



The Bush Telegraph

The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents Association

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

Editorial

WELCOME to the September edition of *The Bush Telegraph*. As usual, this BT covers a wide range of topics including the history of our local pubs, forthcoming social events, planning issues, traffic and even what constitutes a "judge and jury club"! We look at issues of concern to members and report on actions taken by the Committee since the last BT was issued in July.

On page seven, there is an article by Jo Pilc setting out her personal view on proposals by the Epping Forest Conservators concerning the re-establishment of cattle in the Forest, including in Bush Wood and Wanstead Flats opposite Bushwood. In fact, the Conservators plan three major public consultations covering site plans for Wanstead Park and Wanstead Flats and the management of cattle grazing on Epping Forest.

The consultations will explore a range of questions including: how often you visit the Forest and why; whether Wanstead Flats should be renamed (historically, it was know as Wanstead Heath); what organised sports should be played on the Flats; whether there should be more car parking by the football pitches in Aldersbrooke; and what other facilities should be provided on the Flats. But it is perhaps the cattle question which is of particular interest for BARA members; this is examined on page seven.

More detailed information on all this can be requested from the Corporation of London Open Spaces Dept on 020 8508 0028. Alternatively, you can look on the web at the Epping Forest web site at http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/living_environment/open_spaces/epping_forest.htm and follow the links. **You can respond to the consultation direct but the BARA Committee is considering these proposals, so please do copy your views to them. The consultation will end on 25 October.**

This kind of issue is important to us because it affects the way we live, our environment, the very feel of the area. The Bushwood area is in some ways a well-kept secret. We have advantages that other, perhaps more highly regarded areas do not – although we do have problems, and live in what is essentially an inner London borough (which means easy access to central London), we have the Forest on our doorstep, excellent communication links, by road and by tube as well as bus and train, a good range of shops, pubs and fine restaurants (our honorary member the Star of India, in the High Road, has just been voted the best restaurant in Waltham Forest – congratulations Shah!).

BARA is all about trying to ensure that's what's best about the area is conserved and what's bad is improved. BARA Committee members invest a great deal of time

and effort in the wellbeing of the Bushwood area and every one of us has an interest in ensuring that their work is successful.

The BARA Annual General Meeting takes place at St John's Church Hall, on the corner of Church Lane and the High Road, at 8pm on Monday 26 September. It is an informal event which gives everyone the chance to learn more about BARA, to hear in more detail what the Committee has been up to over the past year and to make an input into the direction of the organisation. This pre-AGM edition of the BT is being delivered to all households in the Bushwood area, not just to members, to give you a flavour of what BARA is and, we hope, to encourage you to attend the AGM and, if you are not already a member, to join for your benefit and the benefit of your neighbours.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Membership currently costs only £2 a year for a household or £1 a year for a single person, although the Committee plans to put a proposal to the AGM that present subscription rates be increased to £3 per household and £2 for a single person. Please do consider joining us. If you are unable to make the AGM, a list of street contacts is on page five and they will be happy to process your membership application. **BRIAN HOPSON**

IF YOU PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BEFORE THE 26 SEPTEMBER AGM, YOU'LL PAY ONLY THE PRESENT RATE:
Single people: £1 per year Households: £2 per year

From:
Name
Address.....
Amount enclosed.....
Please use the envelope provided to pay your subscription. Just drop it through your street contact's door – see page five – or through your nearest committee member's door (addresses on page two).

SOCIAL EVENTS

Laura: 020 8532 9553
Katy: 020 8556 5162

BIKE RIDE

Sunday 2 October 2005

We are pleased to announce that Dwight Wood has agreed to organise a bike ride on Sunday 2 October to Limehouse Link and Canary Wharf, returning by Mile End and the Eastway. Dwight promises that this is a lovely easy route with no hills and has timed the ride to take two-and-a-half hours. With various stop-offs for resting and refreshments you will be back in Leytonstone by 3.30-4pm. Those wishing to go should meet at Dwight's residence, Carlton House (behind the NatWest Bank in the High Road) at 11am. There is no charge for this outing.

STAR OF INDIA

Monday 10 October 2005

First, congratulations to everybody at the Star of India for their success in being voted the **best restaurant in Waltham Forest** in the *Waltham Forest Guardian's* recent competition. This is a very well-deserved honour and it's good to see all Shah's hard work being so well rewarded! The award should persuade even more members than usual to join us in what has become a regular event in the BARA calendar, a charity night at the restaurant on Monday, 10 October for BARA members. Shah will put on a buffet meal (including excellent vegetarian options) at a very reasonable price and we hope to organise some raffles and the like to liven up the evening. If you are interested in coming along please contact Katy or Laura so that we can let the restaurant know how many will be attending. We hope to fill the restaurant for what will be a bit of a party to lighten a dark autumn evening!

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 22 October 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 will be made up of six members and the charge will be £2 per person. You can book in advance with Katy and Laura or just turn up on the night. Don't worry if you don't have a team as you can always join another team.

