

# The Bush Telegraph

March 2023 - The Spring Issue



The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents' Association



Anna Davies

## RETURN OF THE AGM PARTY

It's been three years since the BARA committee last welcomed members to a venue for the annual AGM and members party. It was well worth the wait as this year's get-together proved to be bigger and better than ever before.

Our friends at Mammoth Tap provided the cosy location under the arches near the overground station. A fine buffet spread and a free first drink welcomed guests. Thanks to Lizzie who efficiently ran a busy bar, the drinks flowed as we chatted to our neighbours and friends.

Our chair, Andy, highlighted all BARA's achievements over the last 12 months and provided some insight into events we have planned for the upcoming year. Committee members took the floor to talk about their portfolios and in particular the subscription price rise coming in 2024. The committee was re-elected and members provided us with some great ideas to take away.

Thanks to all that came along and made the night a big success.



Gareth Dineflow

<p>Saturday 11th March The Birds</p> <p><b>BARA BINGO</b></p>	<p>Tuesday 28th March Leystonstone Social Club</p> <p><b>BARA QUIZ</b></p>	<p>Tuesday 25th April Shore Mial Market</p> <p><b>BARA COCKTAILS</b></p>
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# Note From The Chair



Hello neighbours!

I'd like to kick off this issue by thanking everyone who turned out for our AGM and Members' party in January. Having been unable to mix in person for a couple of years, we really wanted this one to feel special, so the entire committee was thrilled to see how many of you came along. The Mammoth Tap in the arches under Leytonstone High Road played host to over 70 BARA members over the course of the evening. And although the core business was the meeting itself, we also had plenty of time to catch up with friends and neighbours. It was great to see so many of you getting to know one another, and enjoying the tasty wines and beers served up by Lizzie. She made a fantastic host, but then she is a BARA member herself, so I'd expect nothing less! If you've yet to visit Mammoth Tap, I really do recommend it.

One of the topics we covered in the meeting was our extensive social programme, which is already well underway for Spring. There's the Kids' Bingo at the Birds on Saturday 11th of March, followed by another BARA Quiz at the Leytonstone Social Club on Tues 28th March. Look out for details on our Facebook page and the BARA email newsletter. Please remember that the quiz often sells out quickly so be sure to book ASAP in order to avoid disappointment.

Although most of the committee qualify for some kind of long-service award, it's also great to be able to welcome a new member. John Buniak of Leybourne Road has been a member for over 30 years but has kindly agreed to join us on the committee in the role of Treasurer as Anna Davies steps down. We're particularly happy that Anna is remaining on the committee and will be leading the Party In The Park project again after last year's smashing success. It's a pretty demanding role in itself, so it's great that John is able to take over as Treasurer. I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking Anna for all her hard work, and welcoming John into the team.

Finally, we might have been disappointed to see Spice Box close after just a year on the High Road, but there's lots of excitement about who'll be taking over that prime location. Leytonstone has scored a real win in *Homies On Donkeys* which has been building a sterling reputation as a Taqueria and cult favourite over on Wood Street in Walthamstow. You might have seen them on BBC2's *Britain's Best Takeaway* where they won the Mexican section. They're looking to scale up, and we couldn't be happier to welcome them. You may have seen their vibrant makeover of the building, which bodes well for what's to come. I hope to see some of you in there for a taco when they open later this year.

Andy Irvine  
BARA Chair

## The BARA Team

### BARA Committee

**Andy Irvine**  
Chair and Membership  
Leybourne Road

**Doug Sheedy**  
Vice Chair  
Barclay Road

**Anna Davies**  
Social  
Browning Road

**RoseMary Warrington**  
Environmental  
Mornington Road

**Kate Duffy**  
Social & Facebook  
St Augustines's Court

**Katy Smith**  
Social & Planning  
Harvey Road

**Will Higham**  
Town Team & SNT  
High Street Liaison  
Leybourne Road

**Nadia Higham**  
Secretary & Social  
Leybourne Road

**Robbyn Linden**  
Social, SNT  
Aylmer Road

**Joyce Quarrie**  
Bush Telegraph & Planning  
Leybourne Road

**Fiona Sinclair**  
Membership & Town Team  
BARA e-Mail Newsletter  
Leybourne Road

**John Buniak**  
Treasurer  
Leybourne Road

**James Cowen**  
BT Editor, Library of Things  
Website  
Lister Road

For membership, please visit your road rep to make the £3 payment and receive your discount card or subscribe online at our website at [www.bara.london](http://www.bara.london). If you would like to get in touch with BARA or require further information please email [BARACONNECT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BARACONNECT@GMAIL.COM) or visit the BARA website.

