



Over 1000 years of Barnes History

Timeline from
925 to 2015

- 925 Barnes, formerly part of the Manor of Mortlake owned by the Archbishop of Canterbury, is given by King Athelstan to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's Cathedral.
- 1085 Grain sufficient to make 3 weeks supply of bread and beer for the Cathedral's live-in Canons must be sent from Barnes to St Paul's annually. Commuted to money payment late 15th Century.
- 1086 Domesday Book records Barnes valued for taxation at £7 p.a. Estimated population 50-60.
- 1100 - 1150 Original St Mary's Parish Church built at this time (Archaeological Survey 1978/9).
- 1181 Ralph, Dean of St Paul's, visits Barnes, Wednesday 28th Jan to assess the value of the church and manor. The priest has 10 acres of Glebe Land and a tenth of the hay crop.
- 1215 Richard de Northampton, Priest at the Parish Church. Archbishop Stephen Langton said to have re-consecrated the newly enlarged church on his return journey from Runnymede after the sealing of Magna Carta.
- 1222 An assessment of the Manor of Barnes by Robert the Dean. Villagers must work 3 days a week on the demesne (aka the Barn Elms estate) and give eggs, chickens and grain as in 1085 in return for strips of land in the open fields. Estimated population 120.
- 1388 Living of Barnes becomes a Rectory. Rector John Lynn entitled to Great Tithes (10% of all produce) and right of fishing in Barnes Pond.
- 1415 William de Millebourne dies at Milbourne House. Buried in St Mary's Church.
- 1446 First mention of Rectory House in Barnes Court Rolls.
- 1467 St Paul's lease their demesne land to a lay tenant Sir John Saye.
- 1485 A brick tower is added to the church.
- 1535 Act of Supremacy: Henry VIII becomes Head of the Church of England. Church of the Assumption of Our Blessed Virgin Mary is now to be known as The Parish Church of St Mary, Barnes.
- 1538 Thomas Cromwell, chief adviser to Henry VIII, orders parish churches to keep Registers of Baptisms, Marriages & Burials. First Register for Barnes dates from this year.
- 1558 1st April Manor Court rules cattle and pigs belonging to Mortlake shall not graze on Barnes Common.
- 1575 Thomas Smythe of Barn Elms gives St Mary's its first church bell.
- 1580 Elizabeth I acquires Barn Elms and gives it to Francis Walsingham.

- 1584 Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Beale of Milbourne House, is baptised at St Mary's. Beale, Secretary to Walsingham, carried the order to execute Mary Queen of Scots to Fotheringay and witnessed the execution 8th February 1587. Beale died at Barnes 25th May 1601.
- 1585 Elizabeth I visits Secretary of State Walsingham at Barn Elms. Further visits in 1588/9.
- 1590 Intercommoning between inhabitants of Barnes & Putney ends after a violent boundary dispute.
- 1632 Marjory Gibson keeps an inn The Sign of the Rose in Barnes Street (now Rose House).
- 1642 Civil War. Heavy taxation by Parliament. Barnes pays in money, food and horses. Rector John Cutts leaves Barnes to join the King at Oxford.
- 1643 Four Barnes men are pressed into joining the Parliamentary Army, of which 100 soldiers, many of them sick, were billeted in Barnes 1642-5.
- 1647 New Rector is Robert Lenthall, cousin of Speaker of Parliament.
- 1649 Barn Elms Estate sequestered by Parliament. Charles I executed.
- 1652 Lenthall plants elm and ash trees in the churchyard. The last of the elms succumbed to Dutch Elm disease in 1977.
- 1660 Restoration of the Monarchy. Barn Elms Estate restored to St Paul's.
- 1665 Plague. 18 die in Barnes. In Mortlake the toll exceeds 300.
- 1673 Probate Inventory of Farmer, Robert Burges of Mill Farm, records early evidence of market garden crops cultivated in Barnes.
- 1688 Barnes now has 3 church bells. 10th June, bell ringers ring for the birth of James Edward (The Old Pretender) and are paid 1s/6d. Shortly after they ring to welcome The Glorious Revolution and the exclusion of James Edward's father, James II.
- 1694 Thomas Cartwright, lessee of the Barn Elms Estate demolishes the medieval manor house and builds Barn Elms House on the site.
- 1699 Churchwardens sell 51,500 turves from the Common for £25.16s. in aid of parish funds.
- 1703 Kit Cat Club moves from Christopher Cat's Tavern near Temple Bar to House on Barn Elms estate (Elm Grove.) Meetings cease c1720.
- 1718 Rector Francis Hare permitted to fell trees on Common for repairing and re-building parsonage house next to church.
- 1720 Several large houses built on Barnes Terrace, formerly Temmyshotte, river boundary of medieval West Field.
- 1728 George II entertained by Master of the King's Revels, Heidegger at Barn Elms House. Handel lived for a time at the house and was a frequent visitor thereafter.