KATY SMITH

The BARA Committee 2004/2005

David Dowsett	74 Mornington Road
Robert Gay	137 Mornington Road
Liz Hayman: <i>Planning</i>	54 Leyspring Road
Ann Long: <i>Treasurer/Membership</i>	43 Michael Road
Bernard Lowe: <i>Vice-Chair</i>	56 Browning Road
Andrew Shields: <i>Secretary</i>	9 Hartley Road
Katy Smith: <i>Chair/Social</i>	37a Harvey Road
Laura Whitehead: <i>Social</i>	44 Stanmore Road

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: page three).

A CHOICE of three bicycles for sale, £20 each. Please phone 020 8539 5696.

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.

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 autumn parties. Just phone Katy to arrange the loan! 020 8556 5162.

DRUM TEACHER: Experienced drummer and teacher. Teaches all ages. Phone Josh: 07712836648

FOR SALE: Ladies' **extremely rarely used** Hagler Traffic 26" **bicycle**. Shimano gears, front and rear lights, rear parcel rack, Halford's security clamp. Two never-used spare tyres. Rack for transporting on a car. This is a bargain at £65. Please phone Andrew or Marigemma: 020 8530 3880.

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

GOOD cleaner looking for more work. Reliable, honest, can supply references. Phone Sue: 020 8923 7823

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.

LEYTONSTONE freelancers: Are you freelance/self-employed working from home? I'm looking for fellow freelancers to set up an informal business/social support group in this area – freelancers from the Leytonstone/Wanstead areas welcome. Members can come from all walks of life – graphic designers, management consultants, writers, researchers, artists, personal development coaches, journalists, financial consultants, PR advisers, human resources consultants, fitness trainers, IT consultants, photographers etc. If you're interested please e-mail me: aningeneva@yahoo.com.

MORE MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS ON PAGE THREE

News from the Chair

Katy Smith

WELL, HERE WE ARE at the end of a lovely summer in Bushwood. The Committee has been working hard on behalf of residents this year and I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for all their hard work throughout the year.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 26 September at 8pm in St John's Church Hall and we hope that many of you will attend and look forward to welcoming

you on the night. As always we hope that some of you will volunteer to sit on our Committee as we would like to have a good cross-section of our community represented.

The Committee meets once a month and I know that everyone's time is precious but it would be good to have a few more residents join those of us who are willing to continue with the excellent work of BARA.

Nightclub's Entertainment Licence renewal is granted

RESIDENTS IRATE OVER LATE-NIGHT CLUBBERS

OVER THE PAST few years many residents have suffered from continued disruption from the clientele of Zulus in the High Road. The task force organised by the owners has tried hard to alleviate the problems but sadly to no avail. You may have seen articles in the local paper about some of the problems, especially over the last few months, and representatives of the residents and BARA attended the hearing for the renewal of Zulus Entertainment Licence on 8 August.

We felt that it was not appropriate to have a nightclub in a residential area where 300-400 customers pile out

into the High Road and surrounding streets at 2am. Sadly the campaign to oppose the renewal was not successful and many of us who attended felt that we did not get a fair hearing and are pursuing this with the Council with the help of our Ward Councillors.

- ◆ If any resident does experience any problems from Zulus clientele we would encourage you to **contact the community police** if it is not an urgent matter: phone **020 8345 2522** and leave a message.
- ◆ If there are violent clashes between customers or public disorder problems then you should **dial 999** and report it to the police.
- ◆ If the problem is excessive noise you should ring the **Noise Officer: 020 8496 3000**. Even if you cannot speak to someone in person please leave a message as the more complaints that are recorded by the Noise Officer and the police the more chance we have of successfully sorting out the problems at Zulus and if necessary having their licence revoked in the future.

Take a note

Please also keep a diary of incidents – date, time and what occurred – and let me have the details at 37a Harvey Road. With the new licensing laws coming into force in November we could end up with further problems in the future.

We were also unsuccessful in opposing the planning application for a large snooker hall above the **99p shop** next to Superdrug in the High Road. These premises will also have an alcohol licence and the owner has said that he plans to apply for a late licence until 3am which we feel is inappropriate in a residential area.

KATY SMITH

THE BUSH TELEGRAPH ADVERTISER

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

PC SOLUTIONS. Having trouble with PC networking at home or small office? Is your PC getting bogged down with worms and spyware? Has your Wi-Fi gone pear-shaped? Or do you just want to share a broadband Internet connection? Help is at hand – let a PC specialist with over 15 years' experience sort out your PC woes. Hardware upgrades too. Phone Roger: 020 7254 2245 or e-mail roger@gann.com.

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.

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Therapist on your doorstep! Experience the bliss of being pampered, feeling relaxed and releasing stress. 22 Stanmore Road. Phone Helen: 0208 989 3840.

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.

Our March and July editions of *The Bush Telegraph* carried Parts One and Two of Rob Wilkinson's intriguing series on local pubs and their history. Part Three concludes this series, so join Rob now on

A PUB TRAWL DOWN LEYTONSTONE HIGH ROAD

THIS FINAL PART of our pub trawl covers the last two of our Leytonstone High Road pubs, The Two Brewers and Zulus – and includes a bonus!

