



The Bush Telegraph

The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents Association

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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

SPRING is here but before reaching for your secateurs, I was taught only to prune roses in a month that begins with A. Late frosts could still come. Do we have any members who would be willing to write a "Gardeners Corner" for *The Bush Telegraph* with hints, tips and advice, four times a year?

Other articles in this issue also invite your comments and since I first put my head above the parapet I've received many. I welcome your views but do not welcome personal attacks and as far as I am able I will not allow *The Bush Telegraph* to carry such attacks on anyone. By all means let us have stimulating debate but please, keep it objective.

BERN LOWE

SOCIAL EVENTS SURVEY – WHAT'S YOUR CHOICE?

WE HAVE enclosed a survey for you to complete on the kinds of social events that your family might like to be involved in. We do hope that you will take the time to complete the form and return it to one of the committee members listed overleaf.

We would appreciate your replies by **31 March 2004** so that we can begin to plan events and include them in the next *Bush Telegraph*. Until then please note the events already on the calendar for this year – see page two – and we hope you will come and join us.

CALL FOR CRICKETERS

THE CRICKET season will soon be with us and the BARA team will be donning whites for their annual 20-overs-a-side evening fixture against the North Star. BARA have convincingly won both matches played so far, a reflection of the fact that many club cricketers live in our area. If you have played before, I will be in touch about this year's game. If you haven't and are interested in turning out then please send an email to: andrewshields@ukgateway.net or call 020 8530 2200. Players of all ages and standards are welcome: the emphasis is on taking part, having fun and meeting your neighbours. The match will probably take place in late May at a local club ground.

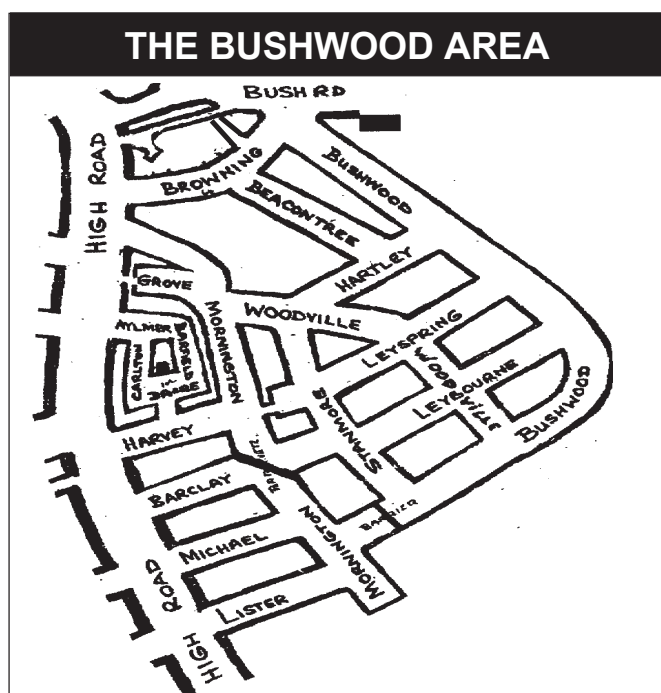
ANDREW SHIELDS

Don't forget the BARA gazebo!

WITH SPRING around the corner don't forget that the BARA gazebo (like a tent without sides) is available for free loan to members for a day or two, whenever we are not using it for a function. Great for protection from either sun or rain. This has been a popular item and many a member has said how it has contributed to the success of a garden party or barbecue. The gazebo is in the care of committee member **Katy Smith** so please contact her (020 8556 5162) to book/collect it.

BARA's shops discount scheme

PLEASE look at the back page to see some changes to those shops participating. We have had occasional reports of shops declining to honour the discount we had understood had been agreed. Where this is verified by a committee member the shop will be removed from the scheme. One BARA member recently had difficulties with Primrose Florists, who it seems are new owners, but the owner has now agreed to continue in the scheme with slightly different terms. However, before you place an order with a local shop where you are expecting to obtain a BARA discount – do check with them first! Please report ANY difficulties to a committee member (see page two).



