



The Bush Telegraph

The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents Association

Also visit us at www.bara-leytonstone.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

by chairman DWIGHT WOOD

WELCOME to the winter edition of *The Bush Telegraph*, a time when the fasting of Ramadan ends with the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr on 6 December and Christmas starts to draw near. Look out for the BARA 'Santa', who will be dispensing hearty goodwill in our area on Saturday 21 December.

Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ)

FOLLOWING the statutory notices people will have seen in the roads affected, Dave Evans of the Parking Team at the Council tells us that a large number of objections to the CPZ scheme were received, though a number of these were from residents outside the area, and many of the objections were, he said, in a standard form indicating they had been gathered together by way of a 'campaign'. The department has reported to the Executive Director for him to consider the objections. Dave Evans hopes the scheme will be implemented early in the New Year.

???Quiz Night???

WE HELD another successful quiz night at the Ex-Servicemen's Club on Saturday 12 October. Many thanks to Russ Ayre and his trusty assistants, Sue and Finola. Russ did a superb job as Quiz Master with some interesting rounds and some very challenging questions for the teams and Sue and Finola were very fair in carrying out their task as markers. Feedback from those participating was that they had enjoyed the event and were looking forward to the next one, which will hopefully be in the spring.

Thanks also to the Ex-Servicemen's Club for allowing us to hold the event and for putting together teams for the challenge. They have also invited BARA members to apply for membership of the club and anyone interested should just pop in and ask for Michael the Social Secretary.

BARA SOCIAL

Tuesday 14 January
Chopsticks Restaurant – 8.30pm

Chopsticks, the Chinese buffet restaurant, has now opened at **686 High Road** (opposite McDonald's)

The new owner has kindly agreed to our holding a social evening there, at the special price of **just £8 for all you wish to eat**. They would like an idea of how many people will come along so they can arrange one large table for us, so **phone Jo: 8530 3569** to book your place; but they may well be able to fit unbooked people in on the night if you are not able to commit to a booking. *A good way to try a new restaurant and meet some new local friends.*

The BARA committee has expanded following the AGM, with our new members keen to spread the workload and handle projects which they are particularly interested in. Remember that we are a strong association with a voice which is listened to by those who make the decisions that affect our lives. If there is an issue which you would like us to pursue, then please don't hesitate to contact any of the committee. Remember, we can't do something unless we know about it in the first place!

It was sad to see the demise of Harvey's toy shop after being a feature on the High Road for many years, and local people will have noted the comments made on the closure notice in the window about lack of support for small businesses – haven't we been here before? However, let us welcome the new Chinese restaurant Chopsticks in its attractive premises. With the excellent Thai restaurant Petch Sayam just a couple of doors away, this stretch of the High Road is clearly becoming the place to enjoy Oriental food!

TOWN CENTRE MANAGER UPDATE

Action Plan for Leytonstone and Leyton

SEEMA HUSSAIN, newly-appointed Town Centre Manager for Leytonstone and Leyton, is visiting all local businesses to meet people face to face and to leave a questionnaire on priorities. In the New Year she will be contacting residents. The focus is on the environment, events and marketing. Her aim is to get joined-up planning with all Council departments working together with businesses and residents. **Phone 8496 5256, e-mail seema.hussain@lbwf.gov.uk**

SANTA'S COMING TO TOWN

ONCE AGAIN by special arrangement with BARA Santa will be out and about in the area on **Saturday 21 December**. Do come out and say hello if you see him as he will have sweets to give away.



And don't forget that BARA has a fine Santa suit that can be borrowed by members free of charge for a day or two. **Phone Jo: 8530 3569.**

BARA SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single people: £1 per year Households: £2 per year

== WHAT'S ON OVER CHRISTMAS ==

Sat 21 December: 2.30pm. Local 'Christmas' walk. Meet at St John's Church: £1.

Sat 21 December: 7.30pm. Concert of Christmas songs at St John's Church by Sally Munro and Graham Finch of the San Francisco Opera: £5.

Sun 22 December: 4pm. Carol Service for all ages at St John's Church.

Tues 14 January: 8.30pm. BARA Social in Chopsticks – see page 1. £8.

THE Woodhouse Players are joining with the **Rosina Pulley School of Dance** for this year's production for Leytonstone over the New Year. This time they are taking a departure from classic pantomime tales, to bring a family pantomime version of the familiar ballet story of *Swan Lake*.