Thanks to all of this issue's contributors. We are always looking for interesting articles, stories and ideas related to Bushwood or Leytonstone for the Bush Telegraph. If you would like to contribute please get in touch with the editorial team at [BARACONNECT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BARACONNECT@GMAIL.COM)

If you would like to add your event to future listings or would like to be added to the advert board then please get in touch. If you are a reliable local trader, or you organise events or run free groups for Bushwooders, then we want to hear from you. We can help promote and support your event.



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[www.bara.london](http://www.bara.london)



[Bushwood Area Residents' Association](https://www.facebook.com/BushwoodAreaResidentsAssociation)



[@BARA.e11](https://www.instagram.com/BARA.e11)

### BARA Road Representatives

**Aylmer Road**  
Alex Maws, 1 Aylmer Road  
**Barclay Road**  
Doug Sheedy, 11 Barclay Road  
**Barfield Road**  
Alex Maws, 1 Aylmer Road  
**Beacontree Road**  
Janet Lee, drop at 14 Beacontree Rd

**Browning Road**  
Anna Davies, 21 Browning Road  
**Bushwood**  
Brian Hopson, 49 Bushwood

**Carlton Road**  
Alex Maws, 1 Aylmer Road  
**Colt's Yard**  
Alex Maws, 1 Aylmer Road

**Dacre Road**  
Alex Maws, 1 Aylmer Road  
**Forest View**  
Liz Maloy Jollands, 5 Forest View  
**Grove Road**  
Hanisha Vasiliou, 34 Grove Road

**Hartley Road**  
Andrew Shields, 9 Hartley Road  
**Harvey Road**  
Katy Smith, 37A Harvey Road

**High Road**  
Doug Sheedy, 11 Barclay Road  
**John Drinkwater**  
Anna Davies, 21 Browning Road

**Leybourne Road**  
Joyce Quarrie, 67 Leybourne Road  
**Leyspring Road**  
Benedikt Humm, 63 Leyspring Road

**Lister Road**  
Helen Westerby, 50 Lister Road  
**Michael Road**  
Sue, 32 Michael Road

**Mornington Road**  
RoseMary Warrington, 88 Mornington Rd  
**St Augustine's Court**  
Kate Duffy, 29 St Augustine's Court

**St John's Court**  
Kate Duffy, 29 St Augustine's Court  
**St Mary's Court**  
Kate Duffy, 29 St Augustine's Court

**Stanmore Road**  
Tony Pamphilon, 28 Stanmore Road  
**Woodville Road**  
Janet Taylor, 14 Woodville Road

## BARA Houses of Parliament

Another BARA tour of Parliament took place last month and members found themselves stood in the same hall where a mere two hours before President Zelensky of Ukraine had stood on the famous steps.

The second tour of the Houses of Parliament was again hosted by local MP John Cryer. Members entered the Great Hall on a historic day that had seen President Zelensky of Ukraine make a surprise visit to the UK and deliver a powerful speech to both houses of parliament in Westminster Hall.

The Hall which was built more than 900 years ago has seen many famous leaders address parliament – Charles De Gaulle, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, Nelson Mandela

and Barack Obama, to name just a few of them. John continued his tour with BARA members into the crypt of the stunningly beautiful Undercroft Chapel which was built in 1297 and then on to the Commons Chamber where members were entertained with amusing stories about current and former MPs.

Thanks again to John for another enjoyable evening. All being well another tour will be organised soon so look out for an announcement in the newsletter.



Anna Davies

BARA members with MP John Cryer standing in the hallowed hall of Westminster.

### Go to Tesco and take a moment to explore the grounds. You'll be surprised says Hilda Varley.

We all know Tesco at the Green Man, but hidden behind the shop is a whole other world, a walk back in time. The supermarket sits in front of a small village of Victorian cottages and other buildings. To find it you need to go past the Tesco entrance on the High Road, turn left and down a few steps, near the Green Man medical practice.

One building is a large Grade II Listed house that belonged to the wealthy Buxton family – their history is on the wall panels outside Tesco. In 1868 the Buxtons sold the house and nine acres of land to the Bethnal Green Board of Guardians, probably because a railway line was built across the back of the site.

