



The Bush Telegraph

MARCH 2002

From Dwight Wood (Chairman) ...

WELCOME to the Spring edition of *The Bush Telegraph*. As the trees in the forest begin to bud, let's look forward to warmer, drier weather and the days beginning to lengthen once again.

Much has taken place in and around our area since the last edition. Leytonstone continues to be mentioned in property features as an increasingly desirable place to live - the *Evening Standard* recently highlighted a 24 per cent rise in prices across Waltham Forest - while the Matalan store within the old Co-op building nears completion and will be a valuable addition to our shopping centre.

However, this has to be offset against the sad closure of Davies fishmongers in Church Lane, a high-quality retailer which Leytonstone can ill-afford to lose. The owners blamed the Council for failing to support small businesses; Cllr Clyde Loakes, on behalf of the Council, has offered a strong rebuttal of that claim. Extracts from the correspondence between BARA and Cllr Loakes are included elsewhere in these pages.

Cllr Loakes has accused organisations like BARA of taking only a negative position regarding development in Leytonstone, something which your committee vigorously disputes. Indeed, BARA has issued a statement which takes an entirely positive, pro-active stance towards the future of Leytonstone town centre:

- **BARA** encourages all local residents to attend the meeting at the library on **13 March** when the one-way traffic system will be discussed.
- **BARA** supports the appointment of a Leytonstone Town Centre Manager.
- **BARA** wants to see free parking for up to two hours in the Church Lane car park, especially on Saturdays, and a similar scheme to operate in the forthcoming Matalan car park. Ten-minute 'drop-off' spaces should also be allocated.
- **BARA** wants secure, lockable cycle storage to be provided in the shopping area.
- **BARA** wants the development of a farmers' market to be pursued.

As ever, we want to hear your views on these suggestions. *Do you feel the Council has a coherent planning strategy for the area? Is the one-way system squeezing the life out of our shops?* We can't know your views unless you tell us, so why not write, email or phone one of the committee members? Their addresses are below.

PUBLIC MEETING at LEYTONSTONE LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2002

This is your chance for a say on what you think about
"Traffic in Leytonstone - Past, Present and Future?"

Come to your meeting that the Council did not want to happen until after the local elections

You can challenge the people who make decisions

Meeting organised by The Bushwood Area Residents Association

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 Pile: <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

**BARA subscription rates:
Households £2 per year. Single people £1 per year.**

FREE LOCAL POSTCARDS

INTRODUCE a friend or neighbour (who was not a member last year) to BARA and receive a FREE set of BARA postcards of our area, worth £1. Or buy postcards from Judith at 35 Leyspring Road or Jo at 57 Leybourne Road.

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH ADVERTISER

Members' advertisements are printed free of charge in this feature.

- **BARA member** Hilda Hooper, a qualified clinical aromatherapist, makes **all pure natural soap** which she sells to raise funds for Norlington Boys' School. Prices from as little as **60p** - a real bargain compared to West End prices, and lovely for an unusual gift. ☎ 020 8530 3376.
- **FOUR-BEDROOM** (2 x doubles, 1 x twin, 1 single) holiday home to rent in Costa Blanca village, Spain. Nearest airports Alicante/Murcia. A few minutes' walk to long sandy beach and very close to four 18-hole golf courses. £300pw peak season. Enquiries phone **020 8556 1852**. Please leave name/number and, if available, email address.
- **MATHS**, Chemistry and Biology tuition. SATS, GCSE revision. Trinity A-level student, reasonable rates. ☎ **Sam: 020 8530 3376**.
- **ORIGINAL** sash window, external dimensions 43" x 76". Needs slight repair to trim, otherwise in vgc and full working order. ☎ 07802 794424.
- **PIANO** - needs attention - **FREE** to anyone who collects. ☎ 8556 2158.
- **STAMPS** for charity. Used postage stamps - UK and foreign - wanted for animal charities and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Thank you! **Dawn, 46 Michael Road.**

- **TWO-BEDROOM** detached holiday bungalow to let in coastal village of Crantock, near Newquay, Cornwall. Sleeps 4/6. All year round. Enquiries and brochure: ☎ 020 01637 830310.
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Planning guidelines for Leytonstone

EVERY few years the Council produces a large document called the Unitary Development Plan. This sets out the principles and guidelines to be followed for the coming years.