In a tiny European principality, an evil magician is turning all the women into swans for his ornamental lake. The Queen wants her son Prince Siegfried to marry, but all he wants is to have fun with his friends – until late one night he meets the swan Odette. Together they must defeat the magician Von Rothbart and his daughter Odile to free all the women of the land. Unfortunately, Siegfried's friends Fritz and Wolfgang would much rather he was back at the palace watching the telly. And lurking beneath the tranquil waters of Swan Lake, who knows what the Giant Pond Weed Monster might be plotting ...

The performances are for all the family and will be held at the Welsh Church Hall in Leytonstone High Road (near McDonalds):

31 December at 6pm; 1 January at 2.30pm; 2 January at 7.30pm; 3 January at 7.30pm; Saturday 4 January at 2.30pm and at 7.30pm.

Tickets **must** be booked in advance, either via the box office (Phil Braithwaite), phone 8504 3872 or through the Players' website:

www.woodhouseplayers.co.uk/whatson.htm

Member **Mervyn Baulkwill** has asked us to publish this poem – which is one of his favourites:

Autumn

by Edmund Spenser (Elizabethan)

Then came the Autumn all in yellow cladd
As though he joyed in his plenteous store
Laden with fruits that made him laugh full glad
That he had banished hunger which to fore
Had by the belly oft him pinched sore
Upon his head there was enrolled
A sheaf of corn of every sort he bore
And in his hand a sickle he did hold
To reap the ripened fruits the which the earth did yold

HERE'S A NOVEL STOCKING-FILLER!

STUMPED FOR CHRISTMAS STOCKING-FILLERS OR SMALL TREE-GIFTS FOR YOUR LOCAL FRIENDS? WHY NOT GIVE THEM OUR OWN AREA'S POSTCARDS? FULL-COLOUR PICTURES OF THE BUSHWOOD AREA, FOUR DIFFERENT DESIGNS PER PACK, PROFESSIONALLY PRODUCED, EXCLUSIVE TO BARA – AND STILL ONLY **£1** PER PACK OF FOUR. ☎ JO: 8530 3569

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH ADVERTISER

Members' personal advertisements are inserted free of charge in this column. Please drop your ad in to JO at 57 LEYBOURNE ROAD.

BABYSITTER – parents of 5-year-old girl seek mother to swap babysitting or responsible girl over 16 to sit for pay. Usually weekends. Phone **Vivien: 8923 1999** after 6pm.

LEARN guitar from home. Tuition available for beginners, £10 an hour, weekends only - preferably Saturdays. Phone **Jack: 8556 3288**.

REMINGTON hair-cutting kit (with instructional video) as new: £15. Bosch fridge freezer: £50, 57" x 23". Pine Grandfather chair: £30. Phone **Hilda: 8530 3376**.

SHARP Portable Electronic typewriter for sale, £60, with manual. Model PA-3000. Phone **Linda: 8989 4538**.

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**.

Annual General Meeting

THE BARA AGM was held on 30 September. It was well attended and this year a new and more informal format was tried, and residents' feedback indicate this was a success. As members came in they were encouraged to write down matters of concern to them, and these lists were used as an informal agenda once the necessary minutes and accounts etc had been dealt with. Beer and wine seemed to encourage people to join in, and four new committee members were voted in.

Beggars and the homeless

AT the BARA AGM the general view was that the problem was becoming worse. A proposal was made to press for an alcohol restriction area, which should be a matter for the Town Centre Manager. Cllr Clyde Loakes is proposing co-ordinating matters on this subject.

Unitary development plan

AS MENTIONED in the March *Bush Telegraph* this is the document published every few years by the Council which sets out the guidelines for planning matters in the Borough. It therefore has a profound effect on matters in our area for years to come. Following the meeting attended by BARA earlier in the year, committee member Robert Gay has now ploughed through the enormous document commenting on behalf of the Association.

The BARA committee 2002/2003

Judith Aldridge: <i>treasurer</i>	35 Leyspring Road
David Dowsett	74 Mornington Road
Robert Gay	137 Mornington Road
Bernard Lowe: <i>assistant treasurer</i>	56 Browning Road
Jo Pilc: <i>shops representative</i>	57 Leybourne Road
Judy Scott: <i>planning</i>	34 Carlton Road
Andrew Shields: <i>minutes secretary</i>	9 Hartley Road
Katy Smith: <i>vice-chair & social</i>	37a Harvey Road
Linda Standen	10 Barclay Road
Graciela Watson: <i>membership</i>	St Augustines Court, Mornington Road
Laura Whitehead: <i>social</i>	44 Stanmore Road
Dave Williams	30 Harvey Road
Ross Williams	65 Mornington Road
Dwight Wood: <i>chairman</i>	Carlton House, Aylmer Road

Readers may recall the following article in the June 2002 edition of The Bush Telegraph: 'We seem to have competition in Leytonstone for the initials BARA. A website has been made for BARA (the Bushwood Area Revolutionary Army). Really it's not a competitor – it's a spoof. We should treat this as flattery in the way Edwina Currie treated her Spitting Image puppet. It's good to be noticed!'