In the same year the Board of Guardians moved 370 young, poor and destitute children into temporary buildings on the site. Gradually, over the next 22 years the new 'village' was built. It followed the new enlightened view of providing a homely environment for children coupled with education and training. In the end over 600 children lived there.

The site had school rooms, a swimming pool, an infirmary, a chapel, a large covered outdoor play area and gymnastic equipment. There were training rooms for carpentry, shoe making, tailors and painters. What is now the Tesco pharmacy was the great hall (look up next time you are there – the ceiling is amazing) and the Green Man medical centre was a training block. It remained a children's home until 1936. I remember in the 1980s my elderly neighbour telling me how she 'came up from Mile End' in the 1920s to work as a nursery maid in the orphanage; she loved small children.

The big house was used as offices and meeting

Much more than a supermarket can be found in the grounds of Tesco.



## HIDDEN HISTORY

rooms, as well as being a matron's residence. In 1937 Leytonstone House re-opened as a hospital and training centre for mentally disabled women. The aim was to train them for local employment. By 1945 there were 220 residents. In 1950 '40 cot-and-chair cases' under 16 years old arrived. During the 1950s and 1960s the more able residents moved to hostel accommodation. They were replaced by patients with greater handicaps. By 1964 there were 370 patients and the hospital had become very overcrowded.

In the 1980s care in the community was implemented and Leytonstone House residents moved into small homes in local communities. The hospital finally closed in 1991.

In 1994 Tesco opened on the site. The cottages and other buildings were preserved as well as the ancient mulberry tree and the cedar tree. A drawing was done by the daughter of the Buxton family and shows the two trees in the 1850s. They are still there today.

## BARA Cocktails

The first BARA cocktail evening at Stone Mini Market was a big success with more planned.

Forty Bushwooders packed into Stone Mini Market in December for the first BARA Cocktail Night. The wonderful hosts, Adrienne and Okan, put on cocktails and an amazing spread of much more than the expected nibbles making everyone regret eating beforehand. There was a comprehensive cocktail menu that included many favourites – Caiprinha, Aperol Spritz, Mojita, Old Fashioned, Porn Star Martini and even a festive Mulled Wine.

Two cocktails and substantial nibbles all for the bargain price of £15 plus a great night spent hanging out in a great setting with neighbours and fellow Bushwooders.

If you missed out in December we are hoping to hold the next one at the end of April. Now we have had a trial run expect a more streamlined event with equal amounts of fun and enjoyment.

Keep an eye on the regular BARA email regarding socials for when the tickets go on sale. They will be snapped up fast!



Still going strong. Two trees in the grounds of Leytonstone house nearly 200 years old.



**Our changing High Road sees businesses opening and closing. But at its heart are some long-established enterprises changing and evolving to suit modern needs. Joyce Quarrie investigates some stalwarts of our town centre.**

We have become used to seeing shops closing over the last few years with the impact Covid has had on high streets nationwide. So it's a pleasant surprise to find long-established premises in Leytonstone that have not only survived but are adapting to appeal to market changes and modern audiences. Four pillars of High Road Leytonstone are in the cleaning and repair business.

### Ocean Dry Cleaning

For nearly 40 years Ocean Dry Cleaning has been on the corner of Leytonstone High Road and Burghley Road. The current owner, Hajra Hussain, has been in situ for 18 years taking over from the previous owner of 18 years. Hajra has seen a lot of changes in her time on this busy corner of the High Road.

"Putting in the one-way traffic system, changes in fashion and financial challenges have all affected the business" she says. "Customer numbers have definitely dropped so I have adapted my business as much as I can to try to offer other services to my customers."

Initially the business was exclusively dry cleaning but now that's not enough. "People would drop their cleaning on their way to work or after dropping their children at school. They could park outside the shop but that isn't possible anymore" Hajra said.



**I started doing repairs some years ago as that was my original training. It all began with an alterations company in Forest Gate. Now alterations are an integral part of my business.**

Over the years with the introduction of cheaper clothes and more washable fabrics people use dry cleaners less. And post-Covid 30 per cent of the working population are based at home. With less people working in offices Monday to Friday, casual wear is the order of the day.

"I started doing repairs some years ago as that was my original training" Hajra explained. "It all began with an alterations company in Forest Gate. Now alterations are an integral part of my business."

Other changes have taken place too. There is now a wide selection of handbags and purses on sale at Ocean. Covering a large wall in the shop is a stock of over 100 bags – all shapes, sizes and colours at reasonably prices. Interspersed with the bags are some striking dried flower arrangements.