The Two Brewers

This is the only “lost” pub in our series, although it has already been mentioned in *The Bush Telegraph*. It is located at 674 High Road and its opening date is unclear. It is listed as an 1872 beerhouse. This means it came under legislation passed in 1872 to regulate the number of beerhouses in the country. It could have opened before this date, but the earliest date I have been able to find is the 1881 Census when George Parker, beerhouse keeper, his wife and four children lived there.

By 1896 Alexander Wallace was the licensee. When his licence came up for renewal it was opposed by the police. In the words of the Beacontree Licensing Committee:

“Alexander Wallace at 8.30pm on 19th April was visited by Insp. Corcoran and another officer who entered the parlour and saw several men, some of whom were dressed in costume. One of them was attired in a metropolitan police inspector's tunic and belt and upon inquiry of the landlord it was stated that it was a ‘judge and jury’ club (laughter). There was no disorder and though the house had been under police supervision there was no harm in it provided they did not dress up as chairmen of petty sessions (more laughter).”

Obviously he was being observed by the police for unknown reasons, although he lasted as landlord until at least 1901, so whatever it was they appear to have never found anything on him. Judge and Jury Clubs were, I suppose, the equivalent of karaoke evenings in the Victorian era. It was said a large amount of alcohol was required to be consumed in order to maintain the entertainment. No change there then.

The premises remained as a beerhouse, only selling beer, until 1927 when it obtained a wine licence. It was upgraded to a full licence in 1957, only seven years before it closed in 1964. It was originally a Paulins House which, by the time of closure, had been taken over by Watneys. It is currently a Mecca Betting Shop. The only item that betrays its former past is the pub sign bracket that is still on the outside of the building. Have a look next time you go down the High Road. It must have been a very small

establishment compared to some of its neighbours – probably a reason for closure.

Zulus

This is so named because of its recent South African/Zimbabwean ownership. The pub itself has a much longer history going back to the 17th century. The earliest we can get back to is 1670, when it was recorded that Widow Unwin of the “Robin Hood” Leytonstone was buried. Obviously the establishment is older than that but I cannot get beyond this date. Women play a surprisingly important role in pub life and most women left widowed in 17th-century England had to find a way of making a living. Many women took on licences either taking over from their husbands, or taking on licences in order to cope financially. They perpetuated the tradition of the alewife going back to at least the 14th century.

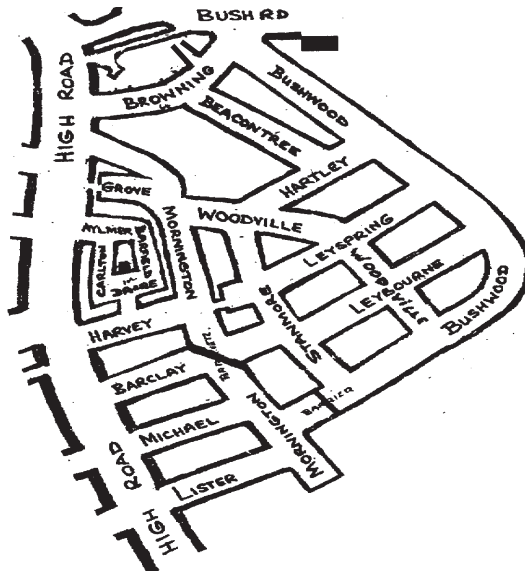
The Robin Hood was an important establishment, possibly more important in the 17th century than the Green Man as it was the centre of justice for the local area. We know this because of a surviving record book of a local magistrate, William Holcroft. On a number of occasions he records cases he has heard at the Robin Hood. In 1685 and 1686 the justices dealt with selling ale without a licence, not going to divine service (a crime then subject to a fine) and looking after the interest of a bastard child in the parish of Chinkford (it was spelt with a ‘k’ until the 19th century). A final example is best described in Holcroft's own words:

“4th January 1686 I bound John Stephens of Wanstead, brickmaker to appeare at ye next quarter sessions, for saying that the justices of the peace were all drunk at a monthly meeting held in October last at the ‘Robin Hood’ at Layton Stone and that they did refuse to doe him justice. I bound him in £10. I bound Henry Read of Low Leyton, carpenter, his suretie, £5. 11th ditto. I sent this recognisance to the quarter sessions per Mr Mildmay. Stevens did not appeare”. “At a monthly meting at the ‘Robin Hood’ at Laytonstone, held by Sir Thomas Fanshawe, Sir Richard Pigot and my sealf.”

Obviously if true it was an occupational hazard holding a court in an alehouse. In 1733 there was a meeting of the Leyton Vestry in the Robin Hood. The

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THE BUSHWOOD AREA



Annual General Meeting

Monday 26 September 2005

8pm

St John's Church Hall

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Minutes of AGM 2004
- 3 Presentation of accounts
- 4 Review of the year
- 5 The year ahead
- 6 Election of new Committee members

Refreshments provided

Nominations and notices of amendments to
37a Harvey Road by 12 September

IF YOU HAVE A BARA MEMBERSHIP QUERY – WE'LL HELP ...