But is it a spoof? Are there two BARAs? Committee member ANDREW SHIELDS investigates ...

'THE OTHER BARA' IN LEYTONSTONE

SPOOF it is not. The other BARA is part of the Leytonstone Action Group (LAG), which describes itself as 'a non-hierarchical collective of anti-capitalists, anti-authoritarians and other activists organising for radical political and social change in and around Leytonstone'.

The group's website is still in the early stages of development, but there are links to local anarchist groups; subscription details for a quarterly newsletter, *Leytonstone Ablaze*; extensive information on activities at the 491 Gallery in Grove Green Road, which is run by The Art Organisation; and articles about the anti-M11 link road protests in the mid-1990s and the year-long occupation of Claremont Road. These protests were clearly a major inspiration behind the creation of the group.

Direct action

The Bushwood Area Revolutionary Army calls itself 'the direct action wing of LAG' and proclaims: 'Anyone can do an action in the area and claim it under the name of BARA. We are not necessarily advocating illegal activity – possible BARA acts could include things as harmless as banner drops, graffiti or billboard liberation. Whatever the case, we want to hear from you.'

Such a statement might sound alarming to some, but it's worth considering whether LAG's desire for 'radical political and social change in and around Leytonstone' is so far removed from the ambitions of the Bushwood Area Residents Association. Though 'our' BARA is bound by its constitution to remain independent of local politics, the desire for social change – by pressing for improved amenities, better shops and the provision of affordable housing, opposing unacceptable planning applications,

unclogging the roads and developing an environment in which we want to live – is very much part of the Bushwood Area Residents Association remit.

An interesting example of this is the recent 'liberation' of the old Post Office for a week-long art exhibition. The building was vacated in 1993 and has since become a particularly unpleasant eyesore on the High Road. As a notice on the wall stated, the interior was in disgraceful condition and had clearly been used as a crack house. While the artwork may not have been to everyone's taste, the fact that an otherwise derelict site was being put to constructive use can only be applauded. Indeed, the number of local retailers carrying flyers for the event suggested that they felt the same way, too.

Different

The operating methods of the Bushwood Area Revolutionary Army and the Bushwood Area Residents Association are, inevitably, different. However, some of the goals are similar. Far from being dismissive or fearful of the 'other' organisation in our midst, we should at the very least acknowledge its existence.

To find out more, visit www.leytonstonia.org.uk from which it is possible to e-mail the LAG organisers. Or write to LAG, PO Box 35832, E11 3WT.

(The view expressed is Andrew's personal view and not expressed as a formal view of the BARA committee)

Zulus makes plans for pub improvements

THE NEW owners of Zulus (ex-Red Lion/Cuba Bella) attended the BARA AGM in September and took the opportunity of introducing themselves and informing those present of their plans for the pub. The pub reopened on 9 November and it appears to have had a successful launch. Reports are that the pub is very popular and a much better environment for enjoying a relaxing drink than Cuba Bella.

There were however, serious concerns regarding the application for an extension of hours for the entertainment licence for the proposed club on the first floor. The licensees called a meeting in October to meet with residents to discuss any concerns that residents might have about the licence extension application. Many residents voiced their concerns about the possible noise nuisance when the club closes at 2am and customers were going home. They were also concerned about the noise from the music in the club.

The licensees took on board all the residents' concerns

and reported that they were planning to double-glaze the enormous windows in time, when cash-flow permits, to lessen music noise. They hoped to obtain planning permission for a new staircase to the ground floor so that customers would exit into the High Road rather than Harvey Road. They would also be employing doormen to keep order when customers were leaving.

The residents still had concerns about disturbances in the early hours on a Saturday and Sunday. A representative of the London Borough of Waltham Forest advised the residents that if they wished to object to the licence extension they should write to the Licensing Officer. The BARA committee have written to say that in the interests of regeneration of the area they have no objections to the proposed licensing hours but they would prefer the extension to be for an initial period of six months to see how it goes with regard to excessive noise from music and/or customers. We are waiting to hear from the Licensing Department when the hearing will be. The club itself won't be ready for opening until the spring.