Consultation has just begun for the new Plan. BARA representatives went along to the Leytonstone meeting on 19 February. This was poorly attended with only 10 people in the audience, due partly we believe to poor publicising of the meeting.

Representatives for the allotment societies put a number of views forward to protect the existing allotments of the borough. Councillor Loakes (as an audience member) asked that the guidelines be made firmer to prevent too many hostels/care homes in any one particular area, and mentioned the problem of shops with unattractive solid metal shutters.

Much of the rest of the meeting was about the general problems of traffic, parking and shopping and how these problems could be addressed in the new guidelines. There is to be a high emphasis on housing provision in the plan, though there is very little space in the borough for new buildings. The Government has said councils cannot insist on parking spaces for new housing where this is near to good public transport, so that higher density housing can be built. The guideline the Council will use is that within 800 metres of an underground station will be considered to come within this guideline.

They plan to have agreements that occupiers of these properties cannot own cars (though this may be hard to enforce) and to prevent such occupiers from being allowed permits in any Controlled Parking Zone. Mention was made of a possible proposal for a new station in the Whipps Cross area, but this was thought to be a long-term proposal not likely to happen, if at all, in less than about 20 years.

The large draft document can be viewed at the library or purchased. We can supply a copy of the six-page synopsis of proposed changes - **phone Jo on 020 8530 3569**. Consultation remains open until 21 March (not 14 March as stated in the local press); so let your views be known. Write to **Brian Whitely** of the Planning Dept at the Council, phone **020 8496 6194** or email to **udp.review@pla.lbwf.gov.uk**

Jo Pile

TREASURING OUR HERITAGE

MUCH of Bushwood was built over 100 years ago, the earliest from 1879. Our homes were built by craftsmen then, not machines. Many of our homes have the original brickwork. At that time the mix of London clay and ground chalk was moulded by hand and then baked in a wood fired oven. This is why the old brick colours have a luminosity when wet. Modern building materials do not compare.

The windows of a building were described as the “eyes” of a home by one of the great Victorian architects. Early four or eight panel sash windows are particularly valuable where these have survived. The delicate frame of a sash window set back into the brickwork, sets off the frontage as eyelashes frame an eye. Fine glazing bars and old glass, with a slight wobble in the surface if you are very lucky, have an appeal that translates into hard cash if you come to sell.

Two local Estate Agents were willing to give their opinion. **Century 21** say: “Properties with the original features and sash windows are very sought after in this area and enhance the selling price.” **Theydons** say: “Where the original brickwork and sash windows are retained these enhance the value.”

So, if your home still has some original features, when the Double Glazing salesman or the Pebble Dasher builder come knocking at the door offering “improvements”... you may wish to think twice!

Judy Scott

*******WHAT'S ON*******

THE WOODHOUSE PLAYERS' Spring Triple Bill (*Jolly Sinister Jape*, *Interior Designs* and *Hanging with Han*) will be running **from Thursday 4 April to Saturday 6 April, 8pm at the Welsh Church Hall.**

But before we even get to April you'll have a chance to see each of the one-act plays at a drama festival near you.

You can see:

Jolly Sinister Jape - on Wednesday 6 March. Trapped in a house with the phone lines cut and a storm raging outside - who's done it? and what have they done? Somewhere between Agatha Christie and "Naked Gun".

Interior Designs - Friday 8 March. Three very different lonely women, from three very different backgrounds. This is the story of their lives - and Him - an odd job man who cleans the hallway, sweeps the chimney and finally ends up in the bedroom.

Jolly Sinister Jape and *Interior Designs* will be on at the Waltham Forest Drama Festival at the Lloyd Park Theatre just off Forest Road.