"That's my daughter's business" explains Hajra. "She supplies dried flowers for parties, weddings, special occasions, gifts etc. And I have plenty of space so I help her out by showing them. And it all helps to add variety to what is available."

Hajra's entrepreneurial skills don't stop with the shop interior. Ten years ago, realising the



Hajra Hussain, entrepreneur and owner of Ocean Dry Cleaning.

## KEYS, CLEANING AND COBBLERS



Father and son – Riazat (left) and Ali of Morris Dry Cleaning, Church Lane.

potential of the empty space outside on a busy corner of the town centre, Hajra set up a small fresh fruit and vegetable stall which has grown to be a very popular addition to the High Road. Often referred to as the 'Bowl Boys', as the majority of the fresh produce on sale costs £1 a bowl, it is manned by very friendly staff.

"We closed once for a couple of months and so many people asked where the stall had gone, it made me realise how much people rely on it" says Hajra. "Even more so now with the cost-of-living crisis. When we opened it up again it became more popular than ever."

With her entrepreneurial spirit Hajra is constantly thinking of new ways to promote her store so watch this space. The evolution is likely to continue.

### Morris Dry Cleaning

Another entrepreneur and long-standing member of the Leytonstone world of cleaning is Riazat Ali who can be found at Morris Dry Cleaners on Church Lane. Having come to England from Pakistan as a baby Riazat began his business career in the UK with two leather factories in Ilford. When his two sons were

small he returned to Pakistan as he wanted them to know their culture and roots, returning to the UK in 1998. His first business venture was a barber's shop. Twenty years ago he took on the Church Lane premises.

It was just a dry cleaners then but he quickly diversified, particularly when he saw local shoe repairers closing down. That was when he opened a shoe repair section in his shop which further developed into key cutting and watch repairs. As well as this range of services the shop has also built a reputation for cleaning and revitalising trainers.

Riazat's son, Ali, joined his father about eight years ago in the shop. He particularly enjoys the specialised side of the business. "Some people spend hundreds of pounds investing in branded trainers and vintage products" says Ali. "When they pay so much money they want to know their investment will be well-looked after and that is where we can help".

The same goes for leather shoes and clothing. Morris' specialist services perform miracles in this area for satisfied customers.

Riazat's father died when he was only 10 years old which is when he started work. By the time he was in his teens he had a good

business brain which over the years has seen him build up a business covering, catering and manufacturing as well as dry-cleaning. Morris' also do alterations and can call on specialists for detailed repair work. Now aged 70, Riazat has developed a very successful charity supplying toys, clothes and financial aid to people in need in rural Pakistan. More on this in a future issue of the Bush Telegraph.

### Icon Dry Cleaning

Another business keeping Leytonstone clean, supplied with keys and repairing shoes is Icon Dry Cleaning in the small parade of shops near Tesco. And they have just added watch batteries to their list of services.

Owned and run by Demetris Charalambous this shop has been serving the local community for 22 years. Demetris has been in the dry-cleaning business for 35 years and has another shop on Grove Green Road.

"We added the key cutting service when we opened. We specialise in car keys and any electronic touch keys" he says. "And we can now offer dimple key cutting which is a particularly specialised, high-security key."

Demetris has seen changes in his 22 years of business. "So much has changed" he said. "The area certainly. I think Leytonstone is what Hackney was 10 years ago. There is much more of a buzz around the place and I think it still has a way to go. It is so easy to commute into central London from here".

"It will be small shops that benefit in the future. I can remember when cars would be queuing to get in and out of the Tesco car park. That rarely happens now."

At the moment ICON is the only shop in the small parade adjacent to Tesco. "I would love to see new tenants take over next door" commented Demetris. "It's three years since the last shop moved out and we notice it. We used to feed off each other which was good for



Demetris of Icon Drycleaning

business. Hopefully things will pick up in the future because this is a good location for the right business."

### Cutting It

When it comes to longevity Sam who works from the tiny shop at the Church Lane entrance to Leytonstone tube station wins the prize. A comment on the Leytonstone Life Facebook page last year flagged up his 25th anniversary of being in Leytonstone and it attracted an amazing 715 Likes and 65 very positive comments. Impressive!

His compact booth offers key cutting, shoe heeling and engraving for local residents. With his bubbly personality and winning smile he has a huge fan club in the area. His customers think very highly of him as just some of the many comments on Facebook confirm. "Such an incredible genuine man!" "A charismatic, friendly and genuinely warm person." "A local hero, always cheerful and helpful."