SET OUT below is a list of those people – Committee members and helpers – who cover individual roads in the area for BARA. If you have a membership query, please have a word with your street representative who will make sure it is sorted out!

Contact details for those responsible for particular areas of BARA's work are shown in the Committee list on page two of this edition of the BT.

- Aylmer Road
- Barclay Road
- Barfield Road
- Beacontree Road
- Browning Road
- Bush View
- Bushwood
- Carlton Road
- Dacre Road
- Grove Road
- Hartley Road
- Harvey Road
- High Road
- Leybourne Road
- Leyspring Road
- Lister Road
- Michael Road
- Mornington Road
- St. Augustine's Court
- St. John's Court
- St. Mary's Court
- Stanmore Road
- Woodbridge House
- Woodville Road

- Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road
- Robert Gay, 137 Mornington Road
- Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road
- Cyril Robson, 49 Beacontree Road
- Bern Lowe, 56 Browning Road
- David Dowsett, 74 Mornington Road
- Brian Hopson, 49 Bushwood
- Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road
- Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road
- To be arranged
- Andrew Shields, 9 Hartley Road
- Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road
- To be arranged
- Jo Pilc, 57 Leybourne Road
- Liz Hayman, 54 Leyspring Road
- Ann Long, 43 Michael Road
- Ann Long, 43 Michael Road
- David Dowsett, 74 Mornington Road
- Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road
- Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road
- Katy Smith, 37a Harvey Road
- Laura Whitehead, 44 Stanmore Road
- David Dowsett, 74 Mornington Road
- Laura Whitehead, 44 Stanmore Road

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A pub trawl down Leytonstone High Road

Vestry was an earlier version of the local council based on the Church. By 1754 the name of the house was changed to the Red Lion or Lyon. In 1806 the local Women's Union Society was meeting there. In 1809 the ceremony of Beating the Bounds of Leyton Parish cost £23 5.2. £22.10.8 was for refreshments and dinners at the Green Man, Red Lion and Horse and Groom (which was just north of Lea Bridge). By 1873 it was a Truman Hanbury and Buxton house, the nearest to the Buxton residence at Leytonstone House.

Photographs

There are a couple of photographs of the Red Lion in this period. They show an ancient weatherboarded building, quite extensive, occupying roughly the same area as the present building. Livery stables were to the rear. By 1880 it was proposed to demolish and rebuild in a more modern style. This actually happened in 1890 and included the adjacent shops that formed part of the same building. The architect was WD Church. The large red lion that appeared over the door of the old building was replicated in relief above the main door to the pub. On the first floor a Masonic hall was provided. This was advertised in 1897 as having fire precautions. Stabling was provided through the arch to the rear in the new building and housed horses for the Leytonstone fire station, built in St John's churchyard, from possibly 1878 until 1914 when the present fire station was built near Harrow Green. The new pub building was acquired by the Cannon Brewery (later Ind Coopes) from Trumans. In the 1970s the Red Lion became a music venue and Roxy Music, Genesis, and Yes all played here. In 1983 the Red Lion was described by CAMRA as:

“A lively young persons' pub which... was being renovated with the possibility of real ale being installed thereafter.”

In the mid-1980s the pub was briefly renamed as Luthers but reverted to the Red Lion. In 2001 it took on a new role as a salsa bar with the additional name of Cuba Bella. This lasted less than a year for in 2002 it

was refurbished and renamed Zulus to cater for the increasing numbers of South Africans living locally. A nightclub opened in 2004 and is currently the source of some bitterness locally. A long way away from “drunken” magistrates perhaps.

Bonus Establishments

Just like the bonus tracks on DVDs, two more establishments in Leytonstone that I have been unable to locate:

The Rose

This is first mentioned in 1585 and is unusual in that the establishment is named (rare until the 18th century):

“Alehousekeepers recognizances of William Hobbye of Leightonstone, yeoman, Henry Lovell of the same, bricklayer and Humphrey Walters of the Parish of St Clement without Temple Bar, blacksmith for the said William in his house at Leytonstone called the sign of the Rose.”

William Hobbie is mentioned in 1580 as standing surety for an alehouse keeper in Wanstead. On 8 March 1606 a Margaret Hobby was licensed to keep an alehouse. She was almost certainly William's widow.

The Huntsman

The only reference to this establishment was published in 1636 in John Taylor's Catalogue of Taverners in Tenne Shires “...at Low Leighton or Laytonstone, Roger Folkstone, the signe of the Huntsman.” John Taylor was a Thames waterman who was a minor national celebrity and was known as the Water Poet.

I suspect both were earlier names of established houses, possibly the Green Man and Robin Hood, although this is unfortunately impossible to prove

Boundary

As we have reached the boundary of the BARA area, that's all! I hope you have gained an insight into the history and diversity of use of the pubs mentioned over the last three editions of *The Bush Telegraph*. For a more complete history of all of Waltham Forest past and present public houses go to www.wforallhistory.org.uk, then “Books”, then “Behind the Bar”.

