332 3700
Fax: 020 7332 3342



Barbican Music Club



Barbican Music finished 2003 in great style, with a St. Cecilia Dinner at an Italian restaurant in Whitecross Street, where we had a room to ourselves and, as usual, toasted the Patron Saint of Music, about whose life very little is known.

We also had our annual Christmas Party and were entertained by four musicians from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) who played their brass instruments with great gusto.

Plans for 2004 are well underway.

In March we will attend the "Marriage of Figaro" at the GSMD, also the Handel House Museum in Mayfair for a special performance. We are planning to visit some of the City churches offering good music on a succession of Sundays and eat lunch together at a nearby restaurant after the service. The first of these visits will be to St Bride's in Fleet Street.

In April, we will have a long awaited visit to Charterhouse, tour the buildings, which date from the 13th to

the 20th century, meet the Brethren and have tea. This visit will also have a musical content, but plans still need to be finalised.

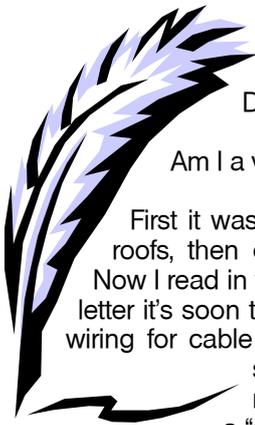
At our annual general meeting, also in April, we will be fortunate in having for our speaker the head of the sound archive at the British Library.

We have applied for a large number of specially reduced tickets for the forthcoming concerts by the LSO in the Barbican Hall and hope to be as successful as we were last year, when in January thirty of our members attended an outstanding concert performance of "Peter Grimes" by Benjamin Britten.

We are reviving the social musical evening in members' homes, which had unfortunately lapsed temporarily, and hope to arrange them on a regular basis as before.

Our membership is growing but we still welcome newcomers. There is no need to be an expert or play an instrument. If you would like further information please contact

Susan Gold,
2 Andrewes House,
Barbican, EC2Y 8AX,
Tel:020 7628 6226, email: susan@goldfamily.org



Letters

Dear Sir,

Am I a victim of extortion of just stupid?

First it was the obscenely expensive new roofs, then obscenely expensive new lifts. Now I read in the Barbican Association news-letter it's soon to be obscenely expensive new wiring for cable TV. It would seem those who stand to earn fat profits consider me, a Barbican homeowner, as a "soft touch."

Despite the results from the recent ballot on the subject of cable TV it appears the Barbican Association has committed me (and you) to pay for a feasibility study that will undoubtedly back up what appears to be a decision already taken to install an improved estate-wide TV, internet and telephone service.

As someone who before moving to the Barbican lived in the "real world" let me just share with your readers my previous experience of cable TV.

A Telecom/Entertainment company (like ntl or Telwest) wanting to increase their revenue from a district of say 2,000 homes would invest its own capital in laying cables to within a few meters of each dwelling (in the case of an apartment block that would be the hallway). Having invested in their infrastructure, the Telecom company would then market its range of services to homeowners in the specified area. Those homeowners wanting either cable TV, internet or telephone services could then pay a connection fee

and a monthly rental, depending on the package of services they needed. The telecom company would recoup its initial investment over a normal commercial period. This is how it is done in the real world. The telecom company pays for its own feasibility study, its cables and its network equipment and the homeowner pays a monthly charge for any services they might choose to buy.

So if this is how it works in the real world why are we being told it's so different in Barbican Land? Why does it appear that again I am to be a victim of extortion? Am I just a "soft touch" or just stupid for living here...? Are other Barbican homeowners happy to pay all the set up costs for some Telecom company to the sell us cable TV?

Kim C. Sturgess,
55 Andrewes House

Please see the Chairman's response on Page 4 where he gives some background on this. In short,

- *the Barbican Association cannot commit anyone to expenditure; the Corporation and the BRC decides on this. It does however lobby and cajole.*
- *NTL and Telewest have already refused to upgrade the service as they cannot make a business case for the investment*

I have been assured that your concerns about the cost have been noted and are being taken into account in the process that is happening at the moment.

Editor



Mary Piper's Social Events

Tuesday February 24th (Shrove Tuesday). 8.00 – 8:30 p.m.

Just Pancakes.

Join fellow residents at City Boot, Moorfield's Highway for Pancake Day. Enjoy your supper at home or in the City Boot, then join us for

(sweet) pancakes: as many as you can eat for £5 per person. Families are very welcome.