These businesses may not be the most dynamic part of our shopping experiences but they are cornerstones of our high street. Let's all do our best to support them.



Sam the man in his kiosk at Leytonstone Station.



**BARA member Katy Elsip and her mother Penny celebrate 25 years of their family business Breakaway Supported Holidays in 2023. Katy spoke to the Bush Telegraph about moving to Bushwood, what Breakaway provides and how the holidays may benefit local families and individuals.**

Katy and her family moved to Leyspring Road in 2021 after spending time during the pandemic closer to family in Essex. They were drawn to the quiet, cycle-friendly streets, the community feel and proximity to the beautiful Flats. The location, with easy access to the A12, was a bonus and the family

wanted to settle before Katy's daughter started school locally last September.

Running Breakaway, Katy and her mother, Penny, organise holidays in the UK and Europe for adults with a learning disability. The breaks are small group-escorted holidays which also include daily support provided by experienced 'holiday courier carers'. This means someone with a learning disability who may not be able to travel independently can choose any holiday destination and get away without having to rely on family, friends or their residential home to take them.

Penny started Breakaway, running the holidays herself, in 1998 after working in adult social care in Essex for several years and identifying a need for this service. From the early days in an old Renault Espace visiting coastal holiday parks in Suffolk, the

business has grown, now employing 12 staff and organising 40-50 holidays in six different countries each year. Katy joined the family business in 2017 after working in the civil service in Westminster for 12 years. Breakaway also featured in the Parliamentary Review in 2019 as a model of innovation in the adult social-care sector.

Unsurprisingly, the years 2020 and 2021 were extremely difficult as a travel company during the pandemic for Breakaway. The business had been growing and had just started its busiest-ever season when the first lockdown came. With what felt like perpetual uncertainty around travel, flexibility was the only option. This involved downsizing and a bounce-back loan, but fortunately the holidays are still running.

Over the last 25 years Katy estimates that Breakaway has enabled over 4,000 individual holidays. The breaks promote independence, are a great opportunity to make friends, and many customers return year after year. Especially since the pandemic, which disproportionately impacted the isolation of adults with a learning disability, the social aspect of the holidays has been beneficial for many customers. The holiday breaks can also provide important respite for families and regular carers.

The holidays are suitable for anyone aged 18+ with a mild-to-moderate learning disability, are full board and door-to-door pick ups can be arranged. Further information at [www.breakawaysupportedholidays.co.uk](http://www.breakawaysupportedholidays.co.uk) or call 01245 260330 Monday to Friday 10am-3pm. If you would like a brochure Katy is happy to pop one through your front door and Breakaway is pleased to offer a 10% discount on 2023 holidays to BARA members.

## Sue Birdsall talks to BARA residents and fans as they share stories about supporting the Os.

As well as all the other wonderful resources on our doorstep we have a football team, Leyton Orient. A club with a very old and rich history dating back to 1881. At the time of writing, the club is top of EFL League Two.

I am a half-hearted football fan who enjoys England games and follows my hometown team Middlesbrough as well as my new side of Leyton Orient. Having a football-mad son (an Arsenal fan) drove my interest in the game and as attending Leyton Orient is both accessible and affordable, we have been occasional attenders over the last ten years along with my friend, Dee Mullner, and her sons, Sean and Rory.

Our highlight was 2014 when Orient got into the championship play-offs. We joined in the pitch invasion that day, although we didn't really know what to do when we got there, just sort of walked around with our handbags while the boys did skids on the grass.

A day at the match is a big occasion, involving pre-drinks at the Northcote and post drinks at the Coach and Horses, both nice pubs with plenty of seating and good food and drink options. As we walk through the streets of Leyton towards the ground with the rest of the fans, I feel part of something bigger, connected to a community that has been here for well over 100 years. Bumping into a friend or neighbour on the way isn't a surprise, it's to be expected. If you buy a ticket to a Premier League game, you can't be sure of sitting next to local fans. At Leyton Orient, it is all locals and people with a long relationship with the club.

I was interested in hearing fans' stories and match-day routines and here are a few, starting with John Haynes.

