



The Bush Telegraph

The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents Association

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

Editorial

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS – BARA MEMBERS RECALL OLD LEYTONSTONE

MUCH AS I TRY to encourage members to look forward, our obsession with history always seems to drive our perspective back! So, on the basis that the customer is always right, this edition of The Bush Telegraph once again takes an in-depth look at all our yesterdays.

Indeed, not only do we have first-hand accounts of Leytonstone between the Wars from Yolande Ternouth, and of the problems experienced by poor ex-soldiers in the area after the 1914-18 War from Vi Eddy, we also have Rob Wilkinson's account of the history of the most famous of our local pubs, The Green Man (and yes, I know it's not called that any more) which is the first of a series.

Always ready to promote self-help, the BT also includes a guide on how you can get into the history business yourself – Mark Carroll writes about how to research your family history. And finally on the history theme, Andrew Cole reports on the formation of a new Local History Society, the inaugural meeting of which was attended by more than 100 local residents, reflecting BARA members' interest in how we've got to where we are today.

But all is not history! We've got an update from Thames Water, our usual reports on planning and social events, a taster article about Aldersbrooke Tennis Club – more next edition – our usual adverts and discounts list, and a report on what Clyde Loakes, the Leader of Waltham Forest Council and one of our local Councillors, has been

doing lately together with a request from him for feedback from BARA members. Finally, don't forget to let me have your e-mail address if you haven't already done so and to ask for our list of local skills and talents.

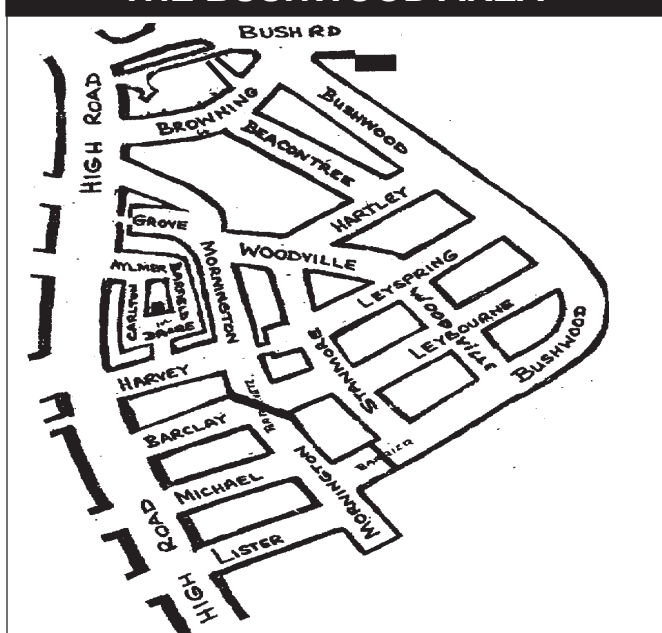
One housekeeping point – if you'll look at the list of Committee members inside, you'll see that we've tried to allocate a member to each road within the BARA area. The aim is to simplify things like the collection of membership subscriptions and to help us to keep our records of who's a member and who's not. "Your" rep won't be dealing with everything relating to your street, but s/he will be happy to act as a first point of contact for BARA matters – pop your membership fees, notes of queries etc through his or her door and s/he'll make sure they're passed on to the right person on the Committee.

Enjoy *The Bush Telegraph* – and if you've got something you'd like to say, or like to see included next time, let me know. Contact details are on page two in this edition.

BRIAN HOPSON

EDITOR, THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

THE BUSHWOOD AREA



NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

HOPEFULLY Spring will soon be here although the catkins on my nut tree suggest that it has arrived while the berries on my holly seem to contradict. Each season has its beauty and Spring signifies re-birth but your Committee has not been in hibernation. See elsewhere in this edition for what has been happening and what is planned for what looks like being another busy year

On a sadder note, with much regret we have received the resignation from the Committee of Judy Scott who has been dealing with planning matters for longer than I've been a member. This is an unsung and often unrecognised job that requires a lot of work and our thanks go to Judy for all her efforts. She will be a hard act to follow.

BERN LOWE

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

Laura: 020 8532 9553

Katy: 020 8556 5162

Quiz Night

Saturday 23 April 2005: 8pm at the Ex-Servicemen's Club, Harvey Road

We are happy to announce another opportunity for you to challenge friends and neighbours in the BARA Quiz. Teams of six, £2 per person. You can book in advance with Katy and Laura (Laura: 0208 532 9553; Katy: 0208 556 5162) or just turn up on the night. Don't worry if you don't have a team as you can always join another team.

Front Garden & Window Box Competition

8 June 2005

Committee members will be peering over garden gates and through hedges to judge the best front garden; small front garden and window box so get your hedge clippers out and your borders and boxes planted. Remember, *you have to be a BARA member to win*. Garden Vouchers awarded to the winners.

Litter Pick

10 July 2005 between 11am and 1pm

We always have a good turn-out for the litter pick! Your hard work is rewarded with refreshments and it is a good opportunity to meet neighbours. Meet under the Gazebo where Bushwood and Leyspring Road meet. Mechanical picker-uppers and strong plastic sacks provided. Bring your own gardening gloves if possible.

◆ **Watch this space for details of: - Pub night/Cycle ride/Summer cricket match/Trip to Walthamstow Dogs/BARA meal out.**

Extras around Leytonstone

The Leytonstone Royal British Legion is holding a VE 60th Anniversary Commemoration Buffet-Dance with the Eddie Cornish Quintet on Saturday 14 May 2005. Admission will be by ticket only (£4.00), children (5-15 years) £2.00. Pay on the door.

Trip to Boulogne

Details of a trip to Boulogne through the Ex-Servicemen's Club can be had from **Bob Cheek** on 07971 650461. Bob hopes to organise this for the beginning of May and once the date is announced, places go very quickly. So get your reservations in early!

◆ Don't forget that you can **borrow the BARA Gazebo** free of charge if you are a member. We also have a children's inflatable football goal for summer parties. Phone Katy on 020 8556 5162.

◆ We'd like to keep you up to date with social events as they are arranged, so why not **join our e-mail list?** Just send an e-mail including your street address to brianhopson@ntlworld.com.

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).