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH ADVERTISER

Members' personal advertisements are inserted free of charge in this column. Please drop your ad in to any committee member (addresses below).

FOR SALE – clarinet (plus beginners' instruction book), £50. Phone Dawn: 020 8558 5777.

LEARN guitar from home. Tuition available for beginners, £10 an hour, weekends only – preferably Saturdays. Phone Jack: 020 8556 3288.

LEARN the art of self defence and tai chi, for men and women. Phone Ron Holt – 9th Dan Black Belt: 020 8539 8147.

STAINED GLASS created or repaired to highest standards. Phone Aleyne: 020 8539 5365.

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.

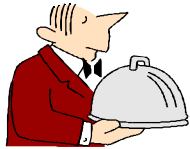
SOCIAL EVENTS

Laura: 020 8532 9553

Katy: 020 8556 5162

Like curry?

The **Star of India** is a new member of our discount scheme and we are planning a meal there for BARA members and their guests on **Thursday 25 March at 8pm**. The generous 15 per cent discount will apply, and if we get 30 people the restaurant will be kept for our exclusive use. **Phone Brian: 020 8989 8738** to reserve your place.



Saturday 3 April: Quiz Night – 8pm at Ex-Servicemen's Club. Great fun and very cheap bar prices.

May: Cricket Match – Bara Residents v North Star. Please contact **Andrew Shields** (email: andrewshields@ukgateway.net or phone 020 8530 2200) if you are interested in playing in the match.

Tuesday 15 June: Annual Front Garden Competition – will include hanging baskets and window boxes etc. Several members of the committee will tour Bushwood on 15 June to judge the gardens.



Sunday 27 June: Annual Litter Pick – meet at 12 noon in the forest at the end of Leyspring Road. This has proved a great success in previous years and very rewarding for those taking part; so do come and join us. *Cold drinks will be provided.*



BARA'S BEGINNINGS BROUGHT A GREAT SOCIAL LIFE

THE Bushwood Area Residents Association first began as a – successful – protest movement against the use of Bushwood and Lister Road as a commuter rat-run. However, in spite of their other pressing concerns, the founder members regarded social activities as an excellent way of helping all members to get to know one another, so they organised all sorts of clubs and events. It wasn't simply the odd quiz or litter collection; BARA also spawned, or was connected with, members' clubs covering a very wide range of interests indeed.

For example, there was:

- ◆ a popular **Whist Club** which brought together members for card evenings
- ◆ a **Baby Sitting Circle** in which parents could build up points by looking after fellow members' children and spend them on getting their own children looked after in turn when they fancied a night out
- ◆ an enthusiastically supported **Gardening Club** based on the area's allotments
- ◆ a thriving **Book Club** similar to the Radio 4 Book Club on which James Naughtie and guests discuss a book they've read in the previous month (this club still exists).

The Association also organised **coach trips, picnics, Christmas parties** for BARA members' children (the grown-ups enjoyed them too!) and a successful **BARA Sports Day**, complete with medals.

BARA still does a lot to provide entertainment for its members – most of it intentional – but we wondered whether there would be a demand for a move back to the kind of clubs or events mentioned above which have faded away as members have moved out. So, what would you like to see organised? What about **theatre or concert visits** (group bookings are often cheaper than single tickets)? Do you have any particular expertise which you could bring to bear? Do you have any contacts which could prove useful?

We'd like to know your views, so why not fill in the attached form and return it to any committee member (addresses below)? We'd be very pleased to hear from you, especially if there's something you can contribute by way of time or expertise. You might even find that there are more people in the Bushwood Area than you think who share your particular exotic tastes!