A PUB POSTSCRIPT – SCANDAL OF THE “JUDGE AND JURY CLUBS”

THANKS VERY MUCH indeed to Rob for writing this series, which draws to an end with this third and final part. Speaking personally, I've found it fascinating – a truly excellent way to apply a misspent youth.

However, in referring to “Judge and Jury Clubs” as “the equivalent of karaoke evenings in the Victorian era”, Rob is perhaps trying to spare the blushes of BT readers.

I think our members are made of sterner stuff, so I did a little research.....

In 1858, some 38 years before the police hearing concerning the Two Brewers licence referred to by Rob took place, an investigative journalist called J. Ewing

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Country cousins visiting local residents used to be amazed at the sight of cows grazing on Wanstead Flats or plodding along the High Road: “Look at that! Cows roaming free in the middle of London!” Well, not quite the middle of London perhaps, but the cows were still a talking-point – with visitors and residents alike. Recently the Conservators of Epping Forest have been encouraging the cows’ return. Now BARA members Jo Pilc and Brian Hopson look into the question of

THE COWS OF BUSH WOOD

MANY OF YOU will remember the times, up until a few years ago, when we had cows roaming Wanstead Flats. These belonged to local people with a certain amount of land who held “commoners’ rights” to graze cattle. Most of us loved to see the stately cows plodding along, though there were times we were less pleased when they arrived in a small front garden for example, though that did give us all a tale to tell at work the next day! However, the cows became uneconomical for the grazers following BSE and foot and mouth disease and they have been gone for some years.

The whole character of Epping Forest depended on the cows, because their grazing kept the grass short, stopped tree seedlings getting established and enabled other vegetation to grow. The Conservators of the forest decided to encourage the return of the cows and they are now back on Chingford plain.

BY
JO PILC

This time, however, they are not simply free range, but more controlled. A local farmer with an interest in cows has been engaged to choose and look after them. He calls it akin to a retirement home as he mostly chooses elderly cows who may not get a home elsewhere.

Electric fences

Some of the cows are fenced. At first I was not in favour of this, but the fenced area is so large it does not intrude on the forest aspect. The fences used are wire electric fences that barely show from a distance. Nor do they impede access as walkers can, if they wish, walk through the fenced area.

The cows are visited at least once each day by the farmer or his assistant, and they are both experienced enough to give basic medical care to the cows if needed.

Obviously the cows cause a lot of interest when they first arrive, and there were, I understand, odd incidents of children taunting them – but cows are not willing to play and the children soon became bored and went away!

Consultation

The farmer said that the cows were most likely to be introduced where there was support from the local community – so your views are needed. Epping Forest has a major plan out for consultation, and one of the points covered will be the cows. Anyone interested should call Epping Forest on 020 8532 1010. However, if you are simply wanting to put forward your support for the cows then please e-mail Jeremy Wisenfeld, the Superintendent of the Forest, at Jeremy.Wisenfeld@corpoflondon.gov.uk or write to him at Corporation of London, The Warren, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RW



THE QUESTION is not simply whether we would like to see cattle grazing peacefully opposite Bushwood – I can remember when the cows were there (and in my front garden.....) before the BSE scare and I would personally be happy to see that particular status quo restored.

However, as Jo points out, the suggestion from the conservators seems to be that the cattle can only return under controlled conditions, i.e. if the areas in which they graze are fenced off. The system of fencing favoured by the Conservators would appear to be electric fencing – and according to the Friends of Epping Forest, this is in spite of a recent warning to landowners from the Countryside Agency not to use electric fencing where it is likely to come into contact with the public, especially children! The alternative is wooden fencing, but in the view of many this is visually intrusive and runs counter to the determination expressed by ordinary people over many years to ensure that the Forest remains unenclosed and available for public recreation and enjoyment.

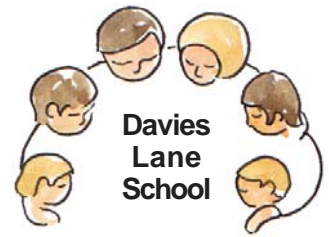
BY
BRIAN
HOPSON

A further point of concern is that the Conservators seem to have decided that grazing is so central to the management of the Forest that they would like to create more grazing land by creating “wood-pasture”. This would involve clearing shrubs, undergrowth and bushes to provide more open grassland, with just a few scattered trees in the selected areas. It is not clear whether Bush Wood would be treated in this way but if it were, it would mean that our local landscape would be very different, reducing cover for animals and birds. Instead of a wood, we would have something more like a park.

Whether you're a parent or not ...

YOU CAN BECOME A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

JOHN BUNIAK, Chairman of Governors, Davies Lane School, very kindly came along to our last Committee meeting to bring us up to date with what's happening at Davies Lane School. As many of you with children who attend Davies Lane will be aware, the school now has a new



Headteacher. The Board of Governors is keen to encourage more Bushwood residents, whether parents or not, to join the Board. If any resident is interested in taking up the challenge then please contact John on 020 8539 2466. I was appointed to the Board of Governors at George Tomlinson School earlier this year and have found it very rewarding. I would certainly encourage others to follow the same path.

