

A very sad farewell from all of us to Robin Don

It is with great sadness we report the death last month of much-loved Barnsbury Mews stalwart **Robin Don**.

Islington in Bloom repeat winner Robin, *pictured right on his balcony*, will be remembered by many of you for the lush semi-tropical paradise he created from tiny cuttings on his first floor balcony.

Gifted artist and designer

Robin's remarkably green fingers was just one of his many talents. Robin was a gifted artist and designer with a long and distinguished career designing sets, props and costumes for theatre, opera, film and television.

A frequent and eloquent critic of our services, Robin also served all of you as a hardworking member of the BHA tenants and residents association.

For our part we always appreciated Robin's courtesy and good humour, which shone through even when especially peeved with us.

We know many of you will want to commemorate Robin in some way and are in talks with some of you who knew him best.



We will also run a fuller tribute to Robin in our summer newsletter.

If you have a memory or thought you would like to share with us please do get in touch. Call us on 020 7704 2324 or drop in at 60 Morland Mews.

If you would like to enjoy some of Robin's beautiful artistic legacy, go to robindon.com

Digital Barnsbury News now arriving on platform ...

First up, an apology. We love technology, except when it goes wrong. As it did for us last month when we tried and failed to send you all our eNewsletter with the link to the digital Barnsbury News.

The problem was a 'simple' new authentication process. Or so the app told us. It took four weeks of long journeys down multiple rabbit holes to resolve.



In the meantime, we managed to send the link for the digital newsletter to just six of you, prompting many to think we'd dropped you off our mailing list.

If the dog, cat or budgie ate the newsletter we sent you by post, go to www.barnsbury.org

Your next issue of Barnsbury News will be out in July.

Ideas needed for this year's annual funday:

SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

Our funday thinking caps are now firmly on our heads and we are determined to make this year's funday the best ever for you. So we need your ideas.

Last year we cancelled some wildly expensive fairground rides and revived old village fête favourites.

We're pretty sure most of you will agree the high points were the sack and egg and spoon races, followed by the tug'o'war and tombola. Oh and hurling wet

sponges at whoever had his head stuck in the stocks.

This year we really want to hear your ideas. We also want a lot more activities for all ages.

To do some of these safely (see *right*) we will need more volunteers to help our staff on the day.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the funday, big or tiny, email us on info@barnsbury.org, pop a message in a suggestion box or use our online suggestion form at barnsbury.org, drop into 60 Morland Mews or tell one of our staff if you spot any of us out and about in our natural habitat.

Safe play for little ones

We're thinking of a safe soft play area for toddlers and nippers but will need some energetic help to keep small folk safely in and the bigger ones out.

Have a stall of your own

Why not set up a stall to sell your wares or maybe second-hand goods. Trestle table provided free.

We've still got bric-a-brac from last year if selling 'pre-loved' goods takes your fancy, including a deeply unloved Bay City Rollers jumpsuit still looking for a caring home. Seller keeps all profits!

If you need help collecting goods or storage space for items to sell we can open up an empty garage. Anyone with items they want to donate could also drop them off there.

Are you struggling to afford bare essentials?

If you are struggling with the cost of food, basic toiletries like soap, toothpaste and shampoo, or even basic clothing please let us know. We can help.

We have £8,000 given to us by Islington Food Aid Forum for essential items like these. We have to use up this pot of cash by February 2026.

Food vouchers and more

'We'll mainly be giving out food vouchers for local supermarkets or small amounts for clothing, shoes or toiletries,' says housing and communities manager Asif. 'We have to keep to rules but if you are struggling we can help.'

The Food Aid Forum donation can't be used for items like kitchen appliances, furniture, or fuel/power bills. We can help if you need a hand with any of these but will use a fund we have set up ourselves.

If you need help please get in touch with our housing management team: Asif, Nicky or Colette, if you live at Highbury View/Ronalds Road. Phone 020 704 2324 or info@barnsbury.org. Drop in at 60 Morland Mews to speak to Nicky direct or Colette's office in the Ronalds Road bungalow.

Windows open, more outdoor activity: noise nuisance season has started early

The recent heatwave has brought with it too many reports of noise nuisance. Many of you have called to tell us you have been unable to sleep or to enjoy the peace of your own home.

If you are having friends over, playing music in your home or outdoors, or doing some (permitted) DIY please keep the volume well under control and any activities strictly limited to reasonable hours.

Your neighbours really do not want to be forced to share your entertainment.

Out-of-hours help with noise nuisance

Islington Council's environmental health team may be able to help with problems like very loud music, 'pay for' parties and excessive DIY noise.

The out-of-hours service can be called on 020 7527 7272.

The service operates Sunday to Thursday nights until 2am and Friday and Saturday nights from 5pm to 4am.

For more information on help with noise nuisance go to the council's website at <https://www.islington.gov.uk/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour>.

What can we do?

We do not as a rule consider noise nuisance to be antisocial behaviour.

If however it is extremely loud over a long period, happens repeatedly from the same home or involves huge number of (possibly paying) guests we will investigate.



See our website for information, including our leaflet on helping with antisocial behaviour: <https://barnsbury.org/resident-information/reporting-antisocial-behaviour/>

If you would a copy of the leaflet call us on 020 7704 2324, email us on info@barnsbury.org or call in at our office at 60 Morland Mews.