KATY SMITH

The BARA committee 2003/2004

6	
Judith Aldridge	35 Leyspring Road
Sue Catten	8 Leyspring Road
David Dowsett	74 Mornington Road
Robert Gay	137 Mornington Road
Brian Hopson	49 Bushwood
Mike Jeremias: treasurer	47 Beacontree Road
Bernard Lowe: chair	56 Browning Road
Judy Scott: planning	34 Carlton Road
Andrew Shields: minutes secretary	9 Hartley Road
Katy Smith: vice-chair and social events	37a Harvey Road
Laura Whitehead: social events	44 Stanmore Road

Council to extend Bushwood Area’s Controlled Parking Zone

AS A RESULT of the Council’s survey the Controlled Parking Zone is going to be extended to include “Lister Road, Mornington Road, Barclay Road and Woodville Road (to the west of the junction with Stanmore Road), since 51 responses were in favour and 19 opposed. In the rest of the Bushwood Area – Beacontree Road, Browning Road, Bushwood, Hartley Road, John Drinkwater Close, Leybourne Road, Leyspring Road and Stanmore Road – 34 responses were in favour and

117 opposed and I can confirm that these roads will not be in the zone” (quoted from an email from Tom Wright at LBWF). His full reply was two pages and very detailed so it is taking time to prepare a response, however it does seem that the existence of BARA and other similar organisations is encouraging the Council to take note of the views of the people. A fuller report in the next *Bush Telegraph*, meanwhile keep giving us your views on any matter of local concern. BERN LOWE

Community Council Meetings

BARA KEEPS UP TO DATE ON LEYTONSTONE LIFE

SINCE the last *Bush Telegraph* there have been two Community Council meetings. On 2 December there were presentations from the 491 Gallery and on the Olympic Bid. There was also pressure from the floor for the Council to use their recently granted powers to curb drinking in the street. This has subsequently been carried forward and you may have seen the article in the local *Guardian* of 12 February.

At the meeting on 9 February a presentation was made on behalf of Seema Hussain (Town Centre Manager) on

what is intended for our area and this includes co-ordinating Council services, building partnerships and inwards investment. I asked what is the budget for our area and how does it compare to others. The presenter was only able to give an estimate of £40,000 – £50,000 for both Leyton and Leytonstone. I intend following up on all of these and will put in the next *Bush Telegraph* what I find out.

On a future agenda will be Environment and Transport in Leytonstone and the Hill’s Garage site – what is happening.

The Bush Telegraph is not big enough to give a full report – the minutes of one meeting take up nine sides of A4 – so while I am fully prepared to speak for BARA please remember that these meetings are open to *all* residents of the Leytonstone wards and anyone can speak. The next meeting is on 31 March, the venue is to be announced. Watch for local publicity. BERN LOWE

Stratford City development to rival Bluewater

A NUMBER of committee members went along to the presentation held at the Epicentre by the developers in February. The proposal is for a massive development on the Stratford Rail land. The proposals are for about 4,500 new homes, five million square feet of office space, 1.5 million square feet of retail, and 200 hotel rooms and conference facilities, plus a wealth of leisure and entertainment facilities.

The landmark building will be a tower, and the shopping facilities hope to rival those at Bluewater. The development will take place whether or not the Olympic bid for London is won, but if the Olympics do go ahead here then part of the land will provide Olympic village housing as a temporary measure. There will clearly be implications for local shopping centres and for traffic.

DAVIES LANE SCHOOL: AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE?

WE HAVE a classic Victorian redbrick school on the edge of our area, yet its future appears to be uncertain. Earlier this year a rumour surfaced that Davies Lane School was to be demolished and a new building erected in its place. Then in late January an article appeared in the *Waltham Forest Guardian* claiming that the school was to be amalgamated with Newport Schools in Leyton. As a result of this merger, the junior school at Davies Lane would close and the infant school would become an all-through primary for children aged five to 11 with an attached nursery.