ARE YOU freelance/self-employed working from home? I'm looking for fellow freelancers to set up an informal social/business support group. Freelancers from all walks of life welcome – graphic designers, consultants, writers, researchers, PR advisers, artists, journalists, fitness trainers, photographers, etc. If interested please e-mail Asimita Naik: aningeneva@yahoo.com.

AVON. If anyone wants to order Avon products just give me a call and I will be happy to drop a catalogue through your door. Phone Patricia Roche: 020 8989 9728 (evenings).

AVON. To order products or to become a representative, run your own business! Phone Yetty Omole for details: 07960 513892 or 020 8556 4653 (evenings).

BOOK GROUP. If anyone is interested in forming a Bushwood Book Group to meet monthly/six-weekly please phone Liz Hayman: 07969 407886 or e-mail liz.hayman@telecity.com

CAT CARRIER basket for hire. Donation to BARA. Phone Helen: 020 8989 5845.

COMPUTER support, internet set-up and website design: www.hoshii.co.uk. Phone Mark: 07815 823650.

GARAGE required. Any garage for rent in the Bushwood area please let me know. Phone David Phillips: 020 8989 8372.

GUITAR lessons for beginners from the comfort of your own home. 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.

MARC FLETCHER Photography: www.marcfletcher.com. Weddings a speciality. Phone 07951 048819.

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.

TEAC T-R450 digital tuner for sale. As new with manual, £25. Phone Brian: 020 8989 8738.

VOLUNTEERS needed for the Age Concern charity shop in Leytonstone High Road. Income from the shop is vital to the work Age Concern does for older people in the borough. Volunteers of all ages welcome; full training given. Minimum commitment is half a day a week. More information from the shop manager, Patricia Robson. Phone 020 8532 8031 between 9.30am and 4pm.

WANTED. A sample machinist or dressmaker. Please phone Ms Scott: 020 8539 5609.

The BARA Committee 2004/2005

David Dowsett	74 Mornington Road
Robert Gay	137 Mornington Road
Liz Hayman: Planning	54 Leyspring Road
Brian Hopson: BT Editor, Press	49 Bushwood
	e-mail: brianhopson@lycos.com
Barbara Lond: Membership	42 Bushwood
Ann Long: Treasurer	43 Michael Road
Bernard Lowe: Chair	56 Browning Road
Andrew Shields: Secretary	9 Hartley Road
Katy Smith: Social	37a Harvey Road
Laura Whitehead: Social	44 Stanmore Road



Write on!



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

E-MAIL ADDRESS REMINDER

WE NOW have a total of 84 households on our e-mail list – an excellent achievement and thanks to all those who have sent me their e-mail addresses.

The Bush Telegraph comes out every three months so it's very useful to have an alternative means of getting information out quickly to members. I would urge anyone who has an e-mail address but who hasn't yet sent it to me to do so please.

I promise that your address will not be passed on to anyone else and the circulation system we use means that no-one can click on "reply to all" and flood members' in-boxes! So what have you got to lose? Just send a blank e-mail to me at brianhopson@lycos.com and I'll add you to the list.

BRIAN HOPSON

I WAS BORN in Leytonstone in 1916 and went to Goodall Road School (now demolished) and then on to Ruckholt Central School (also demolished - it was partly damaged during the Blitz).

I remember in the 1920s when cattle were brought in to the slaughterhouse in South Birkbeck Road every so often. They arrived in cattle trucks at the railway sidings at Temple Mills and were herded out of the gate at the bottom of the High Road at Leyton Bridge, on the corner of Maud Road. They crossed the High Road into Trelawn Road and then went over the railway line via the Langthorne Bridge along Langthorne Road (formerly Union Road) to the slaughterhouse. There were usually a couple of men herding them and the kids loved watching them, especially when some of the cattle tried to take a different turning.

Union Workhouse

I also remember at 4pm every day there was a long queue of men lining up to go into the Union Workhouse (now Langthorne Hospital). They were able to get a bed and a meal but had to be on their way the next morning. They were homeless and had to keep on the move. The dreadful thing was that many of them were ex-Servicemen who had fought in the 1914-18 War. They used to stand on the street corners selling boxes of matches from small trays, because they were unable to get work and were hungry, as were their families.

Hard times

Times were very hard in those days and a number of children couldn't go to school because their parents couldn't afford to buy them boots or shoes. Second-hand clothes were easier to come by as clothes didn't wear out so quickly as footwear. There was no help from the Government in those days.

VIOLET EDDY
BUSHWOOD

RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP BUT NO CARD YET? THEN READ ON ...

WE WANT to make certain that there are no mistakes on our membership list. If you haven't yet received a membership card even though you've paid your subscription, please let us know! In addition, if you're receiving this and are not yet a member of BARA, or have perhaps forgotten to renew your membership, why not join now? Subscriptions are only £1 a year for a single person or £2 a year for a household – a real bargain!

Please let any Committee member know if you're short of a membership card. If you'd like to join or rejoin, just pop a note of your name, address, e-mail address if possible, and your subscription through the door of your nearest Committee member and she or he will do the rest. A list of Committee members (and some other invaluable helpers – thank you!) is below, together with a list of the streets which each handles:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| •Aylmer Road | To Be Announced |
| •Barclay Road | Robert Gay, 137 Mornington Road |
| •Barfield Road | TBA |
| •Beacontree Road | Cyril Robson, 48 Beacontree Road |
| •Browning Road | Bern Lowe, <i>Chair</i> , 56 Browning Road |
| •Bush View | David Dowsett, 74 Mornington Road |
| •Bushwood | Brian Hopson, <i>BT Editor</i> , 49 Bushwood |
| •Carlton Road | TBA |
| •Dacre Road | TBA |
| •Grove Road | Brian Hopson, 49 Bushwood |
| •Hartley Road | Andrew Shields, <i>Secretary</i> , 9 Hartley Road |
| •Harvey Road | Katy Smith, <i>Social</i> , 37a Harvey Road |
| •High Road | Barbara Lond, <i>Membership</i> , 42 Bushwood |
| •Leybourne Road | Jo Pilc, 57 Leybourne Road |
| •Leyspring Road | Liz Hayman, <i>Planning</i> , 54 Leyspring Road |
| •Lister Road | Ann Long, <i>Treasurer</i> , 43 Michael Road |
| •Michael Road | Ann Long, 43 Michael Road |
| •Mornington Road | David Dowsett, 74 Mornington Road |
| •St Augustine's Court | Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road |
| •St John's Court | Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road |
| •St Mary's Court | Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road |
| •Stanmore Road | Laura Whitehead, <i>Social</i> , 44 Stanmore Road |
| •Woodbridge House | David Dowsett, 74 Mornington Road |
| •Woodville Road | Barbara Lond, 42 Bushwood |

BRIAN HOPSON

LEYTON AND LEYTONSTONE HISTORY SOCIETY

IT IS a curious fact that just about every area in east London has a historical society – apart from Leyton and Leytonstone.