### John Haynes

"My first game was on 14 January 2006 when Orient was playing Northampton Town after a famous win against Fulham away in the FA Cup the previous weekend. My Dad, David Hayes, took me and we continued going for the next few seasons. It was 08/09 when we got a season ticket and continued to have one up until 2017 when I left home to go to university in Hull. A lot happened in those 11 years. Finishing fourteenth in the League more times than I wish to remember, heartbreak in the play-off final in 2014, a takeover of the club by he-who-shall-not-be-named, a winding up petition, two relegations and another takeover of the club by a consortium led by Nigel Travis, a lifelong O.

My favourite memory is the FA Cup 5th round game in 2011 against Arsenal. I come from a family of Arsenal fans with roots in Islington, my grandad used to take my dad to Highbury, standing in the clock end. When Tehoue tucked the ball into the back of the net for the equaliser, even my dad, an Arsenal supporter at heart, jumped out of his seat and shrieked along with 8,000 others. We earned that replay at the Emirates and took more fans than our ground can hold. It is an occasion I remember fondly. Dad would now say he is an O, he fell out of love with the modern game and felt disconnected from the Arsenal which I think is why he decided to follow the Orient. You feel so much closer to the club and the team than you do sitting in those soulless bowls like the Emirates, the Etihad, the new Spurs ground and the London Stadium. But it's not what happens in the ground that truly matters. It's going to the pub beforehand with your mates, taking friends along to the game who are casual footie fans but always enjoy coming to Brisbane Road. Going to the Coach after the game, consuming several pints that



# STAND UP FOR THE ORIENT



**You feel so much closer to the club and the team than you do sitting in those soulless bowls like the Emirates, the Etihad and the new Spurs ground.**



April 2019. John Haynes and his dad, Dave, when Orient got promoted back into the football league.

always taste better after three points, eating pie and mash or going to the cafe on match day, away days up and down the country and seeing familiar faces from Brisbane Road with you in the terraces, in the local boozers and on the train."

### Gary Lewis

Gary Lewis, a well-known fan who also runs historical Alfred Hitchcock tours in the area, shares his match-day routine. "I start with lunch at my favourite cafe in Leytonstone, Le Parisian on Church Lane. About 1pm I head to the field of dreams, one tube stop to Leyton. I buy a programme in the club shop and then meet a couple of my pals in the South Stand bar where we talk about the match and discuss tactics. I take my seat in the South Stand at about 2.30pm and at half time I go downstairs for a coffee and then back in my seat at least five minutes before the second half kicks off. Win, lose or draw, I go to the Turkish restaurant on Leytonstone High Rd and then back to Le Parisian for a coffee or two. I generally get home about 10pm and watch *Match of the Day* before I go to bed."

### Jake Green

Jake Green, BARA resident and photographer, jumble-trail instigator, brother of wonderful local yoga teacher, Jessica Green, and part

Sue (middle) with husband Paul on her right, with friends on match day.



Os fan Gary Lewis who has a set match-day routine when he attends a game.



Jake Green, a fan for over 25 years.



of a team who have taken on the project of developing and maintaining the Good Shepherd Studios has this to say.

"I've supported Leyton Orient for years and years, like 25+ years. In the grand scheme of things that makes me a relatively new supporter. The club has fans that have been to pretty much every home game for 60 years. I even used to work there as a steward when I was a teenager. Though I grew up as an Arsenal fan too, Orient has always been my number one team. As an Orient supporter you learn to embrace the ups and downs. Win or lose you just can't beat the atmosphere. After 25 years of being a fan and 20 years working as a photographer I've finally started to document the club, fans and community in all its glory."

### Andrew Shields

I was an avid fan of my home-town team Middlesbrough as a child. However, relocating to Somerset with my family and on to London after university put too much distance between me and the 'Boro. Having moved to Leytonstone, I went to Orient's January 1988 FA Cup tie against Nottingham Forest out of curiosity. The Os lost 2-1 but I knew I'd found my new footballing home.

Supporting a lower-division team is 90 per cent misery, nine per cent cautious optimism and one per cent unbridled ecstasy. I'd rather this, though, than to follow a top club for whom a single defeat is nothing short of catastrophe. Maybe I have an instinctively pessimistic personality...

My affiliation with Orient is summed up in two photographs from very different eras.

The first was taken on 15 January 1992 when the Os beat Oldham Athletic – then, incredibly, in the First Division – 4-2 in an FA Cup third-round replay at Brisbane Road. I was standing on the old east terrace that night. The Independent splashed the picture on the

following morning's back page alongside the match report and I bought the original that still hangs on my study wall.