None of the current BARA committee have children at the school, so we would be interested to know more about these plans and will carry details in the next issue of *The Bush Telegraph*. In addition, did any of our readers attend the school themselves and have memories they would like to share? ANDREW SHIELDS

An apology

THE keen sighted mathematicians among you will have noticed an error in the results of our survey on CPZs. In the question on fees – outside the CPZ the percentages added up to 106 per cent. I’m grateful to those who pointed out the error before the figures were sent to the Council. The error was in the ‘Too Low’ response which should have been 3 per cent but was given as 9 per cent BERN LOWE

 **Write on!** 

Readers' letters and comments are always most welcome. Drop yours in to any committee member – addresses on page two.

WORK ON WANSTEAD FLATS

Keeper Alison O'Connor writes:

“The fires last summer have left a thick layer of ash which is stopping many plants from growing.

Scraping this away will encourage the growth of existing plants and will also expose seeds of different acid grassland species which have lain dormant in the soil for many years.

By encouraging the regeneration of acid grassland species, such as heather, we will be returning Wanstead Flats to its original habitat. If left in its current state the area will slowly develop into a grassland habitat with only a few different species of plants present.

As this area is part of the SSSI site we have gained approval and the scrub and top layer of soil will be scraped off the area of Wanstead Flats that burnt last summer in between Lake House Road and Centre Road.

Once completed the area will look stark and bare, as it did after the fires last year. However within a few months the area will quickly become green again as the vegetation starts to grow.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.”

Alison O'Connor, Corporation of London, The Warren, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RW.
Phone: 020 8532 1010, fax: 020 8508 2176


MORE MEMORIES OF BROWNING ROAD – AND FOREST VIEW

“I was very interested in Rene Diehl’s article regarding Browning Road. I recall “Tommy Kings” no 32, a tiny café where tradesmen could have a cup of tea, he also sold odds and ends and I was often sent to purchase one pennyworth of vinegar or two pennyworth of pickled onions, as long as you provided a basin. The chimney sweep’s wife Mrs Hallibone was my dear friend. The business at no 5 had been handed down from father to son, their sons Charlie and Jimmy were keen footballers and Jimmy played for Leytonstone. Mr & Mrs Robbins at no 12 ran the fish and chip shop and had a very smart house adjoining.

I was born in Forest View, our neighbours would refer to our little cul-de-sac as The Alley or more often as The Crib. My grandparents lived at no 1 which was a Post Office. My grandfather was a carrier, he kept his horse in the little adjoining shed which had two arches, also a hayloft. We now call this our garage.

My mother and father rented a cottage on the opposite side of the road and started to raise a family, however ‘The Green Man’ public house purchased these houses to extend their premises and we were pleased to move to no 1 when my grandmother moved out. We were always called the Kingies, our surname being King. I would

Santa Suit gone AWOL

 SADLY our Santa Suit went missing while out on loan to the Davies Lane PTA. They have kindly agreed to replace it and we understand plans are in hand for a replacement suit to be made. We don’t expect any of you to be wanting to borrow it in the next few months so hopefully it will be ready and waiting for new borrowers come the winter.

HISTORY OF KIRKDALE ROAD SCHOOL

Chairman Bern Lowe writes:

IN A previous *Bush Telegraph*, we drew attention to the Remembrance Walk which was conducted by Rev Raymond Draper, the Vicar of St John’s Church. We mentioned the school in Kirkdale Road (whose site is now part of the Matalan car-park).

In response, we had a letter from **Vi Eddy** of Bushwood.

It appears that the school was hit by a V2 rocket on 10 February 1945, and thereafter was not used for teaching children. However, the building was not destroyed, but was occupied by the Leyton Education Authority as offices until 1965 when the Borough of Waltham Forest was born and the staff were transferred from Kirkdale Road to Leyton Town Hall.

I understand that the Vicar is hoping it may be possible to establish a Local History Society in Leytonstone in a few years’ time. It is to be hoped that it will be possible to establish this at a time when it is still possible to draw on the memories of those who have lived in the area since before the Second World War. (Mrs Eddy tells us that she has lived in Leytonstone for 87 years.)

watch from our back bedroom the ladies playing tennis in the large garden of Mr Knight the architect.