Hanging with Han - Friday 15 March. Julia's frustrated with her boyfriend Adam; Sara quite likes Adam, but Adam doesn't know what he wants. There's only one person they can all really talk to: Han Solo (who just happens to be hanging in the corner of the room). *Hanging with Han* will be at the Havering Drama Festival at the Brentwood Theatre, Shenfield Road in Brentwood.

The Woodhouse Players have tickets for all events. Contact the Players if you want some - phone number below. (Tickets are also available on **020 8527 4690** for Waltham Forest or 01277 200300 for Havering) ... **and** for April production book tickets through: **020 8504 3872** or through their website at: **www.woodhouseplayers.co.uk**

Ruth Greene

More thoughts on traffic offences

From a resident of Hartley Road

TWO recent incidents highlight the continued abuse of the "No Entry" signs in Hartley Road.

1. A driver speeding the wrong way down the road was challenged by me and another man (who kicked at his car as it was passing). The other man told me that he was an off-duty police officer and was sick of cars driving the wrong way down the road. The driver then parked up and got out of his car brandishing what looked like a rod with a hook in one end. He was clearly going after the other man. He came across to me again, and it was only when I told him that the other man was a police officer that the driver disappeared.

2. I had my three-year-old son with me and challenged a woman driving the wrong way down the road. She had a child in the back of her own car. She told me, in so many words, to mind my own business. I told her that soon a child would be killed because of irresponsible people like her. Her response was to say that she could drive where she wanted because she "lived round here". As, indeed, I later discovered that she does.

What chance do we have of making drivers from outside our area obey the traffic signs when people from Bushwood so brazenly flout them? The only solution to both these incidents is to make it physically impossible for vehicles to drive the wrong way down a one-way street.

Last year, the Council conducted two traffic surveys in Hartley Road to assess the scale of the problem, one of which showed that 100 cars A DAY were committing an offence. Action? *Absolutely nothing*. Sadly, I believe it will take the death of a child or a serious assault before the council recognises the seriousness of this offence.

One-way system abuse

A NUMBER of reports of specific vehicles abusing the one-way system have been received and are being passed on to the police. Keep those forms (or details) coming! Give them to any BARA committee member.

Mr Y Shaikh, Chairman, Leytonstone Mosque, writes:

THE 11 September 2001 was a really gloomy and a terrible day. This kind of barbaric killing of innocent people was unjustified. This is not a representation of Islam, but a handful of people who demonstrate extreme insanity. It is foolish to blame all Muslims or Islam for these atrocities.

People in Leytonstone were deeply affected by this incident. But we are proud to say that police were very prompt and visited the mosque and gave assurances of safety. They gave an emergency number to dial if anything suspicious was observed.

We the people of Leytonstone have a very good community feeling for one another, and Rev R J Draper performed a very reassuring gesture. He has visited the mosque and gave a spiritual strength to the people of the mosque. Could there be anything better than this ... ? We appreciate this very much.

Ramdan is a Holy month for Muslims. In Leytonstone we also give a great welcome to this month by performing prayers, observing fast and reciting the Holy Quran. Mosques are full of people. They pray for peace, true justice and solidarity.

Muslims are in turmoil all over the world. One day prayers will bring the reward and they could live with a great dignity. Work; work in the living Present, Heart within and God over Head.

USEFUL NUMBERS

NHS Direct: 0845 4647

You can ring them if you are worried about a health problem and a trained nurse will answer your questions and advise.

The GP Centre at Whipps Cross Hospital (next to A&E): 020 8539 4229.

This is an emergency GP service for times when your GP is not available or for when you are not yet registered. The service is open all weekend and from 7pm to 8am weekdays. You can access the service through your GP's emergency service or directly by phoning the above number. Waiting times are usually very short and a fraction of the waiting in A&E.

