



The Bush Telegraph

December 2001

From Dwight Wood (Chairman) ...

WELCOME to the last edition of *The Bush Telegraph* for 2001. As the year draws to a close, it's worth reflecting on developments as they affect Leytonstone in general and Bushwood in particular.

Some have been good:

- Our area is an increasingly popular place to live, and was highlighted in a recent feature in *Time Out* magazine. A London property guide has even noted signs of 'gentrification' taking place!
- Tesco has greatly increased our shopping options (but see below for the negative impact).
- The pedestrianisation of Church Lane has created a much more pleasant atmosphere and helped several cafés to flourish.
- The Co-op building has been sold to Matalan and refurbishment is under way.

But some have been not so good:

- The one-way scheme just isn't working, even after the Council finally installed equipment intended to allow traffic to flow more easily. Tesco has brought more cars into the area and the location of its entrance/exit merely adds to the congestion. BARA is seeking a full Council review of the scheme.
- Lack of parking and the attractions of Tesco (and, in future, Matalan) mean that our small shopkeepers are feeling the squeeze.
- Vehicles are increasingly abusing the one-way system around Bushwood - see articles below.
- Rest assured** that your BARA committee is working hard to protect the interests of our neighbourhood and to promote Leytonstone as a great place to live, work and shop. If there are issues you would like us to address, then please don't hesitate to contact any of the committee members - that's what we're here for!

The BARA Committee - 2001/2002

Judith Aldridge: <i>Treasurer</i>	35 Leyspring Road
David Dowsett	74 Mornington Road
Kathryn Dowsett	74 Mornington Road
Robert Gay: <i>Vice-chairman</i>	137 Mornington Road
Ruth Greene	30 St. Augustine's Court
Jo Pilc: <i>Membership Secretary</i>	57 Leybourne Road
Judy Scott	34 Carlton Road
Andrew Shields	9 Hartley Road
Katy Smith	37a Harvey Road
Laura Whitehead	44 Stanmore Road
Ross Williams	65 Mornington Road
Dwight Wood: <i>Chairman</i>	Carlton House, Aylmer Road

DATE: TIME:

VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER:

COLOUR OF VEHICLE:

MAKE OF VEHICLE:

OFFENCE COMMITTED:

.....
YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS (OPTIONAL):
.....
.....

Please return to any member of the BARA committee

*****EVENTS ROUND-UP*****

Boxing Day: 2pm. Walk around Wanstead Park with the Wrens conservation group. Meet by junction of Northumberland Avenue and Wanstead Park Avenue (near the tea hut).

PINOCCHIO will be performed on **27 - 29 December** at 7.30pm, with a matinée at 2.30 on 29th; and on **2 - 5 January** at 7.30pm, with a matinee at 2.30 on 5th; all at the **Welsh Church Hall on Leytonstone High Road** (near McDonalds).

Pinocchio is the wooden boy with a penchant for ‘bending’ the truth. The Good Fairy, Dolce Vita, promises him the chance to become real, but only if he can be good, prove himself and manage to tell the truth! Follow Pinocchio on his quest to rescue his sister Arabella from the evil Stromboli. Look out for Lazyitis Island, where lazy children are turned into donkeys! Participate to help Pinocchio, Gepetto and friends to escape the giant whale, then persuade the good fairy Dolce Vita that he deserves to become a real boy. Will he ever be cured of his tendency to tell fibs?

On the journey there will be songs, dancing (from the Rosina Pulley School of Dance), juggling and plenty of pantomime jokes, fun and participation suitable for all ages.

Book your tickets by phone or on the web. It’ll be the experience of the Millennium! After all, would we lie to you?

The Woodhouse Players are a local group. They do four productions a year. They put on **Dangerous Liaisons** this summer, and award-winning comedy **The Memory of Water** in October. They’ve been doing regular Christmas pantomimes with the Rosina Pulley School of Dance for the last decade. In the last two years they’ve put on **Aladdin** and **Sleeping Beauty**.