- 1732 Part of Common taken to make Queen's Ride, enabling Queen Caroline to get from London to Richmond without traversing Putney.
- 1740 Enclosure of area of Common at Mill Hill enabling Philip Walton to erect a Post Mill and Cottage.
- 1750 Richard Hoare, Merchant Banker, takes lease of Barn Elms Estate. Vestry provides poorhouse in High Street for Barnes paupers. Henry Fielding, novelist and founder of Bow Street Runners, lives at Milbourne House.
- 1758 Poorhouse converted to workhouse.
- 1763 Thomas Yewd, solicitor applies for further enclosure at Mill Hill.
- 1775 A School for 20 Charity Children opens in a cottage on Barnes Green.
- 1777 Smallpox Epidemic. 54 victims die in Barnes. First major alteration to Barnes Church. Section of north wall of nave demolished for Hoare Family vault, servants chapel and family gallery with fireplace. Sir Richard Hoare adds wings to Barn Elms House.
- 1778 New workhouse opens in Queen's Ride 14th December.
- 1780 15th October. Hurricane destroys Post Mill at Mill Hill.
- 1783 Green School enlarged. Open to all village children. 60 children aged 2 to 12 are taught in one room. Fee 1d per week. Smock Mill replaces destroyed Post Mill at Mill Hill.
- 1787 Milbourne Brass disappears from St Mary's Church.
- 1792 Clock and Sundial added to St. Mary's Church Tower.
- 1800 Population of Barnes 860. Number of houses 170. Magistrates ban Fairs on Green.
- 1812 Count and Countess d'Antraigues, political agents, murdered at their home, 27 The Terrace, by Italian servant who commits suicide and is later buried at Mill Hill crossroads.
- 1827 First Hammersmith Bridge opened without ceremony 6th Oct. Plan for approach road to cross Barnes Pond and Green abandoned.
- 1828 William Cobbett leases Barn Elms Farm. Experiments with growing Indian Corn as a main crop instead of potatoes.
- 1830 Stragglers Inn destroyed by fire. Rebuilt as Red Lion, Castelnau.
- 1832 First woman elected to Vestry: Mary Sharpe, farmer of Mill Farm.
- 1835 Village Stocks removed from The Green.
- 1836 New Poor Law Act closes Barnes Workhouse. Paupers moved to Richmond Union. Vestry forbids football being played on public Highways. Meeting of Tithe Commissioners at Sun Inn decide wealth of Barnes is in its market gardens, where labourers are mostly women from Shropshire, Ireland and Wales. Mill on Mill Hill demolished by Yewd Family for residential development.