My sister and myself often went tiddlering for fish in the pond. We would use a drag (a bit of sacking that would let the water through and leave the fish), we enjoyed this. The orphanage overlooked the pond and the orphans would throw toys into the pool. It was quite deep and I was glad there were railings to keep from falling in. In 1937 I contracted polio. It was thought that this was from the dirty water of the pond and I spent a year in Whipps Cross. My mother and neighbours would come to the main entrance and wave to me when my bed was moved onto the balcony as visiting was only on Sunday and Wednesday.”

Iris Hinton (née King)

Bern Lowe adds: There must be other residents who have memories such as these and they form an important part of social history. A copy of each *Bush Telegraph* goes to Vestry House Museum, so if there are others who would like to stroll down memory lane let’s hear from you. In addition there is the **Waltham Forest Oral History Workshop** who record people’s memories for posterity - contact Robert Wilkinson: **020 8530 4847**.

UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN – MANY THANKS FOR YOUR COMMENTS

THERE was an article about the “UDP” in the last *Bush Telegraph*, together with a “Request for Comments and Volunteers”.

The Public Enquiry was expected to be in February/March 2004 (about the time that this *Bush Telegraph* will

be delivered through your door). However, the Council is postponing things, and the Public Enquiry is now likely to take place in the late spring, perhaps in May. We hope that we will be able to give you a report in the next *Bush Telegraph*.

We are grateful to the 15 people who filled in the “Request for Comments”, and in particular the five people who gave their contact details and said that they might be willing to help our case by giving evidence to the Public Enquiry. (We would also be grateful to the one person who said that they would be willing to assist, but did not give us any contact details – this was a person who had lived in Leytonstone for 17 years, but had moved to their present address only six weeks previously.)

We have not attempted to tabulate out the 15 answers. Among 300/400 households in membership, the answers of only 5 per cent may not be statistically significant, although they certainly are significant in showing the extent that people care about our area and the fact that they are willing to spend time in commenting on proposals with regard to planning for the area.

However, the answers to Question 6, about the reasons why people moved to Leytonstone or why they stay here, seem quite interesting. Of the 15 people, one had been re-housed by the Borough Council, and one had inherited a house, and neither of these gave any other reasons why they stayed here. Of the other 13, it is striking that eight gave us a reason that it was convenient for work in Central London, three that it was convenient for work outside Central London and outside Waltham Forest/Redbridge and only one that it was convenient work within Waltham Forest/Redbridge. Nine people gave as a reason that this was a quiet area, and nine people gave as a reason that there was affordable accommodation.

Ten people gave as a reason that the area is near the Forest/open spaces/greenery, two people that there were friendly neighbours and two people that there is a “village atmosphere”. These answers are particularly striking, because they were not suggested by our form but were answers that the people wrote in.

By contrast, only one person gave the area’s schools as a reason for being here, nobody gave family concerns as a reason and only three people gave shops as a reason (and one of them said that they meant the shops as they were 26 years ago!).

We might conclude that the typical member of BARA who returned our form works in Central London, commutes by tube, and lives here because it is convenient for work, a quiet area, has affordable accommodation, and is near open green spaces.

ROBERT GAY

The Chairman’s column

A Farewell to Jo

JO PILC is leaving us after a number of years on the committee. She has been a stalwart of BARA since before I joined. She has always been ready to fill a gap when one arose and can claim credit for most of the discounts that members enjoy. She has been an active and enthusiastic supporter of our organisation as well as speaking her mind on contentious issues.

She will be missed but we hope that she might return in the future and once again add her support and strength to our organisation.

Cows returning to Wanstead Flats

MY ITEM in the last *Bush Telegraph* on cows returning prompted replies which it was intended to do. Most of the replies were in favour of the cows and one made a good case for and against.

Our latest information is that they won’t be back to our area for about 10 years. So relax, BARA members, if we’re still around in eight or nine years perhaps we’ll do a survey.

Waltham Forest Magazine

I WAS recently advised by Cllr Loakes that the *Waltham Forest Magazine* should be delivered by the second weekend of the month at the latest. If it isn’t then contact Seth Brook and he’ll ensure you get a copy as well as your street and any other residential streets you think may have missed out.