Tickets are £5, or £2.50 concessions, and can be booked on **07092 35634** or through The Woodhouse Players’ website on www.woodhouseplayers.co.uk/whatson.htm

You can find out more about The Woodhouse Players through the website, or by ringing **Stephen Balchin: phone 020 8509 2189**.

Comment from some committee members: Some of us have seen a number of The Woodhouse Players’ productions and are very impressed. Their last two productions - ‘Dangerous Liaisons’ and ‘The Memory of

Water' - were particularly well received. Their pantomimes are always good fun, and audience participation is encouraged, so please go along ready to shout "Oh no it isn't!" and "It's behind you!"

Jo Pile

RESULTS ARE IN FOR NEW PARKING ZONE PROPOSAL

AS SOME of our members will know, part of our area (between Lister Road, Mornington Road and the High Road) is being considered for a controlled parking zone.

Those of us outside the area may well be affected by the coming of a parking zone, but as we pointed out to the Council, these people have not been consulted at all. Others who were consulted say the options given were quite limited, and they didn't feel they were encouraged to give any wider views. We were also concerned this would further deter shoppers, but the Council feel their proposed scheme for vouchers for parking to be bought from local shops will solve this.

The results are in and the parking department are about to report to the Council member for Highways, who is Councillor Sally Buckley. The report will say residents are generally in favour. The permit will cost £25 and the suggestion is that the scheme will be in force from 10.00am till 4.00pm, in accordance with the scheme on the other side of the High Road.

We had asked if we could have a public meeting after the results were in but before the report was ready, but this was not possible. However two BARA representatives did go along for a meeting with Dave Evans (who goes by the title of Senior Project Engineer, Parking and Road Safety Team) and who is co-ordinating the consultation and recommendations. If you have views you want Dave Evans to know you can phone him on **8496 6257**, or e-mail him at **dave.evans@has.lbwf.gov.uk**

Judy Scott

BARA Vice-chairman Robert Gay adds:

"I have been told unofficially that there appears to have been general support for extending the CPZ eastwards from the High Road into the BARA area.

"Personally, this may be convenient for me, since Mornington Road south of Barclay Road is now becoming overcrowded. However, from the point of view of our area as a whole this is regrettable.

"I understand that the Council will be 're-consulting' in two or three roads where the votes were split 50/50 or there was a majority against the CPZ."

Flat and surgery proposed for Pioneer site car park

AS YOU will probably have heard, the Co-operative has sold the Pioneer building and most of the car park to Matalan, a company which sells discount clothing/household items.

As a result, the Co-op will not be proceeding with its planning applications to build a 'barracks' of small flats on the whole site, to which BARA was objecting.

However, the Co-op is retaining from the sale part of the car park fronting onto Kirkdale Road (opposite the bus station). It is understood that they will be attempting to build a doctor's surgery or similar, with flats over.

BARA will continue to object if these flats are not to be provided with any garden space/carparking. In particular, if the flats are not to have any carparking, then inevitably the residents' cars will crowd out the streets in our area.

Robert Gay

CALLING ALL CRICKETERS!

AMONG the events planned for early summer 2002 is a Bushwood cricket match! Residents with long memories may recall that back in the 1950s and '60s there existed a Davies Lane Cricket Club which played

matches locally for a number of years. Davies Lane is just outside our area, but it's in the spirit of that team that we hope to arrange a friendly game against either another residents' association or a local organisation.

Our plan is to hire a club ground, probably in Wanstead or Woodford, for an evening match and encourage all our residents to come along and watch.

So if you already play cricket for a team, or if you used to, or if you'd like to - **contact Andrew Shields** on **8530 2200/andrewshields@ukgateway.net**. We look forward to hearing from you!