The photo shows Orient's Terry Howard – a no-nonsense full-back with a piledriver free-kick – challenging the Oldham keeper. Terry is my all-time favourite Os player. I interviewed him for a book I wrote the following year about the future of football in London entitled *Soccer City*.

Two years later he was gone – sacked at half-time by his former team-mate turned manager John Sitton in one of the periodic moments of madness that have characterised the Os over the years. Sitton's expletive-filled, half-time rant featured in the Channel 4 documentary *Orient: Club for a Fiver* – probably the most forthright inside-story film ever made about a football club. It, and the Oldham match highlights, are on YouTube if you want to check out the realities of professional sport way below superstar level.

The second photo is dated 25 February 1928. It shows winger Jesse Williams, wearing the Os iconic white shirt with a red chevron, scoring the third goal in a 3-2 win for Clapton Orient, as they were then known, against Stoke City in front of more than 20,000 spectators at the club's former Millfields Road ground. Jesse Williams was my great-uncle.

Jesse began his career at Wrexham. In 1924 he transferred to Middlesbrough for the sum of £600. He scored in a 1-1 draw against Manchester United on 25 December 1924. Yes, games were played on Christmas Day. The return match was the very next afternoon at Old Trafford; Middlesbrough lost 2-0.

Jesse played at outside-left in the 'Boro team that won the Second Division Championship in 1926/27. He only won one cap for Wales – his career was blighted by injury, perhaps the result of being only 5 feet 5 inches tall and playing on what would have been very heavy pitches against less-than-subtle defenders. In

## THE ITALIAN JOB

Of course, Leyton Orient hasn't always been the highly successful, happy, family-focused, financially-sound football club it is now. There was once a shadow looming over the Os, namely Italy's most notorious citizen (at least in Waltham Forest), Francesco Becchetti. Let me explain.

Orient were promoted from League Two to League One in 2005/6 and in 2013/14 they finished third in that league, gaining a place in the Championship play-offs at Wembley. Unluckily, they lost the play-off final on penalties to Rotherham United, but the future still looked bright. But then came the shadow as Mr Becchetti (owner of a waste-disposal business in Italy and a television station in Albania) appeared and bought the club from previous owner Barry Hearn. Charitably, let's assume that Mr B (whose name is never mentioned at Brisbane Road) wanted what was best for the club, but his reasoning was hard to decipher. Becchetti presided over two relegations in three years under 11 managers. Under his ownership, the club fell out of the football league for the very first time in 112 years.

For every shadow, however, there is a sunbeam. In the Orient's case, the light came in the form of Nigel Travis and Kent Teague, one a lifelong Orient fan, the other an American sports fanatic from Dallas. Nigel persuaded Kent that he'd have a great time part-owning London's second-oldest football club. After all, what goes down often comes up (although it must be admitted, not often from the National League). Staff who'd been working without pay were suddenly paid, training equipment was purchased – even the pitch mowers found themselves full of petrol! And shortly after the start of that first season in the National League, Justin Edinburgh was appointed manager. Nigel Travis had said that the club's long-term aim was to get back into the Football League, but Justin turned that long-term ambition into a short-term achievement. On 27 April 2019, Leyton Orient returned to the Football League as Champions of the National League. Tragedy struck in June 2019, however, when Justin Edinburgh died after suffering a cardiac arrest, never to be forgotten by all those who follow the Os.

Orient currently sit comfortably at the top of League Two, looking certainties for promotion to League One. But who knows? Every Orient fan reading the previous sentence will by now be crossing fingers and legs, chasing after black cats, or searching for rabbits. But don't let's worry. Let's be positive. Altogether now, "Come On You Os!".



Bushwood road rep Brian Hopson (right) on the pitch in 2019.

1928 he moved to east London: 'a very good player he is, as the Orient supporters will soon discover,' as the Daily Mirror put it. The fact that he played for both my birthplace club and my adopted club is a remarkable coincidence.

Until my sister and I began to research our family history, the only known image of Jesse was a picture of him in action for Middlesbrough. We were able to make contact with his descendants and unearthed several portraits of him in his football kit plus this magnificent shot of him in an Orient shirt finding the back of the Stoke City net.

I only met Jesse once, when he returned to Middlesbrough from Canada where he had emigrated in 1959. He was guest of honour at a 'Boro fixture and gave an interview to the local newspaper where, perhaps predictably, he declared the game wasn't as good as in his day!