KATY SMITH

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Scandal of the “Judge and Jury Clubs”

Ritchie published a book entitled “The Night Side of London”. Among other things, and in true tabloid style, this exposed the scandal of the Judge and Jury Clubs. Ritchie was horrified by the moral decay in London in the mid-1800s. He accepted that “the grave deportment and stately etiquette of days gone by” would never return, but he noted “a lack of reverence and dignity”. He worried that there was a lack of respect among young people for the country and its history and thought that parenting wasn’t all it could be, commenting that “a feeble and contemptible father is succeeded by a feeble and contemptible son” and adding “can you wonder that your son believes not in man’s honour or woman’s love – in God or the devil, but solely in the Holborn Casino and Cremorne.” The Cremorne Pleasure Garden in Chelsea was a place for family enjoyment during the day but at night it was transformed into a place of nefarious entertainment. A dance platform lit by crystal glass globes could accommodate 3,000 revellers. However, there were also private boxes..... It was closed down in 1878.

BY
BRIAN HOPSON

Ritchie was a staunch defender of the law. He argued that law was “one of the most wonderful achievements of civilisation, encouraging the individual to set aside a primary instinct of his nature, that of self-revenge.” The law overturned privilege, enshrined the sanctity of the common man and “when the judges went on circuit, with the gorgeous cavalcade of the olden time, what terror was struck into the hearts of the rustics, and how patent became to them the strength and dignity of law.”

Against this background, there appeared – much to Ritchie’s dismay – the Judge and Jury Clubs. Ritchie describes one in an hotel near to Covent Garden, saying:

“It was presided over by a man famous in his day for his power of *double entendre*. (There was) a large room

with benches capable of accommodating.... a hundred, or a hundred and fifty persons..... By their appearance the audience was one you would call respectable.... Heralded by a crier with a gown and a staff of office, exclaiming, ‘Make way for my Lord Chief Baron,’ that illustrious individual would be seen wending his way to his appointed seat. The man I write of was then about thirty-five, but he appeared much older, and in his robes of office and with his judicial wig had almost a venerable appearance..... The proceedings of the evening commenced. A jury was selected; the prosecutor opened his case, which, to suit the depraved taste of his patrons, was invariably one of seduction or crim. con. (criminal conversation - a civil action by which a husband could sue somebody who had ‘trespassed’ on his wife, irrespective of consent, the wife being deemed to be the property of her husband!). Witnesses were examined and cross-examined, the females being men dressed up in women’s clothes, and everything was done that could be to pander to the lowest propensities of depraved humanity. I do not believe the audience could have stood this if it had not been for the drink..... I dare not even attempt to give a faint outline of the proceedings. After the defence, came the summing up, which men about town told you was a model of wit, but in which the wit bore but a small proportion to the obscenity. The jury were complimented on their intelligent and lascivious appearance, all the filthy particulars which had been noticed were referred to in Dog Latin, and poetical quotations were plentifully thrown in; and by twelve, amidst the plaudits of the audience, the affair, so far as the Judge and Jury Club was concerned, was over. Then there was supper for such as wished it, and an entertainment to follow, either in the shape of a concert or of an exhibition of *Poses Plastiques* (living models). To these subsequent entertainments ladies were generally admitted – and perhaps the less I say about them or their proceedings the better.”

So this was what they were up to in the High Road 150 years ago! Makes karaoke seem a bit tame.....

In previous editions of *The Bush Telegraph* we have written about the newly-formed Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society. Since then, the Society has gone from strength to strength. Bill Measure, the Society’s Chair, reports.

NEW SOCIETY SCORES SUCCESS IN SIX MONTHS

Full events programme already up and running

IT IS DIFFICULT to believe that the inaugural public meeting, called to explore the possibility of starting a local history society, took place only just over six months ago. Following that meeting the Committee met frequently (too frequently for some but it had to be) and produced a constitution, a programme and opened a bank account when we eventually had some money.

At the end of April we had a local history fair to publicly launch the Society. Membership grew and the Society held its first Annual General Meeting in June. The AGM elected officers and a Committee.

The formal business of the evening was followed by Dr Neil Houghton giving a fascinating talk on *Roman Leyton and Leytonstone*. Not only did the talk reveal a side of our area of which some of the audience were clearly unaware but also showed how the old compartmentalisations have broken down and local historians now use archaeological evidence to help explore the history their locality.

In August we published our first newsletter, we are in the process of creating a website and we have a full programme for the coming year. However, we must not be complacent. The Society took off far better than we dared hope but the challenge is to maintain interest and to always be on the lookout for fresh approaches. We need to start researching and producing some publications about our area. Most of all we must seek to involve all sections of our community in the Society; members of the ethnic groups that live locally are part of our history and we have impacted upon each other’s history; children and young people are the historians of tomorrow and so we are anxious to develop an involvement with schools and colleges.