MATALAN to open on Pioneer site in March 2002

TWO ILLEGAL raves at the derelict Pioneer site have forced CG Property to reconsider its planning application to redevelop the site for residential property use. The raves, together with the problem of vagrants sleeping rough, have forced their hand and a solution has been found that will greatly benefit Leytonstone town centre.

Matalan, one of the fastest-growing clothing retailers in the country, is to open on the site in March 2002. Work has already begun, and it is expected that 80 new jobs will be created. The good news for BARA members is that Memories Photographic premises will be open as usual throughout the refitting, so our discount there will not be affected.

The existing premises will be brought back into full use and hopefully attract shoppers to the area. CG Property have, however, retained some land at the back of the existing car park and are still considering applying for permission to develop this for residential use. We will keep you posted. Our suggestion is that a safe skateboard park be created for the skateboarders who use the car park at present.

Kathryn Dowsett

FLOWER-POT THIEVES

A MEMBER in Leybourne Road has reported to us that a number of plants in flower-pots were taken from her garden this year. And it happened to them before a few years ago.

Is this a general problem? If you see people removing plants, keep a note of any vehicle registration and let the householder know.

Jo Pilc

Contact our Councillors

Clyde Loakes

Phone: 8518 8643

e-mail: cldr.c.loakes@lbwf.gov.uk

Jenny Gray

Phone: 8556 7981

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Ian Leslie

Phone: 8556 0572

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UNSECURED CHAIN LEADS TO BREACH OF ONE-WAY SYSTEM **Flagrant disregard for safety at the Mornington barrier**

THE CHAIN securing the barrier at the intersection of **Mornington Road** and **Barclay Road** has been left unlocked by authorised users a number of times over the past couple of weeks. This has led to car-drivers opening the barrier and abusing the one-way system in the area. Because the barrier has been left open so often recently, drivers are expecting to find it open and are stopping their cars to check to see whether they can open it.

On questioning one irresponsible driver, who had driven the wrong way down from the top of Mornington Road towards the barrier in the hope of passing through the barrier to continue down Mornington Road the wrong way, his excuse was "But I want to get my car through."

BARA members will call the Council to let them know when the barrier has been left open, but there is a chance that you will see it first. **If you notice either of the barriers in our area left open please alert CLARENCE: phone 0800 23 23 23.**

At least the confusion caused by inaccuracies in the London road maps has been alleviated with the placing of new road signs at the intersection of Mornington Road and Barclay Road.

Kathryn Dowsett

TRAFFIC TAILBACKS

TRAFFIC LIGHTS ARE MAJOR CAUSE OF HIGH ROAD GRIDLOCK Air your views at Leytonstone Library in March

THE COUNCIL undertook a survey of traffic in the Leytonstone High Road on Wednesday 31 October, and also counted the vehicles each day from Saturday 27 October to Monday 5 November.

The daily totals - over 24 hours - are between 16,500 (on Sunday) and 20,250 (on Friday).

In previous years (1998 and 1999) the Council counted on a Tuesday from 6.00am to 10.00pm, and the totals were 19,209 in October 1998 and 13,877 in October 1999. By comparison, on Tuesday 30 October 2001 the total for these 16 hours was 14,631 (that is, higher than in 1999). This refutes, from the Council's own figures, the optimistic comments recently published in *Leytonstone Life*.

With regard to these figures, it may be worth pointing out that at the time in October Angel Lane in Stratford was closed, and as a result it was difficult to get in towards central London through Stratford. There may be even more vehicles using the High Road when Angel Lane is reopened following the Channel Tunnel Rail Link works.

On 31 October, the journey from the Green Man to Thatched House took 4 minutes 25 seconds at 7.10am but at 1.10pm it took 19 minutes 50 seconds and at 5.00pm, 20 minutes 29 seconds. Unsurprisingly, getting from the Thatched House to the Green Man at 5.20pm took even longer (25 minutes 10 seconds).