On 3 February, however, that omission was repaired in style when more than 100 local residents attended the inaugural meeting of the Leyton and Leytonstone Historical Society at St John's Church.

WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

OUR PARENT Consultation Group would like to put on a celebration of women from all over the world. The idea is that we invite all the women living in our area to come along to the Epicentre on **Monday 7 March** (the day before International Women's Day) from 10am-3pm. We will also ask them if they would like to contribute by bringing information, artefacts and music, clothes etc from their culture or country of origin.

We will invite New Deal for Lone Parents, Children's Information Service, Childminding Network, CBHA Financial Health Checks, Local Training Courses, Health information Breast Cancer Screening, Five A Day Campaign, Smoking Cessation Team, our Health Visitors will have a stall and Cathall Leisure Centre will be asked to do health checks: blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar testing etc. On the day we will have rows of information stalls around the room and there will be tables decorated with artefacts from different cultures and countries around the world.

The women will be there to talk about their background and share their stories and experiences with other women. We will all have the opportunity to gain an understanding of our neighbours and other cultures while celebrating our own, and recognising that all women share the same ambitions and aspirations for their families. There will be displays of handy household tips etc from different countries and cultures and a little pampering – nail or henna art – along with a selection of food from around the world provided by different local cafes plus fresh fruit and juice and water. A DJ will play music from around the world and a crèche will provide care for children for up to 2 hours. There will also be an entertainer to keep everyone amused.

If you would like to participate, please call **Anna Rinaldi**, CINCH Sure Start, on 020 8503 0798.

The event was the brainchild of local historian Bill Measure but it would not have been possible without the support of the church's vicar, Rev Raymond Draper. So it seemed especially fitting that the meeting took place on the 160th anniversary of the creation of St John's as a parish.

So why set up a history society in Leytonstone? Neil Houghton, who works at the Docklands Museum, reported how a colleague had expressed surprise at the idea of a history society in this area, asking "there isn't any history out there is there?"

In fact, Mr Measure pointed out, this town is steeped in the past, from Romans and Saxons to some of the most impressive 18th and 19th century buildings in the area. And moving closer to the present there is the fascinating tapestry of stories that our increasingly multi-ethnic communities bring to the history of the borough.

But, as Mr Houghton emphasised, the point about a good historical society is that we learn from each other. "I hope people can share what they know, whatever their background. If they don't it's not history, it's just knowledge."

The meeting went on to elect a steering group, to be chaired by Mr Measure. It also started apportioning work to a number of working groups. The topics of these groups include family history, schools and education, war, oral history, health and welfare and the history of Wanstead Flats.

Anyone interested in joining one of the working groups or offering help in any other way should contact Bill Measure on 020 8558 5491 or e-mail measure@btinternet.com

And a note for your diaries: the society will be officially launched with an East London history fair at St John's Church on **Saturday 30 April** from 2-4pm. Other local history societies have been invited to take part in order to publicise their activities and publications. Everyone is welcome.

ANDREW COLE, BUSHWOOD

"Anyone for tennis?" Join Aldersbrooke Tennis Club!

I THOUGHT READERS might like to hear about our local tennis club, Aldersbrooke Tennis Club. We have had a successful Centenary Year sponsored by the Star of India and Braydon Motors and will have a full programme of events in 2005. We raise money for charity – last year we raised £5,000 for Richard House Children's Hospice and our fundraising will continue in the forthcoming year. We have six courts - three floodlit all-weather and three American Clay Courts - the only ones in Essex. As a result of this we have the Essex County Performance Squad training on them on a regular basis. The club house has been modernised throughout the last few years and is available for hire for private functions. We have about 400 members and

two club nights for social tennis and in addition we have beginners and improvers groups for those coming back to tennis or just starting. We have a regular Sunday afternoon for families so adults and children can play, and coaching for children after school on most weekdays. In addition we have many competitive teams in the Essex Leagues and will be holding a ladies' Open Tournament in June and a mixed Open Tournament in September.

If anyone is interested in getting back into tennis in readiness for the Summer season they can contact **Gerald Cox** - membership secretary on 0208534 4817 or our coach, **Phil Vivian** on 07951140086.

SUE OLIVER, LEYSPRING ROAD

What's happening in Leytonstone? Get updated with ...

CLYDE LOAKES' INFORMATION BULLETINS

SOME OF YOU may have received e-mail updates direct from Clyde Loakes, Leader of LBWF Council and one of our local Councillors, setting out what he's been up to. Clyde is very keen to keep local residents informed and sends his *Report from the Council Leader* bulletins out weekly. Extracts from some of his recent bulletins which may be of particular interest to BARA members are below.

As already reported in the BT, the borough's **financial settlement from Transport for London** for 2005/06 was the fifth highest in London and includes extra cash for work on the Green Man Roundabout. This will involve signals all round, improvements to the High Road/Bush Road junction including an extra bus-only lane on the southbound approach and three CCTV cameras to control the lights and deal with the infringements of the Yellow Box. Work starts in Spring and will end in the Autumn. In addition, yellow boxes have been painted on the roadway where Bush Road and Bushwood meet.

CPZ Visitor Vouchers are now available at the Leytonstone First Stop Shop.

Clyde's **fund for the purchase of bulbs** for schools, voluntary and community groups to plant has meant 85,000 new bulbs across the borough, some 12,000 in Leytonstone alone.

Planning approval has now been given for 61 flats on the **Hills Garage site** and construction has begun.

The **Alcohol Free Zone** in Leytonstone Town Centre, a Leytonstone Community Council initiative for which ward Councillors lobbied hard, is now producing results with some 50-plus alcohol confiscations and a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour outside the tube and bus stations.

Clyde and other ward Councillors managed to add extra **festive lights** to the High Road display this year and the hope is that the resulting scheme will be improved annually.