Judy Scott

Contact our Councillors

Clyde Loakes

Phone: 8518 8643

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

Jenny Gray

Phone: 8556 7981

e-mail: cldr.j.gray@lbwf.gov.uk

Ian Leslie

Phone: 8556 0572

e-mail: cldr.i.leslie@lbwf.gov.uk

COUNCILLOR RESPONDS TO TOWN CENTRE COMPLAINTS

DAVIES FISHMONGERS: THE AFTERMATH

AS MENTIONED on the front page, BARA believes the closure of this high-quality retailer on Church Lane is symptomatic of the greater ills afflicting Leytonstone town centre. BARA wrote to Tony Buckley, leader of Waltham Forest Council, to protest; sadly, no personal response from him was received. Instead, Cllr Clyde Loakes replied to letters from several BARA committee members and the public. Here are some extracts from the various correspondences - see whose view of Leytonstone you recognise:

BARA: "All that has been achieved in Leytonstone is a one-way system that patently does not work, and yet more shops forced to close."

Cllr Loakes: "I do not believe the traffic issues would have affected the closure [of Davies]."

BARA: "Your next venture is the imposition of parking restrictions and charges which will make Leytonstone even less attractive as a shopping destination. Why bother? In a year's time, there won't be any shops left to visit."

Cllr Loakes: “Leytonstone currently has probably fewer empty properties on the High Road and Church Lane than at any time in the past five years.”

Sheila Dowsett, local resident, writing in the *Waltham Forest Guardian*: “There is a so-called shoppers’ car park, but who is going to spend 20 minutes in a traffic jam then pay to park their car when they can drive into Wanstead, Ilford or Romford with none of the hassle?”

Cllr Loakes: “We have tried to move towards a niche market, looking towards Crouch End.”

Melvyn Silver, director of Monarch Sports, writing in the *Waltham Forest Guardian*: “The council spokesman stated that it had spent over £2 million improving the shopping environment. It has wasted most of the money. The main achievement has been traffic chaos, driving away motorised shoppers who have great difficulty parking.”

Cllr Loakes: “The decision [of Davies] to close was probably due to a diminishing customer base, as a result of the increased price of fish, fewer younger generations eating fish and the Davies monopoly on fish in Leytonstone being challenged by Tesco.”

**Interestingly, the *Leytonstone Labour Contact* January newsletter announced Matalan’s arrival by stating that it is “a growing high street chain and though not ideally what we wanted, it is certainly better than the current blight that we have on this prime town centre.” Quite apart from the lukewarm greeting to Matalan, doesn’t this flatly contradict the optimistic picture Cllr Loakes is trying to paint?

Andrew Shields

CALLING ALL CRICKETERS!

AS REPORTED in the last issue, we are planning to raise a Bushwood team to play an evening friendly game against another residents’ association or local club. The date will almost certainly be in May - and as this is the last *Bush Telegraph* before then, we need your support NOW!

Our plan is to hire a club ground, probably in Wanstead or Woodford, and encourage all our residents to come and watch. All ages welcome, we’ll sort out kit and the cost to players will be minimal. It promises to be an enjoyable night.

So if you already play cricket, or if you used to, or if you’d like to - contact **Andrew Shields** on **020 8530 2200/andrewshields@ukgateway.net**

KIDS’ CORNER -- compiled by the Wood Sisters

Jokes

Q: What do you call a chef with a banana in each ear?

A: Anything you like, he can’t hear you!

Q: What do you do if you see a spaceman?

A: Park in it man!

A piece of rope walked into a bar.

Barman: “Didn’t you read the sign it said NO ROPES.”

The rope: “I’m afraid not!”

Did You Know?

Browning Road Conservation Area

Erected in the first half of the 19th century the cottages of Browning road are a tranquil reminder of Leytonstone’s rural past, still surviving just yards from the hustle and bustle of the High Road. At its heart is the North Star public house, named after a 19th-century Brigantine on which the pub’s founder, Fredrick Wildsmith, once sailed.

BARA THROWS DOWN QUIZ NIGHT CHALLENGE

A CHALLENGE has been thrown down to the Ex-Servicemen's club by BARA. The Ex-Servicemen's Club have taken up the gauntlet and agreed to the Quiz Night challenge which will take place on:

Saturday, 6 April 2002 at 7.30pm for 8.00pm start

Venue : Ex-Servicemen's Club in Harvey Road, Leytonstone.