(See also STOP PRESS: page four)

APPLICATIONS

MATALAN CAR-PARK DEVELOPMENT

THE MATALAN car-park site development for 64 one-bed flats and three live/work units has been given Outline Planning Approval subject to conditions. Development is required to be for affordable housing and car-free (this means residents will not be able to purchase residents' parking permits but will presumably be able to park when the CPZ does not operate from 4pm to 10am and weekends), and subject to environmental improvements and replacement trees. This speculative proposal will allow the site to be sold at an increased price to a developer who will need to apply for actual Planning Permission, hopefully with a design to enhance the area and give new residents a decent home.

MOSQUE WOMEN'S CENTRE

LEYTONSTONE Mosque applied to use 14 Barfield Road, a terraced house, as an educational centre for women and was refused planning permission. The reason given by the Planning Department was: loss of residential accommodation. The Planning Department thought that use could be made of the existing upstairs accommodation in the Mosque.

HILLS GARAGE SITE FLATS

THE HILLS Garage site application for housing on Leytonstone High Road and the corners of Lister Road and Davies Lane is four storeys high and comprises 69 flats for approximately 165 people. Local people got up a petition against the proposal on grounds of over-development, lack of parking and lack of play space for the children. BARA also objected, pointing out that Waltham Forest has just about half the national average of play space per child. BARA suggested a low-rise development such as John Drinkwater Close.

2 LEYBOURNE ROAD EXTENSION

THE APPLICATION for an extension across the back garden of 2 Leybourne Road, allowing the developers to form three two-bed flats from the family house, was refused. A fair bit of local campaigning against this overdevelopment swung the votes on the Planning Committee. The Planning Department had originally agreed to pass the application. They said that just three objections were received but we learnt that only four people were notified. BARA got busy and circulated people around Leybourne Road and many more wrote in objecting.

On Tuesday 12 November Ross Williams from the BARA committee and two residents of Leybourne Road (BARA members) attended the planning committee meeting. After a long wait all three BARA people spoke against the application, together with Cllr Clyde Loakes. The committee decided in our favour and rejected the application – but only by 8 votes to 7. This may go to an appeal. Watch this space for details.

If you would like to join BARA then contact your nearest committee member (see page two). See front page for subscription rates.

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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) 10% off everything.
698 High Road
- PRIMROSE FLORIST**..... 10% off purchases over £10.
741 High Road
- CENTURY 21** (estate agents) ... 30% off standard commission rate.
Church Lane
- ZAIN GREETINGS** 10% off all cards and gifts (except special offers/sale items)
(cards, gifts, stationery)
48 Church Lane
- DOGS DINNER** 10% off accessories. Other items 5% off purchases over £5.
(pet and garden shop)
23 Kirkdale Road
- DEANNA DONOVAN** (beauty... 10% off treatments
and skincare):working from home **phone: 8558 7223**
- BANSAL OPTOMETRISTS** 10% off goods over £50.
775 High Road
- NATIONAL SCHOOLWEAR..** 10% off general schoolwear. They also stock things like Brownie uniforms.
841 High Road
(Near McDonalds)
- IRONICA** (ironware and gifts)... 10% off everything (except Sale items).
853 High Road
- CHURCH PINE** (furniture) 10% off (except promotions).
899 High Road
- MONARCH SPORTS** 10% off purchases over £100.
815 High Road
- MEMORIES** 10% off one-hour or 24-hour film processing. 10% off 35mm and APS reprints. 5% off films.
Photographic Services
829 High Road
- FRESH WATER FILTER CO..** 10% off all purchases.
Carlton House, Aylmer Road
- OCEAN DRY CLEANERS** 10% off bills over £50 (eg curtains etc).
801 High Road
- SOUNDS & VISION** 10% off purchases over £50. 5% off all other items (except computer games/consoles).
777-779 High Road
- THE RELAXATION PLACE..** Free aromatherapy treatment with your first appointment: **phone 8539 0001**.
(aromatherapy face & body treatments): corner Browning Road and High Road (740A)

Applications (continued from column 1)

STOP PRESS: Zulus (the Red Lion with a radical makeover) had applied for a late night licence for music and entertainment. Some people living in Harvey Road objected. **The hearing is on 11 December.** BARA welcomes the attractive decor and the new owners' co-operative consultations, but will be keeping an eye or ear out for any teething problems.