Clyde has been discussing the further roll-out of **Safer Neighbourhood Policing** with the Borough Commander. Leytonstone will be included in the next tranche of activity. By the end of March, we will have six dedicated police officers – one Sergeant, two PCs and three PCSOs. The officers will be based in the Leytonstone Police Station.

OFSTED have been conducting an inspection of the authority. Clyde met them and was questioned on plans for a Children's Trust Directorate, the Council's strategy for 14- to 19-year-olds, the relationship with EduAction (our service provider) and partnership working. This is OFSTED's first inspection of the authority since 2002 and results are expected by early April.

Clyde chaired the **Council Tax setting Cabinet** on 8 February. The intention was to recommend the Waltham

Forest element of the Council Tax increase to the full Council. The relevant figure is 4.65% and even if Mayor Livingstone manages to get his full and preferred budget through the Greater London Assembly, the total increase will be no more than 4.9%.

The **LBWF Older People's Strategy** which goes further than the social care issues which have been focused on traditionally, looking at leisure, learning, employment and benefit entitlement, is an area Clyde has been working on recently. Its overall aim is to ensure that services properly meet the needs of older people in the borough.

Later this year, the Government will change the **planning category for take-aways**, which currently sit within the A3 category, as do restaurants and pubs. It is proposed that this category should be split, so that while restaurants should remain as A3, pubs become A4 and take-aways A5. This will help the Council prevent changes over which they previously had no control such as the closure of the Central Cafe in Church Lane and its re-opening as a fast food outlet.

Clyde asks for feedback on these and other issues. For example:

- ◆ What issues would members like him to raise with Harry Cohen or Neil Gerrard during his regular MP's Briefing sessions?
- ◆ What do members think of the borough magazine, *WFM*?
- ◆ Is Leytonstone Library open when you want it to be open? Does it provide what you want and expect from a library in the 21st century?
- ◆ What about the LBWF website - www.lbwf.gov.uk? Do members use it? Is it informative? User friendly? What should be included but isn't?
- ◆ Would weekly recycling collection make us more likely to recycle, or likely to recycle more – or neither?
- ◆ What events would members like to see take place in Leytonstone Town Centre over the forthcoming year? Big events like Car Free Day, or smaller, more frequent events like markets and live performance and entertainment?
- ◆ Any thoughts on the naming of the developments on the Hills Garage site and the Matalan car park? Clyde has asked Council officers to explore some Hitchcock-related names but what do members think?

If you'd like to receive Clyde's bulletins direct, let him know at cllc.loakes@lbwf.gov.uk. If you have any thoughts on the points raised above, e-mail him at the same address or call his office on 020 8496 4611.

BRIAN HOPSON

Have you ever wondered who your great-grandparents and *their* great-greats were – where they lived, what they worked at, what their names were? You can ask older relatives about their grandparents and perhaps even further back, but living memory goes only so far. Now **Mark Carroll** of Bushwood gives us a comprehensive series of tips on

TRACING YOUR FAMILY ROOTS

YOU MAY HAVE seen some programmes on BBC2 at the end of 2004 in a series entitled *Who Do You Think You Are?*, in which various celebrities traced their family roots. Perhaps you thought to yourself, “I could do that,” but don’t know how or where to start. This article, based on my own experience over the past two years, provides some tips for budding genealogists in the Bushwood area.

Where to start

Start now! My biggest regret having taken up family history research is not having started sooner. Write down what you know: all the obvious relatives, with names and dates and places and relationships. Talk to the older members of the family: explain your purpose, then ask them to describe *their* older relatives, their own upbringing and jobs, significant life events, etc. Make notes, and expect elderly memories to be inaccurate sometimes (well, isn’t yours too?). Dig out any old family memorabilia: photos, certificates, medals, letters. Remember that you are trying to tell a story about your family members in the past, not just trying to construct an elaborate family tree.

At some point you will have to start searching systematically for information in standard sources. Decide which branch of the family you want to study – for instance, ORRISS would be a better choice than SMITH, an Essex-based family better than one in Ireland. Then identify the paternal grandfather; with luck, he was alive in 1901, so you can use the on-line census data to search for him. Alternatively, you may want to find his birth certificate, though in that case you will need to have some idea of when and where he was born. Or perhaps he was a soldier in World War 1, in which case you are in luck. But where to find all these documents?

Censuses, and what they tell you

A census has (with few exceptions) been held every 10 years since 1841, and its details can be informative. However for privacy reasons only data from the censuses for 1841 to 1901 are available to the general public. With a computer connected to the Web, you can trace family ancestors in the censuses of 1901 (for a fee) [1] and 1881 (for free) [2]. Bear in mind that all such databases are created from the transcribed records, and errors can occur at any stage of the process. For example, I have seen ORRISS written as CRRISS, and the spelling of the surname of my paternal grandmother (b.1895) as MACFADGEN (instead of MACFADYEN) stopped me finding her for quite a while in the 1901 census.

Census entries provide a wealth of detail - not all of it to be trusted! The family members will be there, their

relationships, marital status, age, profession, birthplace, plus the location of the family home. However, what the family told the enumerator, and what the latter wrote down, may bear little resemblance to reality. For example, the birthplace of my great-great-grandfather SMITH varies in three successive censuses from “London” to “West End” to “Ongar”. His mother-in-law’s age was recorded in one census as 45 when it was actually 54.

For the other censuses (1841-71 and 1891) you will need to know the family address so that you can look it up in the records - either on-line (for a fee) [3] or for free at the Family Records Centre (FRC) [4]. You can get a potential address from any one of a number of certificates, or maybe from a will.

Certificates, and what they tell you

Everyone is born, most people marry, everyone dies - each of these life events has been recorded with an official certificate since 1837. The FRC holds the relevant indexes, organised by year (in the recent past) or by quarter (previously) under Births, Marriages and Deaths. Marriages are the easiest records to search, as there is a choice of two surnames (though start with the more unusual). When you have located the relevant index entry, you can order the certificate, at £7 a go. The FRC has a Help Desk where you can ask for advice at any stage of the process.

Five days or so later the certificate arrives. It will tell you names and addresses and ages, or the father’s name (very important) or cause of death or woman’s maiden name or witnesses to a death or marriage. Any such piece of information can provide you with a new lead. For example, my great-great-grandfather SMITH’s wife died of tuberculosis in Leytonstone in 1895, and three years later he was married again - to the (widowed) mother-in-law of one of his sons!