It seems that the Council does now recognise the shape of the immediate problems, in particular in terms of too short a 'green light' at the junction with Bush Road for the traffic travelling north (this is the main cause of the tailback all the way to Church Lane), and the 'gridlock' both at the junction with Gainsborough Road and in particular at the junction with Church Lane. I am sure you will all have experienced the way in which sometimes the queue going up the High Road blocks the way out of Church Lane altogether, and even when the way out is open, if the vehicle at the front in Church Lane wishes to turn left then no-one can get out of Church Lane at all.

What is not clear is whether the Council is going to take any immediate action to deal with these problems, or whether it is going to wait a few months of hand-wringing and then write a formal report for a committee.

It does appear that the system which the Council has put in is simply not adequate to the number of vehicles which are still passing through Leytonstone town centre, and that further large changes may be needed. In particular, many members of BARA's committee would be in favour of reversing the flow of traffic so that vehicles would go south down the High Road and north by way of Church Lane, Kirkdale Road, and Gainsborough Road.

In the past, we were told that vehicles should go north up the High Road in order to provide a quick/easy route for fire engines and police cars. However, the current gridlock certainly does not provide a quick/easy route for emergency vehicles, and indeed the Council should be engaging in fresh thinking as to how to let emergency vehicles through, especially as they have now closed the 'by-pass' from Church Lane into Harrington Road.

We are told that there will be a public meeting of a Council committee to which a report will be submitted on 13 March 2002 in Leytonstone Library.

We hope that a large number of BARA members will attend, and will make clear their feelings about the Council's failures to act.

Robert Gay

KIDS' CORNER -- compiled by the Wood Sisters

DID U KNOW?

THE NORTH STAR and premises owned by Wellesley, then Earl Cowley, were originally two cottages put together called in 1858 Rate brook. In the 1861 Census Fredrick Wildsmith, The North Star, is registered as a 'beer retailer' at the tender age of 23.

JOKES

WHAT does an orange do as soon as it is put on the breakfast table?
It looks round!!!

A MAN worked in a banana factory sorting out the good bananas from the bad ones. *He threw out all of the ones that were bent!!!*

WHAT is the longest word in the English language?
SMILES - because there's a mile between the first and last letters!!!

BETTER VALUE FROM BARA!

BARA's committee has been working to obtain worthwhile discounts for members.

Our discount scheme:

- **Is yet another benefit of belonging to BARA**
- **Pays you to shop locally**
- **Supports local shops so it helps to improve our area**

You can get these discounts from the following local businesses, but you must show your membership card.

New Entry:

ZAIN GREETINGS (cards, gifts stationery): 48 Church Lane
10% off all cards and gifts (except special offer/sale items)

BUBBLES (hats and clothes): 698 High Road
10% off everything

PRIMROSE FLORIST: 741 High Road
10% off purchases over £10

CENTURY 21 (estate agents): Church Lane, opposite station
30% off standard commission rate

DOGS DINNER (pet and garden shop): 23 Kirkdale Road
10% off accessories. Other items 5% off purchases over £5

DEANNA DONOVAN (beauty and skincare): working from home -- phone 8558 7223
10% off treatments

BANSAL OPTOMETRISTS: 775 High Road
10% off goods over £50

IRONICA (ironware and gifts): 853 High Road
10% off everything (except Sale items)

CHURCH PINE (furniture): 899 High Road
10% off (except promotions)

MONARCH SPORTS: 815 High Road
10% off purchases over £100

MEMORIES (photographic services): 829 High Road
10% off one-hour or 24-hour film processing. 5% off films

FRESH WATER FILTER CO: Carlton House, Aylmer Road
10% off all purchases

OCEAN DRY CLEANERS: 801 High Road
10% off bills over £50 (eg curtains, etc)

SOUNDS & VISION: 777-779 High Road
10% off purchases over £50. 5% off all other items (*except* computer games/consoles)

THE RELAXATION PLACE (aromatherapy face and body treatments): corner Browning Road and High Road (740A)
Free aromatherapy treatment with your first appointment: phone 8539 0001