Please send your cheque (payable to "The Barbican Association") to Anne Noonan, 259 Ben Jonson House, Barbican EC2Y 8DL. We would like to know numbers by Friday February 20th.



Friday March 19th 7:30 – 11:00 p.m.

Barn Dance with supper.

This event, at the City of London School for Girls, is open to all residents (and their families and friends), however many left feet they have. A "caller" will tell you what moves to make next, while musicians treat us to some traditional county dance music.

Further details may be obtained from Mary Piper, 109 John Trundle Court, Barbican EC2Y 8NE. Tel: 020 7588 3920



Urban Village: Your guide to living in the heart of the city

Did you know that there's a vegetarian deli and restaurant in Whitecross Street? Or a Barbican society that keeps a friendly eye on the ducks? That you can get a bus direct to Victoria? Or that several local newsagents open as early as 6a.m.?

Now's your chance to find out, thanks to BA's intrepid researchers. Gillian Laidlaw and Val Southon recently volunteered to update "The Barbican: An Urban Village", a slim booklet produced by the BA in 1994. Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter you'll find the results of their investigative labours, a 2004 guide to living in the heart of the City.

If Gillian and Val thought it would be a quick and easy task, they were wrong. Hours were spent tramping the streets, clipboard in hand, noting details of shops and services. Bemused retailers were asked their opening hours, and one or two assumed that anyone appearing with a clipboard must be from the local Council, which must mean trouble ... !

Efforts were made on the grapevine and more formally to identify all the Barbican associations and societies, who were delighted at the opportunity to publicise their activities.

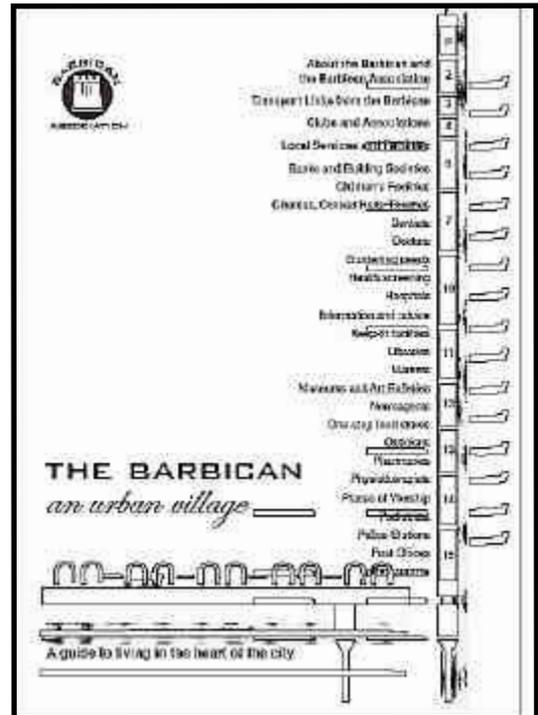
Yellow Pages were combed for theatres and street markets, banks and places of worship, museums and keep-fit facilities, whatever might be grist to the Barbican mill. Entries were cross-checked with other directories wherever possible, and all cases of doubt were confirmed by phone call.

The complexities of public-service bureaucracy were bravely tackled ("not this extension, sorry") in the quest for answers: what hours are the local Post Offices

open?, is there another GP practice in the area apart from Long Lane?, how does one find out the nearest pharmacy open out of hours?

Bus maps were studied for route details, a map of the Barbican was ruthlessly simplified for the centre spread - but enough of the "how", just look at the "what"!

They've done a grand job. We hope you'll find this local directory a useful resource whether you're a newcomer or an established resident.



Are you fit and energetic?

The Barbican Association is looking for someone to help with the distribution within the Barbican of its publications and leaflets, for a suitable remuneration.

If you can help, we would like to meet you.

Please contact:
Angela Starling
502 Gilbert House
Tel: 7638 8201
angela@barbican99.fsnet.co.uk

Do you have a burning issue you would like published?

Do you have an event or club you would like publicising?

We are happy to give you space in our Newsletter

Send letters and articles to:

Ronan Kavanagh
Newsletter Editor
312 Bunyan Court,
Barbican, EC2Y 8DH,
Barbicaneditor@yahoo.co.uk

Publication Deadline
15th April 2004

Do you have admin skills?

The Barbican Association is looking for a paid ad-hoc Admin Assistant.

In particular this will involve taking minutes at General Council meetings, processing memberships, maintaining the Association's records. You must be computer literate, have access to the internet and be proficient in Microsoft Office

Please contact:
Stephen Horrocks
37 Speed House
Tel: 0250 7628 8178
Stephen.horrocks@tiscali.co.uk

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