- 1838 A hard winter. 24th Jan a 'fat wether sheep' roasted on frozen river near Hammersmith Bridge in aid of bargemen and watermen.
- 1842 First houses are built on Upper Bridge Road (Castelnau Villas).
- 1845 First University Boat Race rowed over 'Championship Course' Putney to Mortlake 15th March.
- 1846 Railway comes to Barnes after much protest. Housing development begins in Westfield area on market garden grounds.
- 1849 Barnes Railway Bridge opens 22nd August.
- 1850 Green School becomes Barnes National School. Original building is part of the present Day Centre on Barnes Green.
- 1852 Plans to replace the Parish Church with a larger building abandoned in favour of a substantial enlargement of the existing church.
- 1854 St Mary's Churchyard closed for burials under the Burials Act 1852. Two acres of Barnes Common enclosed for a new cemetery.
- 1859 Captain William Dawson RN, reputed to be the son of Maria FitzHerbert and the Prince Regent, dies in November and is buried in St Mary's Churchyard. Dawson lived at The Grange, Grange Rd 1840-43.
- 1863 Ebenezer Cobb Morley, widely known as the father of football, First Secretary of the Football Association. Drew up the first "Rules of the Game" at his home, 26 Barnes Terrace. Died 1924, buried Barnes Old Cemetery.
- 1868 Holy Trinity Church, Castelnau, built on land given by Major Charles Boileau and consecrated 4th May 1868.
- 1870 Westfields School for Boys opens in Archway Street. Extensive drainage of Barnes Common.
- 1880 School for Infants and Girls opens in Railway Street (Westfields Avenue) followed in 1883 by Castelnau School for Girls, Fanny Rd (St Hilda's Rd)
- 1884 The exclusive Ranelagh Polo Club moves from Fulham to Barn Elms.
- 1887 New Hammersmith Bridge opened by Prince Albert Victor 18th June.
- 1888 Cowan's Sugar and Soap Works on riverside destroyed by fire.
- 1889 Very hard winter. In January a soup kitchen in Westfields area serves 250 quarts of soup at one penny a quart. Insufficient to meet demand.
- 1891 Barnes Railway Bridge widening commences.
- 1893 St Michael and All Angels Church built in Westfields.
- 1894 Barnes and Mortlake unite to become Barnes Urban District Council. Barn Elms Farm acquired by West Middlesex Water Works for reservoirs.
- 1897 Barnes celebrates Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Five bells are added to the tower to complete the ring of eight at St Mary's.

- 1899 James Nicholls builds the first 'Lion Houses' in The Crescent, Barnes.
- 1901 First small-pox 'jabs' given to 46 girls at Westfields Girls School.
Population of Barnes 10,047.
- 1902 Lychgate added to St Mary's Church to commemorate coronation of Edward VII. Boer War Memorial Tablet unveiled by Field Marshall Earl Roberts whose sister was living at Mill Hill.
- 1903 Rain begins on 13th June and continues incessantly for 60 hours.
Barnes suffers severe flooding, 192 homes affected.
- 1904 New mixed Infants School opens in Westfields. James Betts establishes cricket bat factory in Willow Avenue. This becomes Omes Engineering Works, largest employer in Barnes. Closes in 1971 with gates preserved. Major work begins on enlarging St Mary's Church with seating for 950.
- 1906 First motorised bus service from Mortlake to London via Barnes begins. Byfeld Hall is built. Can be hired for private functions.
- 1906 Barnes Methodist Church built on Barnes Green
- 1910 Gustav Holst is living at 10 The Terrace. Byfeld Hall is a silent cinema.
- 1914 World War I. 353 men and one woman from Barnes die in the conflict.
- 1921 Field-Marshal Earl French unveils the War Memorial in St Mary's Churchyard. Development of the Lowther Estate takes place.
- 1925 Byfeld Hall becomes the Barnes Theatre. John Gielgud, Claude Rains and Charles Laughton are among others who perform there. Several small restaurants open to serve audiences from London. Closes 1926.
- 1926 Castelnau Estate takes shape on last market garden ground in Barnes.
- 1927 St Mary's Church Hall is built on part of the Rectory grounds in Kitson Road. Designed by the Rector's wife, Mrs Dott, it replaces the Cleveland Hall in Cleveland Road. Holy Trinity Church Hall, Stillingfleet Road opens in the same year.
- 1928 Last of the 2,500 tenants move into the new houses on the Castelnau Estate in December. School opens in Stillingfleet Road.
- 1930 Zeeta's Chocolate Factory opens in Station Road. Produces 50,000 Easter Eggs per year. Also Chocolates, Gateaux and Ice Cream. Closes in 1955. After several changes, site now occupied by OSO Arts Centre and apartments.
- 1932 Barnes gets its Borough Charter from George V. Area including Barnes, Mortlake and East Sheen is now The Borough of Barnes. Council Meetings led by the Mayor held at Council House, The Limes, Mortlake High Street. Cheapest electricity in England produced at the Council Works in Mortlake High Street.