Kill them off!

Avoid confusion by locating the death of each member of the family in the past. There is nothing more frustrating than looking for someone who is not alive. The death certificate is the obvious target. From that you might be able to find where someone is buried. My great-great-grandfather SMITH, for example, died in south Leytonstone in 1932 and was buried in a pauper’s grave in nearby Manor Park Cemetery – together with nine other people! He did not leave a will, but such records can help clarify family relationships. Indexes of wills since

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What's your favourite pub in the Bushwood Area? Why do you prefer it? Perhaps it's a place where the décor is modern and the music's loud, or maybe you like a more traditional pub where you can sup your pint in peace. Either way, every pub has its own tales to tell. This article from Rob Wilkinson of Bushwood is the start of an interesting new series featuring

LOCAL PUBS AND THEIR HISTORY

LEYTONSTONE developed into what is now a suburb of London when the railways opened up this part of north-east London in the mid-19th century. Before then it was a small hamlet. However, it was on the main coaching route out to Cambridge and Newmarket and there have been inns and hostelrys along its length for many centuries. It also had some significance as it was the last settlement before Epping Forest with all the attendant risks of travelling, not just from breaking down or being thrown from your horse, but also from highwaymen.

As London grew there was a need for more food and more horses to transport people and materials around. This main route into London became busy with the traffic carrying fresh produce, sold largely at Stratford Market, and hay to feed the horses that were needed to transport the food, other materials and people around. Due to this increase of traffic, the original inns were supplemented by new establishments all down the High Road to Stratford and beyond from the middle of the 19th century.

Over the next few issues there will be a potted history of each establishment, commencing from the north and moving southwards to the edge of our area. Some establishments are rich with historical information, others less so. We start with one that is – **O'Neill's and Annie McNamara's**.

This is the name of a chain of themed pubs found all over the country and hides a very historic site and name – that of the **Green Man**. The present building is at least the third on this site. The former wooden inn was roughly where the present building is now and was the most important coaching inn in the district. The earliest record of the Green Man is in 1660 with 'Dinner for the gentlemen and bread and beer for the boyes cost £2 1s 8d.' There is no record of how many gentlemen and boyes, but it does show that the inn served food as it was required to do so by law.

The era of the highwayman was in the 18th century but we have evidence that it was also in the previous one as well. The philosopher John Locke remarked in a letter in 1695 that 'there were several people robed in Eping Forest the same morning we passed it. We heard of it at the Green Man and our Ladys heart went pit a pat.' Dick Turpin got in on the act on 30 April 1737 where, 40 yards from the Green Man, he robbed Joseph Major of his horse, a horsewhip, a knife and seven or eight pounds in gold

and silver. In fact the landlord of the inn appears to have been in cahoots with local robbers as it was recorded that the inn contained a room called the Dick Turpin Chamber. In it was an enormous chest that could contain three or four men. There was a trap-door beneath it that led to another room with a passage out to the forest.

An unusual incident involving treason and a papist plot against King George I supposedly took place here in 1722. Three horsemen stopped at the Green Man for refreshments. One of them, Christopher Layer, a solicitor from Holborn and Jacobite, was allegedly overheard hatching a plot to kill the King in Leytonstone as he drove out of London. Layer was later arrested, tried and beheaded. His head was stuck on a spike on the Temple Bar in the City of London and it remained there for 30 years.

Towards the end of the 18th century the Green Man came into its own as a coaching inn, seeing six services a day out from London. In 1801 the building comprised a powdering closet, a small back parlour, a front parlour, a drawing room, a wash house, a kitchen, a cellar and an unspecified number of bedrooms.

In the middle of the 19th century the pub was rebuilt apparently to the south in brick and stucco. Its importance on the edge of Leytonstone was still clear in 1903 when there were complaints of hay carters stopping outside and presumably using the nearby pond to water their horses. The proprietor of the inn was told to encourage them to go somewhere else. This was the swan song of the Green Man's connections with horses. Within a few years a garage was opened next

door to cater for an entirely different form of transport.

Sad fate

The pub was rebuilt in 1930 in its present position to the north of the Victorian building that was demolished. In 1972 it became a music venue – one of the first disco pubs. In the renaming mania of the 1980s and 1990s it became **The Cube**. This failed to bring in more customers and it was done up in the 1990s as an "Irish" bar complete with a false shop window and décor, hence the present name. The dance/disco hall remains. The colour scheme of the outside leaves a lot to be desired as well. All in all a sad fate for a historic coaching inn.

Next edition: The North Star, the Walnut Tree and the Sheepwalk.



The Green Man, circa 1910

Continued from page six

TRACING YOUR FAMILY ROOTS

1858 are held at First Avenue House in Holborn [5], where you can order a copy of the will for £5. For example, my maternal grandfather Frank ORRISS died in Walthamstow in 1940, leaving an estate of just £269 1s 11d.

Church records

Before 1837 the Church kept records of christenings, weddings and burials, written in the Parish Registers (PRs). If you are lucky, the PRs will go back to the 1550s. My mother's (ORRISS) family lived in villages in SW Suffolk, where I can trace the male line back to a marriage in 1597. The PRs are usually kept in the relevant County Records Office (consult the Genuki website [6]), or in the capital at the London Metropolitan Archives [7] or the Guildhall Library [8]. You begin to see how lucky you are with family history research if you live in London and are studying a London-based family.

Of course, the PRs are ancient documents written in the script of the day, so reading them can be hard work. Most are in English, but the early ones are in Latin. The information given can be rather limited, sometimes just a name and a date of burial. With baptisms, the father's name will be there (and with luck the mother's too), so you can go looking for an earlier generation. If the child was illegitimate ("base-born"), then you'll have problems identifying the father. And all such research presupposes that folk stayed put in days gone by - by no means the case.