Our programme for 2005 – 2006 includes:

- ◆ a talk by George Smith of the East London Family History Society on how to begin to search for your ancestors. This will take place in St John’s Church, corner of Leytonstone High Road and Church Lane, on Wednesday 21 September.
- ◆ a visit to Vestry House Museum and Archives on Saturday 24 September 2005. Booking is required for this event, which should be a valuable experience for those who want to use the local archives for research but are not sure how to start.
- ◆ a talk entitled “Breaking New Ground, A Pioneer in Local Politics” given by Franklyn Georges, the first Afro-Caribbean Mayor of Waltham Forest, to celebrate Black History Month. This event will take place on Wednesday 12 October at 8pm and will also take place in St John’s Church.

Events to be held further in the future include: Joan

Francies of Buckhurst Hill taking a light-hearted look at Loughton and its surrounds in a talk entitled “A Bus Ride from Loughton” in November and a visit to Valence House, Dagenham, a former manor house, now a museum that houses one of the best collections of gentry portraits in the country, in December.

In the New Year, there will be a talk about Langthorne Abbey, recently the subject of an article in the local *Guardian*, by Barney Sloane of English Heritage and the London and Middlesex Archaeological and a visit to the former Essex County Cricket Club pavilion in Leyton (Grade II listed and currently undergoing refurbishment by the Council).

Further visits to the Museum in Docklands and to the *Cutty Sark* (threatened with closure if money to carry out repairs is not raised) are planned. In March, Lindsay Collier of the Pump House Steam and Transport Museum in Walthamstow will talk to us about little-known transport developments that took place in our area – you thought that the industrial revolution started in the north of England?

It is hoped that BARA members will join and take part in our Society. Membership is £6 for individual adults, £10 household membership, £3 students, £1 youth (under 16). Cheques should be made payable to *Leyton & Leytonstone Historical Society* and sent to our Membership Secretary, David Boote, at 85 Forest Drive West, Leytonstone, E11 1JZ. We look forward to welcoming you!



The way we were ...

former Leytonstone residents take a bow

Keen on walking? Here are two leisure activities you really mustn't miss ...

THE LONDON OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 September

THE WALTHAM FOREST Civic Society has reminded us that the London Open House Weekend is shortly to take place. The organisers have tried hard to keep the event fresh and Waltham Forest is represented by a strong list. The new website for the London-wide event is <http://www.openhouse.org.uk>.

An interesting feature is that on the two days you will be able to send a mobile phone text with the postcode of the building you've just seen and the postcode of the building you want to see next. The postcodes are printed in the Open House guide. Transport for London will send a text back explaining how to get from one to the other.

To highlight what's included in our Borough, David Boote, Secretary of the Waltham Forest Civic Society, will be leading walks from St Mary's Church, Leyton at 11am on the Saturday and from St John's Church, Leytonstone at 2.30pm on the Sunday.

A summary of the local buildings open during the period is as follows:

- ◆ **Forest School, Snaresbrook** (Saturday 10am to 12.45pm)
- ◆ **City Learning Centre** in front of McEntee School, Billet Road (Saturday 9am to noon)
- ◆ **Friday Hill House** (Saturday 10am to 1pm)
- ◆ **The Pimp Hall Dovecot** (Saturday 10am to 1pm)
- ◆ **The Old Town Hall** in Orford Road, Walthamstow (Saturday 10am to 1pm)
- ◆ **The Sir George Monoux College** (Saturday 10am to 1pm)
- ◆ **St Mary's, Walthamstow** (Sunday 1pm to 5pm)
- ◆ **The Pump House E17** (Saturday and Sunday 11am to 3.30pm)
- ◆ **The Vestry House Museum** (Saturday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm)
- ◆ **Walthamstow Town Hall** (Saturday 10am to 5pm)
- The William Morris Gallery** (Saturday 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm)
- ◆ **Woodford Green United Free Church** (Saturday and Sunday 1pm to 5pm)
- ◆ **The Hatherley Mews Offices** for Guy Davies's Hiltongrove Business Centre (Saturday and Sunday 10am to 1pm).

BRIAN HOPSON



THE WALTHAM FOREST WALKS PROJECT

DID YOU KNOW about the Waltham Forest Walks Project? This is a voluntary community initiative funded by Waltham Forest Council aimed at getting us up and about. There are a number of local walking route leaflets (available at libraries and information centres) and a website: www.walthamforestwalks.info. Most of the routes are pretty short but they can be joined to make longer walks. The routes are suitable for wheelchair users and babies and toddlers in buggies.

BRIAN HOPSON

Just a reminder now that you've read this far

BARA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 26 September at 8pm in St John's Church Hall. Your Committee members are looking forward to meeting you there!

PLANNING

Update

THE PLANNING Department allowed the applications mentioned in the last BT for the Thames Water pipeline, the change of use of 646-648 High Road to a sandwich/coffee bar, the alteration to the front of Primark and the erection of 2x2-bed two-storey houses at 6-8 Carlton Road. I am pleased to report that two linked applications for the development of land between the High Road and Carlton Road were refused by the Planning Committee. The proposed development would have resulted in the overdevelopment of a small area of land to the undoubted detriment of Carlton Road residents. The fact of the refusal also puts into question whether the 6-8 Carlton Road development referred to above will proceed, as all three applications were linked.