- 1934 Barnes Baptist Church built on Lonsdale Road replacing the original chapel in Stanton Road.
- 1939 Terrorist attempt to blow up Hammersmith Bridge foiled by brave passer-by, ladies hairdresser Maurice Childs. Minor damage to bridge. Ranelagh Club Closes. World War II begins 3rd September.
- 1940 114 members of the armed forces and 59 civilians from Barnes were to lose their lives in WWII. First bomb falls on Barnes 25th August. The Green School is an ARP Post. Residents "Dig for Victory" on allotments on Common and Green. Pond stocked with fish to encourage "Holidays at Home". Willow and Brookwood Avenues flattened by land-mine 25th September. Several more bombing incidents before war ends.
- 1945 Milbourne House saved from council demolition by public pressure.
- 1950 Rectory sold to private buyer. Renamed Strawberry House.
- 1952 Barnes Choir established under the leadership of Ron Peck.
- 1954 Fire destroys derelict Barn Elms House.
- 1955 Two trains collide on railway beneath Queen's Ride. 13 killed, 41 injured. Barnes and Mortlake History Society founded. First Chairman, Maurice Cockin of Leyden House, Thames Bank, Mortlake.
- 1958 Catholic Church of St Osmund opened in Castelnau with St Osmund's Church School founded in 1968 on site of Convent of the Sacred Heart.
- 1965 Barnes now part of London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames.
- 1968 St Paul's School moves from Hammersmith to Barnes.
- 1971 Omes Works closes. Replaced by housing accommodation.
- 1974 Barnes Community Association formed. Rose House saved from developer becomes the BCA HQ. Annual BCA Fair initiated on Barnes Green.
- 1978 8th June. St Mary's Church gutted by fire. Much controversy and public debate over re-building plan. Architect Edward Cullinan.
- 1983 Suspected faults in construction of Castelnau Estate houses, later found to be groundless, led to years of disruption for residents.
- 1984 Re-built St Mary's Church is re-hallowed 26th February.
- 1985 Barnes Music Society founded through merger of Castelnau Concerts with Barnes Music Club. Stephen Dodgson is first President.
- 1988 Barnes is again threatened by road development. 3,000 people unite behind protest group BAMTAG. Plan abandoned 1990.
- 1990 Walsingham Lodge and Viera Gray House built on former Lowther Tennis Club Courts on Ferry Road. Plans go ahead for Wildfowl and Wetlands Sanctuary to replace reservoirs in north Barnes when new London water ring-main is completed. Ring main joins up under

- Barnes Common near Mill Hill 11th Feb 1993.
- 1992 Friends of Barnes Common founded to protect and enhance the Common for residents and visitors.
- 1993 Harroddian School built on what was former site of Mill Farm and Harrods Sportsground for the use of the department store staff.
- 1994 St Mary's Church celebrates 10th anniversary of its re-hallowing with a Son et Lumière, leading to founding of The Friends of St Mary's Barnes.
- 1995 6th October. Launch of the Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust Centre and Berkeley Homes Waterside development in North Barnes.
- 2000 Barn Elms Wetland Centre opens. 100 acre site declared Site of Special Scientific Interest in 2002. Harrods Furniture Depository, built 1914 on site of Cowan's Soap and Sugar Works, is converted into luxury apartments known as Harrods Village.
- 2001 April. Barnes Pond suddenly drains away overnight. Fund raising by residents and local organisations towards its restoration begins.
- 2002 June. Barnes Pond splendidly restored.
- 2005 OSO Arts Centre opens on former Postal Sorting Office site on Green.
- 2007 Barnes Charity Ball first held in St Mary's Church, now a successful annual fund-raising event for charities and church.
- 2011 First Barnes Charity Fashion Show takes place in St Mary's Church, continuing as a popular annual event.
- 2013 Barnes Music Festival, created to commemorate Holst & the English Tradition, becomes a regular two-week annual event.
- 2014 Olympic Cinema opens in the original Byfeld Hall as a luxury cinema, converting the recent recording studios back to the hall's original use.
- 2015 800th Anniversary of Stephen Langton's consecration of St Mary's is celebrated with a visit by his successor Archbishop Rowan Williams and other events including St Mary's Barnes Magna Carta Festival, The Medieval Charity Ball, Barnes Music Festival 'Magna Carta, Music & Freedom' and the medieval Barnes Fair.