Other sources of information and help

1. Has an unknown distant relative already constructed a family tree? The Web is probably the best way to locate such a person. Try the Genforum website [9]. For example, I came across a fourth cousin once removed in Australia who had completed our common family tree back to 1725.
2. Adult education programmes. Waltham Forest offers an evening course in family history research that I found helpful. It is run by Mike NORRIS and is based in Chingford - details from the local library.
3. Local Family History Societies (FHS). At the outset everyone knows more than you do - pick their brains shamelessly, they will enjoy educating you. There is a FHS for Waltham Forest [10], another for the east of London [11].
4. The National Archives (TNA) at Kew [12] have extensive records of every type imaginable. The complexity of the place is daunting, so plan your visit accordingly. For example, you can trace an old soldier through his WW1 medals or his discharge papers (provided you know his regiment). Locally, family history information is held at Vestry House Museum in Walthamstow [13] - for example, church records and trade directories and electoral rolls.

5. Books. The local library has a range of relevant books, the most comprehensive being *Ancestral Trails* by Mark Herber [14].

6. Failing all else, you can ask me for advice: 56 Bushwood, or telephone 020 8530 4755, or e-mail m.carroll@qmul.ac.uk.

In conclusion

Researching your family history can be rewarding and at times frustrating – but always challenging. It is not just a case of seeing how many generations back you can go. You ought to ask yourself how your ancestors lived and died, how they earned a living, what motivated them, how world events impacted on them. In the process you'll learn a lot about social trends, local history, long-gone professions, old maps, and much more. Be warned though, as you may turn up some shocking information – bigamy and an apparent murder for instance, as in the BBC2 series. What you are *unlikely* to discover is that you are related to royalty; most of us are descended from unsung agricultural labourers, I'm afraid. Whatever you find out, the process of genealogy is absorbing and fun. And you are safe in the knowledge that even if you take a break, you can always come back to it: the past never goes away!

Information sources

- [1] 1901 census: www.1901census.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- [2] 1881 census: www.familysearch.org
- [3] 1871 and 1891 censuses: www.ancestry.co.uk
- [4] Family Records Centre: 1 Myddleton Street, Islington, London EC1R 1UW (tel.: 0845 603 7788) www.familyrecords.gov.uk
- [5] First Avenue House: 42 High Holborn, London WC1V 6NP (tel.: 020 7947 7022) www.familyrecords.gov.uk
- [6] Genuki: www.genuki.org.uk
- [7] London Metropolitan Archive: 40 Northampton Road, LONDON EC1R 0HB (tel.: 020 7332 3820)
- [8] Guildhall Library: Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EJ (tel.: 020 7332 3803)
- [9] Genforum: <http://genforum.genealogy.com>
- [10] Waltham Forest FHS: contact Mr S. Britten, 26 Barrett Road, London E17 9ET
- [11] East of London FHS: contact c/o 46 Brights Avenue, Rainham, Essex RM13 9NW, or go to www.eolfhs.org.uk
- [12] The National Archives: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- [13] Vestry House Museum: Vestry Road, London E17 9NH (tel.: 020-8509-1917) www.lbwf.gov.uk/leisure/intro/
- [14] Herber, M. (2000) *Ancestral Trails*, Stroud, Glos.: Sutton Publishing

A BARA member looks back at

LEYTONSTONE BETWEEN THE WARS

MY MOTHER AND FATHER lived in Leyton - they married during the 1914-18 war and as soon as Dad came out of the Navy they came to live in Leytonstone and I was born. My earliest memories are of lying in bed on Monday evenings and hearing St John's bell ringers at practice - as they still do.

Saturday afternoons were dedicated to watching brides posing on St John's Church steps and driving off in cars. The annual Leyton Carnival was high entertainment as it passed our house.

I went to Kirkdale School and remember vividly many of the teachers. What characters they were, all spinsters, and even now I can't hazard a guess at their ages. One who did get married cried for a week. I heard later that it was because she would have to give up teaching. I seem to have spent all my out of school time swinging on the enormous hand-operated level-crossing gates, and having encounters with the gangling teenage youths who opened and shut them.

Where the Public Library steps are now were two shops leading into each other run by the Misses Wengel. The left hand shop did not interest me – the colossal, blonde, younger Miss Wengel sold make-up, hair-dye, wigs and packets of things to cure all ills. But the dark haired Miss Wengel on the right had such a toy shop as dreams are made of. I hardly ever had more than a penny to spend, but she would let me loll on her wooden counter and engage her in conversation for hours, day after day.

All the shops in Church Lane I knew as well as my own home, which until 1938 was at the end of Harrington Road when it was pulled down in preparation for the electrification of the railway. Evans and Davis the large Drapers, Hardings the small one, Holstock the fishmonger with an enormous marble slab at the centre of an open space. Houghs I loved. They were the stationers, and the assistants used ladders all the time to reach stocks of paper that soared to the ceiling. They sold lots of nibs (I had a real collection). They sold sheets of gaudy "scraps", pencils of course, and fountain pens and ink. Durrants was the shoe shop. Barbara Durrant was in my class at school. Overies the hairdresser where I had my hair bobbed very often, up a long narrow flight of stairs, the barber's shop was downstairs. Ellisons the sweetshop with their bottles and jars of goodies, what an incredible stock they had! They also had an extremely high counter and on it white painted spindly rungs holding shelves, again almost up to the very high ceiling. Druces was the men's shop where we would buy hankies, socks or braces for Dad at Christmas. Stavely's was the grocers selling sugar and biscuits by the pound and cereals of all kinds

from sacks standing on the floor. On the bend opposite the station stood a large, all glass, none too successful teashop, which had previously been a "fancy-work" shop.

Outside the station, across the level-crossing, a horse and cab was usually waiting for passengers, its driver seated high up in the open wearing a bowler hat. Back to the end of Church Lane that faces the Church, the present library building replaced an almost Tudor-style wooden building housing the local newspaper. There was a cobbled passage wide enough for a horse and cart and a chemist and a music shop. I am not sure when Sainsbury's arrived nor whether they were there at the same time as the more superior grocers, Mores (no pun intended). They smelt of spice and coffee, and sold preserves and ham and packet tea. But in the High Road trams rattled along, I always enjoyed rides on top. The seats had movable



High Road tram, early 1900s

wooden backs that could be turned to face whichever way the tram was travelling. Later the trams were all glassed in except the circular part at front and back. Tram travel did have its disadvantages. My uncle was killed when the wheel of his cycle jammed in the metal rails that were set in the road; he was thrown under a lorry. When other children at school had fairy-cycles and later, bikes, my parents would not let me have one, because of the memory of it.