Seth Brook can be contacted at Seth.Brook@lbwf.gov.uk or at Public Relations, LBWF, Town Hall Forest Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4JF, phone: 020 8496 3000 (switchboard). If any of these prove unsatisfactory, please let me know.

Friends of Henry Reynolds Gardens

THE INAUGURAL meeting of the Friends was held at the Friends Meeting House, Bush Road (how appropriate) on 22 January at which a committee was elected and a constitution adopted which means that the group can now access reserved funds and start to put ideas into practice. Some of the funds have already been allocated to the children’s play area.

The short-term plans include clearing the area adjacent to John Drinkwater estate of its growth including the nasty Japanese knotweed and replanting with indigenous grasses and shrubs, then to provide nesting boxes for birds and bats. Please watch for local publicity for future events.

BERN LOWE

STOP PRESS: SHOPS NEWS – The café on the corner of Church Lane has returned to being a fruit and veg shop – welcome news!

PLANNING

Zulus' proposals

After several requests the Planning Department have now sent Zulus' application plans. They are proposing a fenced boarded drinking area for the entire length along Harvey Road and bricking in the old entrance to the garden to create more pub space inside. They are also proposing substantial alterations to the ground floor frontage with panels and glazing.

People nearby should have been notified direct. The deadline for responses is 16 March.

Carlton Road conversion application

In Carlton Road there is an application for eight one-bed units in a conversion of the previous tyre factory site, where planning had been given for two terraced houses. The plans are unreadable so adequate drawings have been requested so this can be considered. We understand some people have got up a petition against it on grounds of noise and parking.

Hartley Road rear extension

BARA opposed the building of a large rear extension to a building in Hartley Road on the basis that it overshadowed the neighbouring properties and was part of a speculative property development looking solely to maximise profit without regard to the effect on neighbouring properties.

Woodville Road garage/workshop

BARA also objected to the height of a proposed garage/workshop on Woodville Road as it would overshadow neighbouring gardens and its size would make it out of keeping with the other buildings nearby.

Work on Wanstead Flats

Work on Wanstead Flats was due to begin during the last week in February for approximately two weeks to try to encourage the return of an acid grassland habitat on the Flats which is a priority habitat under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (see also *letters*, page four). JUDY SCOTT



The Players present a Triple Bill of one-act plays at **The Welsh Church Hall, Leytonstone High Road on 15, 16 and 17 April at 8pm.** The triple is: Act One of *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill, *All*

Made Up With Falsies by Matt Mitchell and *Ark Life* by Stephen Balchin. Tickets are £6 each, £3 concessions and **must** be booked in advance. Phone **020 8504 3872** or email: woodhouseplayers@hotmail.com.

Top Girls and *All Made Up With Falsies* can also be seen at the Chingford Assembly Hall on Wednesday 24 March and Friday 26 March respectively as entries to the Waltham Forest Festival of Theatre.

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

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.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| STAR OF INDIA restaurant | 15% on dining in, 10% on takeaways (including deliveries). Discount applicable every day of the week, but does not apply to buffet evenings or other promotions. |
| 875 High Road
phone: 020 8989 4028 | |
| HEALTH FOOD SHOP | 10% off all items. |
| 47 Church Lane | |
| DOOR TO DOOR (ready meals).
phone: 07870 157392
(Sally or Mary) | Lunch and dinner on a weekly basis (M-F). £10 a day, delivered to your door. 10% discount. |
| BUBBLES (hats and clothes) | 10% off everything. |
| 698 High Road | |
| PRIMROSE FLORIST | 10% off purchases over £50. |
| 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...
and skincare):working from home | 10% off treatments
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 | |
| 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 | |
| THE RELAXATION PLACE | Free aromatherapy treatment with your first appointment: phone 8539 0001. |
| (aromatherapy face & body treatments): corner Browning Road and High Road (740A) | |