For you to take part only one member of your team need be a member of the Ex-Servicemen's Club or a member of BARA.

Register your team: Please contact **Laura** on **020 8532 9533** or register at the Ex-Servicemen's Club. We are looking forward to having as many teams as possible but book up early for your team place to avoid disappointment.

The winning team will be awarded a trophy which will be returned for the next challenge, as we hope this will become a regular social occasion on our calendars. Each winning team member will receive a medal and a prize.

Entry £2 per person (maximum six members per team)

Katy Smith

APPLICATION FOR A MAJOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AYLMER ROAD

DEVELOPERS have put in two Planning Applications to build 21 flats in Aylmer Road.

The first Application was refused and then the developers appealed. BARA represented residents at the Appeal. The Appeal was refused.

The developers had in the interim put in a second Application for Planning. This was refused and the developers had asked for an Appeal. LBWF advised them that the grounds for refusing the first Appeal were likely to apply to the second Appeal and that they risked incurring costs as a result.

The developers have now withdrawn their Appeal.

BARA is not opposed to development of this site. We were opposed to the development on a number of specific grounds including lack of car parking, lack of play space for family dwellings, and the potential impact on local residents from this over-development of the site.

Judy Scott

PARKING PROPOSALS FOR BARA AREA

AS REPORTED in December, BARA representatives had a meeting with the Council about parking in early December.

The results for the part of our area (from the High Road up to Mornington Road) being consulted regarding further parking controls and permit parking indicated a roughly 50/50 split between those in favour and those against - 355 replies were received. Lister and part of Mornington don't want permit parking but most of the other roads consulted were in favour. As a committee we see that parking control will be viewed rather differently by our members near the station and the shops, from those further away and that one proposal is unlikely to suit the whole BARA area.

If permit parking has to come, then we are concerned at the present difficulty of permit purchase, which must be made in cash, in person in Walthamstow. We put forward various ways of helping residents get permits more easily, including evening opening and purchase by post and/or credit card, which are now being considered. There is a proposal for a local outlet in Leytonstone to sell permits.

We put forward a concern that a permit parking area merely displaces the problem, leading to the next area having to opt for permit parking. **We were surprised to be told it is in fact a policy, adopted many years ago, that the whole of London would go over to permit parking, though the spread has been slower than anticipated.**

We felt that shorter hours of restriction would meet the stated problem of commuter parking, freeing space for residents and shoppers, but the Council felt this was difficult to monitor and would lead to abuse and unhappiness by those paying for permits. However they are happy to receive comments on any aspect of the permit scheme. If you email they ask that you also give a phone number where possible as it is often easier for them to phone back. **Phone Dave Evans**, Parking Group supervisor: **020 8496 6046**, or email him on: **dave.evans@has.lbwf.gov.uk**

We were also told of the proposal for voucher parking for the High Road, from Green Man to the railway bridge (and further), except for the middle zone which is being kept for emergency vehicle passing. This was proposed for March, and some signs have been erected, but implementation is now expected in April. BARA had been pressing for FREE shopping parking, but the Council were it seems approached directly by certain shops, leading to the voucher scheme. For voucher parking any shop that wants to can sell vouchers. Vouchers are the same all over the borough and can be used in some car parks as well.

They told us that all parking schemes must be self-funding. Parking brings in over £1million, but this must cover everything including eg replacing missing parking signs. Under Road Traffic Act 1991 any excess in Council hands can only be used towards public transport.

Sureway are NOT, as commonly believed, paid by results. The Council pay a fixed fee to Sureway, and Sureway don't get the fines collected. They said that Sureway do give staff a bonus, but that is for attendance, time keeping, and not being sick and it is not related to number of tickets issued.

The informal five minutes' observation period for being on a yellow line was only for the traffic warden scheme and is no longer applicable. One moment on a yellow line or on a pavement and you can be fined.

Jo Pile

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.

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

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

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 **020 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. 10% off 35mm and APS reprints. 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