New planning applications

Since the last BT, BARA has submitted comments/objections to the Planning Department on the following planning applications:

55 Leybourne Road – Conversion of house into two flats – This application has now been withdrawn by the applicant.

628-632 High Road – Change of use of first floor from storage to snooker hall

Despite vociferous objections from BARA at the Planning Committee this application was allowed. However a condition was put on the consent which restricts the opening hours. It is expected that there will be further applications both to extend the opening hours and for an alcohol licence and BARA will continue to consult Harvey Road residents if such applications are made.

855 High Road, Leytonstone – Change of use from shop to hot-food takeaway.

Further information and copies of BARA's submissions on any of the above applications can be obtained from LIZ HAYMAN

LEYTONSTONE CAR FREE DAY

DON'T FORGET – it's Car Free Day on Sunday 18 September. Events will centre, as usual, on Leytonstone Central Line station, so don't miss out – go along to see what's happening!

TRAFFIC IN THE HIGH ROAD

WE'VE WRITTEN recently about the Council and Transport for London (TfL)'s plans to improve the traffic flow in the High Road. Our understanding was that the CCTV cameras at the Hollybush Hill entry to the Green Man Roundabout and at the Bush Road and Gainsborough Road junctions with the High Road CCTV cameras were to be installed and operating in July. In fact, there has been a delay and the masts for two of the CCTV cameras have only just been erected. The Council and TfL are meeting to agree a commissioning date for the cameras. The main work referred to in earlier BTs is programmed to start in October.

BRIAN HOPSON

And speaking of traffic



.... if you'd like to escape it, here's a blast from the past. It's part of a group of BARA cyclists enjoying a sunny ride out organised by Dwight Wood (far right) a couple of years ago, when all the bikers had a marvellous trip through forest and quiet back lanes. Want to try a BARA cycle ride? Then turn back to page two and check out the *Social Events* calendar

BARA'S E-MAIL LIST – ARE YOU ON IT?

AS MANY of you will be aware, we have a list of e-mail addresses which enables us to get information out to members quickly if necessary. The list now stands at just under 100 but I'd like more please! If you haven't sent me your address and would like to be on the list, please e-mail me on brianhopson@lycos.com. I promise not to flood your inbox with irrelevant information and if you subsequently decide that you want to come off the list, just let me know.

Incidentally, some members who imagine they are on the list have actually given me their wrong address and mail to them is simply returned to me. If you have received nothing from me in spite of giving me your address, could you let me have it again please? Thanks!

BRIAN HOPSON

BETTER VALUE FROM BARA!

LOCAL SHOPPING DISCOUNTS!

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.

MELVYN BROWN

(photocopier and office machine repair)
phone: 020 8530 3569
£10 – i.e. 20% – off first hour's labour for local area calls.

CAFÉ LA ROSH

Church Lane
10% off the price of all purchases.

BEING SOUND

(voice workshops and one-to-one voicework, counselling, psychotherapy)
phone: 020 8556 8363
mobile: 07956 437372
e-mail: jas@beingsound.com
website: www.beingsound.com
15% discount on day workshops, half of full price for Friday evening workshops, negotiable reductions on one-to-one work.

STAR OF INDIA RESTAURANT

875 High Road
phone: 020 8989 4028
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.

VIDEOBUFFS

696 High Road
phone: 020 8539 9695
10am–10pm seven days a week
Discounts are: Rent a movie and get second free. Buy one hour on Internet and get second hour free.

BILLINGFORD LTD

phone: 020 8503 0404
25% off all Corgi plumbing and heating services. All types of work undertaken.

NATURE'S CHOICE

(health food) 47 Church Lane
10% off all items.

DOOR TO DOOR

ready meals
phone: 07870 157392
(Sally or Mary)
Lunch and dinner on a weekly basis (Mon-Fri). £10 a day, delivered to your door.

BUBBLES

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

PRIMROSE FLORIST

741 High Road
10% off purchases over £50.

CENTURY 21

(estate agents)
Church Lane
30% off standard commission rate.

ZAIN GREETINGS

(cards, gifts, stationery)
48 Church Lane
20% off all cards and gifts, except special offers/Sale items.

DOGS DINNER

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

DEANNA DONOVAN

(beauty and skincare): working from home
phone: 020 8558 7223.
10% off treatments.

BANSAL OPTOMETRISTS

775 High Road
10% off goods over £50.

IRONICA

(ironware and gifts)
853 High Road
10% off everything, except Sale items.

NATIONAL SCHOOLWEAR

841 High Road
(Near McDonalds)
10% off general schoolwear. They also stock things like Brownie uniforms.

MONARCH SPORTS

815 High Road
10% off purchases over £100.

MEMORIES

Photographic Services
829 High Road
10% off one-hour or 24-hour film processing. 10% off 35mm and APS reprints. 5% off films.

FRESH WATER FILTER CO

Carlton House, Aylmer Road
10% off all purchases.

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