Has your home had its building survey done by MLCS3?

With building surveys of half our homes now done, surveying firm MLCS3 has a team phoning and emailing those of you whose home has not yet been checked.

This way you and they can agree a time and date for their surveyor's visit that best suits you.

The surveys tell us what general improvements and repairs your home is likely to need in coming years so we can plan these well ahead and budget for them.

If the MLCS3 team hasn't yet contacted you and your home hasn't been surveyed you can email them on surveys@mlcs3.com or call them on freephone 0800 8620 904.

Letting our contractor or surveyor into your home

Our contractors are now out turning up for appointments made to check the gas and electric supplies and appliances in your home are safe and fit for purpose.

A reminder that by law you have to let into your home our staff and any contractors (including surveyors) we send out to inspect, check or repair your home.

Not going to be in?

Please let us know if you if you have an appointment you cannot keep so our contractor does not make a wasted journey. Every missed appointment shrinks the budget for improvement works.

Please make sure a responsible adult is at home

If the only person at home when our representative arrives is, or appears to be, younger than 18 they will not come in.

There must be an appropriate adult in your home while the contractor is there so the appointment will be rearranged.

Giving you and your neighbours a stronger voice

We are right now fine-tuning our new three-year strategy for making sure your thoughts, suggestions and ideas come foremost in our work.

This means being able to prove we give you ways to speak up that suit your level of interest and the amount of time you are able and willing to give. It also means showing we listen, that this is not a tick-box exercise.

We are especially keen to get more of you regularly telling us what you and/or your neighbours think we need to change, or what we're doing well.

And we want hear from younger tenants. What can we do to give you more of a say in what happens in and around your home?

Why not see for yourself how Resident Voice works?

Your Resident Voice panel next meets on Thursday 26 June at 60 Morland Mews at 6.30pm.

If you haven't been to one of these meetings but fancy giving it a go let us know and we can show you the ropes and, if you're interested, introduce you to others on the panel. No one bites!

Contact Chelsey by email on chelsea@barnsbury.org or phone 020 7704 2324.

Staying Connected visits start again

If you didn't get a visit from us last year you can expect us to call by this year. To date, 158 of you have had a Staying Connected visit from our housing and communities team.

The visit is a chance to check in with you, discuss matters like any local concerns, any information you need or want from us and how best to communicate with you.

We can also give your property a quick check to make sure nothing problematic has been missed.

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Three tenants found illegally subletting their home

We recently took action against three tenants we found subletting their home. This is a clear breach of your tenancy agreement, only allowed in rare circumstances with our written permission.

All three came close to losing their tenancy after getting a notice of seeking possession from the courts.

The three tenants have now put matters right so we will not be taking further action for now.

A reminder that if you want to take in a lodger you must get our permission in writing first. You may not move out, leaving the lodger as the only occupant of your home. If you do we can and will take your home back.

Narrow miss: last minute payback heads off eviction

One tenant has narrowly missed being evicted by paying off in full a huge backlog of unpaid rent bills. We are now working with the tenant to help get personal matters back on track.

Are you finding the going hard?

Rent arrears are often a sign of something going wrong with your life. Failing to seek help then leads to multiple problems piling up.

If you are struggling to cope please do talk to us. Our housing and communities team is here to provide you with a home but if you need a little guidance, support or extra help we will do our best to make sure you get it.

Our housing and communities team are Asif, Nicky or, if you live at Highbury View/Ronalds Road, Colette. Phone 020 704 2324 or info@barnsbury.org. Drop in at 60 Morland Mews to speak to Nicky direct or Colette's office in the Ronalds Road bungalow.

Islington in Bloom open to new entries

The yearly Islington in Bloom competition is now open to anyone wanting to enter.

All you need do is fill in your online entry form before 11.59pm on Friday 6 June.

And of course have something suitable to offer the judges.

You don't need to have a garden to enter. There is a huge range of categories, including best container garden, best window box, best balcony and even best park garden.

To enter, go to Islington in Bloom at <https://www.islington.gov.uk/physical-activity-parks-and-trees/parks-and-green-space/gardening-and-greening-in-bloom>

Don't forget to let us know how you get on.

Islington in Bloom is run by the council and Islington Gardeners.

Prize draw for repairs survey: online feedback could win you a £50 shopping voucher

Your feedback is vital to helping us pick up any shortcomings with our repairs service including how well we communicate with you and keep you up-to-date if there are likely to be delays.

We've got a very easy way for you to do this by using our online survey if you have access to the internet.

It also comes with the chance of a £50 Love to Shop voucher if your name is one of three pulled from our regular cash draw.

You can also send feedback by:

- email info@barnsbury.org
- the post to 4-6 Colebrooke Place, London N1 8HZ
- in person to our office at 60 Morland Mews, Barnsbury Mews Estate, N1 1HN
- to Colette's office in the bungalow if you live at Highbury View or Ronalds Road
- or over the phone on ☎ 020 7704 2324.

To fill in the online survey go to our website <https://barnsbury.org/resident-information/repairs/tell-us-how-your-repair-went/>

This is a printed version of our May eNewsletter which we email to all tenants on our email mailing list. If you would like to get this newsletter sent to you by email please go to our website at <https://barnsbury.org/news/newsletter/> or email info@barnsbury.org