In the High Road, Bearman's was a lovely busy shop on a Saturday afternoon. They had those little cash pots that the assistants screwed your money into, pulled a handle and your change wrapped in your bill came whizzing back along the wire. Very complicated they looked where they all converged on the high up central cashier's cabin.

For some years after all my friends were going to the Rialto to the pictures, my parents would not let me go. I can't remember if my eyesight or my morals were thought to be endangered. But when the school proposed taking us to see "Song of Africa" they consented and from then on Saturday mornings were a must, with films, live talent, the great big organ and thousands of children shouting their heads off in that glittering, carpeted cinema. Later on we felt as if we owned the place, we knew it so well.

As we lived so near, I don't think I ever had a meal in Lyons nor the ABC facing it, next door to the NatWest Bank. But one of my aunts used to go for a cup of tea at Wishes Dairy/tea shop and would buy me an ice cream in a glass dish with a wafer stuck in corner-wise. This was

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BARA VOICES OBJECTIONS AT PUBLIC ENQUIRY

LBWF’s Unitary Development Plan

THE LONG-AWAITED Public Enquiry into Waltham Forest Council’s new Unitary Development Plan took place in January. Unfortunately, I was ill when BARA’s session was to take place, and we were heard at an adjourned session in February. We are grateful to the Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for granting this adjournment.

We are also grateful for being allowed to put our case orally: the process of public enquiries has become very much a matter of written “proofs” in place of oral submissions, in a way that can be impossible for voluntary organizations (the Civic Society, for instance, was unable to take part in this UDP revision).

So, in a small room upstairs at the Epicentre there

were the Inspector, the Council’s barrister, five Council officials from the Planning Department, the representatives of BARA, and the Inquiry’s timetable officer. BARA’s objections took from 11.30am to about 2.50pm (with 20 minutes for sandwiches, and some odd pauses for coffee).

COMMITTEE
MEMBER
ROBERT GAY
REPORTS

Bernard Lowe attended with me, and I was also supported by two members of BARA, Ann Bush from the High Road and Miriam Muzzell from Bushwood. It was helpful for the Inspector to see that our issues were not simply a matter of one person with a bee in his bonnet representing the Association, but were

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LEYTONSTONE BETWEEN THE WARS

where Pollins now is on the corner of Burley Road: on the opposite corner was the Post Office. Behind the Post Office was a narrow lane, at the end of which lived Wishe’s cows and Wishe’s dairies, where you could buy a pint of milk loose if you took one of those oval tins with a flap lid and wire handle. At one time we had four different milkmen calling at the house every day because Mother fell for one promotion scheme after another - Wishes, the Co-op, Hitchman’s, and the Convent. The latter came from an actual Convent in Davies Lane, where the Pastures Youth Club now stands. One old milkman in the road, but whom we did not patronise, was said to be in his 70s. He was very thin and had a white pointed beard. Like all milkmen he pushed a heavy cart round in all weathers all hung about with these milk cans. His was the tallest and most top heavy of them all. One day the camber of the road caught it and the lot crashed to the ground. I saw him sitting on the kerb crying and wiping his eyes on his apron.

A school friend had joined the public library and took me along to join too; for this one paid a penny. It was housed in a lovely large house in the shadow of the Midland Railway station.

At the other end of the High Road the Green Man Pond was a favourite place to go and feed the ducks and the pair of swans who nested in the gardens of the large house on the other side of the rather smelly water. Despite this, many children paddled in it, either with or without Wellingtons and usually with fishing nets. There were

accidents and we once saw a boy injure his foot having stepped on a broken glass bottle in the water. A policeman, always ready to hand in those days, stopped the first car that came along and told the driver to take the boy to Whipps Cross Hospital. Superior fishing however was to be had in the small pond in Bushwood - now I think dried up and grown over, but newts and sticklebacks and frog’s spawn were to be found there then. Tennis courts were laid out on the grass opposite the houses in Bushwood and on Sunday evenings we would stroll there to watch, or listen to the preacher and the hymn singing to a small organ, or the Salvation Army with its band and exhortations to repentance. There were tennis courts too in Leyspring Road where the four newer houses stand at the junction with Stanmore Road. My Mother told me she could remember when one side of Leyspring Road was all brambles and hedge with a ditch “along which ran the Ley Spring”. The name Lister Road was given in honour of a Dr Lister. When I was in senior school I was in Lister House, one of four names chosen to celebrate local luminaries. Dr Lister lived in a large house behind a high brick wall on the other side of the High Road opposite the Green Man. The family were Quakers and I knew the two elderly ladies who were his daughters.

I wonder how many other oldies of the district remember the orphanage which was also on the far side, built-up, bank of the Green Man Pond? It housed only children well below school age. Mother used to ring at the door set in a brick wall in Browning Road and hand in our out-grown baby clothes. The place is hardly worth a mention except for the 10 or 12-seater prams the nurses used to push round the streets. I don’t know how many they had but they must have been unique.

JOIN BARA'S LIST OF SKILLED AND TALENTED PEOPLE

DON'T FORGET to let me know if you have any special skills or talents which might be of use to other members of BARA. Our list now includes a locksmith, a music teacher, a photocopier, fax and printer repairer, two IT specialists, a qualified exponent of holistic massage, a general handyman, a carpenter and general builder. If you'd like a copy of the list, or if you'd like to be included on it, let me know on brianhopson@lycos.com, call on 020 8989 8738 or pop a note round to 49 Bushwood.

BRIAN HOPSON

Continued from page ten

UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

felt by a number of people. (Also, the Inspector gave a freer rein to the others to describe their experiences, while she treated me as a semi-professional.) The contrast between the experiences of someone whose flat overlooks the High Road and someone overlooking Wanstead Flats was very striking.

The main themes can be summed up in three words: *character, density and parking.*

Character. BARA is committed to maintaining the amenity of our area as a residential area. The Council's policy is to have a little of everything in every part of the Borough (a little light industry, a little development for Housing Associations – since the Council can't build council houses any more, "social housing" for rent is to be imposed on developers as a sort of tax). The Inspector seemed sympathetic to the idea that to get a good "mix" in the Borough as a whole it must retain the people who now live here but could easily choose to move elsewhere.

Density. There is pressure from the Government and from the Mayor of London to squeeze more people not just into Central London but into areas like ours. (The Government is confronted by the shortage of housing and rampant house prices in the south-east, and chickens away from building New Towns outside the Green Belt as was done after the Second World War, and Ken likes Paris, which is more compact than London, and wants to make London more like it.)

