



## The Cultural Life of my City

There many local organisations providing activities and care to local residents. We have churches of different faiths, and many community run organisations. The Barnes Community Association (BCA) was established over forty years ago in a bid to encourage community activities, environmental projects, funding events and to support the local independent high street shops.

They organise many events each year including a food fair and fashion show. However, the largest event, which draws crowds from far afield is the Barnes Fair. Stalls, food and an excellent children's parade featuring pupils from nearby schools, join with local Guide and Scout packs in a themed procession through the village.

Brownie and Scout packs, 'Fish' (a social club for the elderly), the OSO (an arts venue) and plenty of sports clubs; rugby, tennis, squash, bowls, hockey, football, to name just a few make good use of our green spaces.

Within the school, we celebrate both Christmas and Harvest festival with a concert in our local church, St Michaels and All Angels. One class leads activities supported by the other classes, choir and those who play instruments. Parents are invited to come along to celebrate with us. We also organise a summer music concert for budding musicians and Year 6 (our final year of 10-11 years) have produced some wonderful end of school productions including: The Wizard of Oz, Robin Hood & The Tempest.

Obviously Barnes is just one corner of a huge city, with many adventures to be had! School trips to many of the cities landmarks regularly take place, supporting learning themes within the school such as; Our Green Environment, World War 2 & The Tudors to name a few. We are also very fortunate to have the WWT London Wetland Centre on our doorstep. Formed from four disused Victorian reservoirs tucked into a loop in the Thames, the centre first opened in 2000, and in 2002 was designated a 'Site of Special Scientific' Interest. It is the first urban project of its kind in the United Kingdom. Many birds which have now made their home in the centre cannot be found anywhere else in London.

The geography of Barnes is defined by the river Thames and the tow path winding round our corner of London. Cleaner and greener than ever before, it is a popular place to walk and of course always alive with rowers and the famous Oxford and Cambridge boat race in April.

As with many high streets, the business of encouraging small businesses is sometimes difficult. So the locals of Barnes were thrilled to see the regeneration of a disused cinema in its heart. Formally used as a recording studio, it has seen the likes of Led Zepplin, Queen, Jimi Hendrix, David Bowie and the Beatles work there. We are pleased and proud this has been restored and have even been invited to show some of our own films!