The result is that within 800 metres of Leytonstone Tube station, the Council wants a density of I-forget-quite-how-many habitable rooms per hectare (yes, there is a definition of "habitable rooms" in the UDP – your kitchen may count, but only if you have a breakfast bar). Such developments away from the High Road would make an obvious change in the character of our area, as well as creating problems such as the lack of space for children to play.

The Inspector had herself observed the differences between the High Road and the side streets in our area, and she may have sympathy with our concerns. However, she is likely to be constrained by general planning policy which is set by the Government.

Parking. Please do not think we are obsessed by cars! Many members of BARA (and some members of your Committee) do not own cars, and we none of us want Leytonstone to be more like a suburb of Los Angeles.

The Council's problem arises because we live in an area of terraced housing where the residents of houses have to park on the street, and the streets are close to full at night. If more flats are built, where will the people put their cars? If they have to go on site, the Council might not get the "density" it seeks. If they go on the street, the result will be "parking stress" for residents.

We opposed the Council's plan to abolish the standard that if a terraced house is converted to two flats, there should be an off-street car parking space. (Without that, there would be another one or two cars on the street, and I asked the Inspector to imagine what that would do in the "Square"). We also opposed the plan for new blocks of flats within CPZs without parking on site and where the residents are not allowed to park in the CPZ (so they will park just outside the CPZ – in the jargon, these are called "car-free developments").

The real question about car-free developments is whether people are prepared to live in flats in Leytonstone in the way people live in apartments in Manhattan and Ken's Paris. If you live on Manhattan, you do not even think of trying to own a car: you take a taxi to church on Sunday morning; if you want to go into the country for the weekend you hire a car, and if you want to visit your family then America is so big you probably fly anyway. People may be prepared to live in that way as part of the price they pay for a flat in Mayfair or Soho, but will they in E11? If not, then it will have to be a constraint on any development that space must be found for people's cars.

I find it very hard to guess what the Inspector will say about car-free developments. I hope she will decide that they are not appropriate here. This need not mean there has to be a flat car park behind each block of flats: it is always possible to dig down and put garages below and flats above.

The Inspector is likely to take three or four months to write her report: I expect to have more news about June.

PLANNING

2 Hartley Road

A PLANNING application to add three additional rooms at the rear led to neighbours contacting BARA. The house is let out room by room and noise disturbance had led to a noise abatement order being served. Neighbours were concerned that more people would mean more noise. The Council were advised and no decision has been taken as yet.

JUDY SCOTT

Update on Thames Water pipeline

MEET THE THAMES WATER TEAM AT DAVIES LANE

THOSE OF YOU who have been waiting in private trepidation, or with public-spirited enthusiasm, for Thames Water to start digging their exploratory bore holes can draw breath – they’ve had a few problems with their previous contractor and have let a new contract to Murphy’s. A construction plan is being drawn up and digging should be starting shortly.

In addition, Thames Water has just put a formal application for the pipeline to LBWF. Lots is happening on this. LBWF will lodge a copy of the application for public inspection, probably in Leytonstone Library, as soon as possible. BARA has just received a copy of the application direct from Thames Water which we are considering. We have also been formally consulted by LBWF and have until mid-March to submit comments. **Thames Water have also arranged for a “drop in” session to be held at Davies Lane School between 4pm and 8pm on 17 March** at which residents will be able to see the plans and meet and question the TW project team. Any comments resulting from this would need to be sent to us or to the LBWF Planning Authorities very quickly if they are to be included in the planning process.

In the meantime, if anyone would like to see the BARA copy of the application, please let Committee member Liz Hayman know (contact details on page two in this edition). Once you’ve seen the plans, you can send comments direct to LBWF or you can let Liz know what you think so that she can prepare a BARA submission if necessary.

Finally, TW have offered to come and meet once again with representatives of your Committee to talk through any problems. This will give us the chance to sort out any minor concerns in advance of the formal planning hearing. We’ll report back on the result of any such meeting in the next BT.

BRIAN HOPSON

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.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>STAR OF INDIA restaurant
875 High Road
phone: 020 8989 4028</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p>VIDEOBUFFS
696 High Road
phone: 020 8539 9695
10am–10pm seven days a week</p> | <p>Discounts are: Rent a movie and get second free. Buy one hour on Internet and get second hour free.</p> |
| <p>BILLINGFORD LTD

NATURE’S CHOICE
(health food) 47 Church Lane
DOOR TO DOOR (ready meals).
phone: 07870 157392
(Sally or Mary)</p> | <p>25% off all Corgi plumbing and heating services. All types of work undertaken.
10% off all items.
Lunch and dinner on a weekly basis (M-F). £10 a day, delivered to your door. 10% discount.
10% off everything.</p> |
| <p>BUBBLES (hats and clothes)
698 High Road
PRIMROSE FLORIST.....
741 High Road
CENTURY 21 (estate agents) ...
Church Lane
ZAIN GREETINGS
(cards, gifts, stationery)
48 Church Lane
DOGS DINNER
(pet and garden shop)
23 Kirkdale Road
DEANNA DONOVAN (beauty...
and skincare):working from home
BANSAL OPTOMETRISTS
775 High Road
NATIONAL SCHOOLWEAR...
841 High Road
(Near McDonalds)</p> | <p>10% off purchases over £50.
30% off standard commission rate.
10% off all cards and gifts (except special offers/sale items).
10% off accessories.
Other items 5% off purchases over £5.
10% off treatments
phone: 020 8558 7223.
10% off goods over £50.
10% off general schoolwear. They also stock things like Brownie uniforms.
10% off everything (except Sale items).
10% off purchases over £100.
10% off one-hour or 24-hour film processing. 10% off 35mm and APS reprints. 5% off films.
10% off all purchases.</p> |
| <p>IRONICA (ironware and gifts)...
853 High Road
MONARCH SPORTS
815 High Road
MEMORIES
Photographic Services
829 High Road
FRESH WATER FILTER CO....
Carlton House, Aylmer Road
THE RELAXATION PLACE....
(aromatherapy face & body treatments): corner Browning Road and High Road (740A)</p> | <p>Free aromatherapy treatment with your first appointment: phone 020 8539 0001.</p> |

LOCAL SHOPPING DISCOUNTS!

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