I love this photo. The flat-capped, splay-legged keeper, the rock-hard ball, the players' heavy boots, the crowd behind a simple picket fence – all speak of a footballing era that has not yet been widely researched. If time allows I'd like to dig further, and also try to discover where Jesse – who by now was married – lived when he played for Orient and whether his wife joined him in the capital.

This picture is my laptop screensaver so I look at it every day. It's an evocative way to remember the career of my celebrated ancestor and at the same time say: 'Come on you Os!'

**Local connections**

I am always interested in local connections, and some have popped up in pulling this article together. Jake wrote a book about the Pie and Mash shops in London, featuring the E11 one that John enjoys. I know Andrew as cricket- and-pastures Andrew, husband of Elaine, WI stalwart and fellow Olympic volunteer. I had no idea he was originally from the Boro'.

Another interesting coincidence is that two of the photos are of the same moment but featuring different people, on the pitch in April 2019. I like to think of the people featured in this article who don't know each other saying hello at the next game. There are also a



1992 – Orient's Terry Howard slides in to Oldham's keeper.



February 1928 – Jesse Williams scoring for Clapton Orient.

**ORIENT'S CAPTURE**  
A few seasons ago Clapton Orient transferred Owen Williams, their international wing forward, to Middlesbrough. Yesterday Middlesbrough transferred Williams to the Orient, but not the same Williams, although he, too, figures on the wing. Jesse Williams is the man the London club has secured, and a very good player he is, as the Orient supporters will soon discover.

lot of Orient fans who also support the Arsenal. Tickets are reasonably priced, in fact a bargain compared to a Premier League ticket. Its £21 for an adult match-day ticket and only £8 for under-18s. You can buy tickets at the ground or in advance online via [leytonorient.com](http://leytonorient.com) or by calling the ticket office on 020 8926 1111. It really is a great day out so come along and Stand Up For The Orient.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The BARA planning team regularly checks the council planning portal and attends relevant meetings. We are not planning experts and welcome helpful notifications from residents of any relevant planning issues at: [BARACONNECT@gmail.com](mailto:BARACONNECT@gmail.com). The council planning portal can be found at: <https://planning.walthamforest.gov.uk>

**DEVELOPMENT LONDON CITY AIRPORT**

Following our report last issue on London City Airport's (LCA) plan to increase passenger numbers, reduce flight respite times and increase early morning flights, LCA have now submitted a revised planning application to Newham Council which can be commented on/objected to. The deadline for this is the 17th March 2023. The response of the Mayor of London and Transport for London to the plan was critical of most parts of the revised proposal – see <https://content.tfl.gov.uk/detailed-response-london-city-growthconsultation.pdf>. LBWF have also written a letter of objection to the proposals. For anyone wanting to comment there is a lot more information on the HACAN East website: [hacaneast.org.uk](http://hacaneast.org.uk). HACAN East is a resident campaign group for people

living under the flight path. The planning application can be found at: <https://pa.newham.gov.uk/onlineapplications/applicationDetails.do?activTab=summary&keyVal=RNYU92JY5NA00>

**WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL**  
A delay in funding for a new multi-storey car park scheduled to start at the end of 2022 has postponed the project until later this year. Current estimate for work to start on the new hospital is 2025 at the earliest with completion towards the end of 2028.

**EPPING FOREST**  
The consultation for the next ten-year programme for habitat conservation for Epping Forest that includes Wanstead Flats closes on 12 March. Go to <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/things-to-do/green-spaces/epping-forest/whats-new-in-epping-forest> for more information.

**TOWN CENTRE CONSULTATION**  
Following on from a consultation last year the council is once again asking for resident views on their 'Leytonstone Framework proposals'. This is an opportunity to have your say on the future of Leytonstone Town Centre. Go to <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/consultations/have-your-say-future-leytonstone-town-centre> to comment and to find out details of local pop-up sessions to talk about projects and meet the regeneration team. The survey is open until 31st March.

**PLANNING**  
Application reference 223174  
An application for the development of part of the former British Legion premises situated behind the properties of the High Road, Grove Road, Mornington Road and Aylmer Road to create three one-bedroomed flats, one two-bedroomed flat and two three-bedroom flats has raised strong objections from Councillor Marie Pye on the grounds that some of the features of this Grade II listed building were not being taken into account. She felt that this was poor quality housing on an inappropriate site that lacked light, amenity space and had poor access. BARA also commented on the application.

Application reference 223453  
A planning application to demolish a garage and store at the rear of 129 Mornington Road and build a two-storey, two bedroomed house on the site was refused.



Anita McCullough

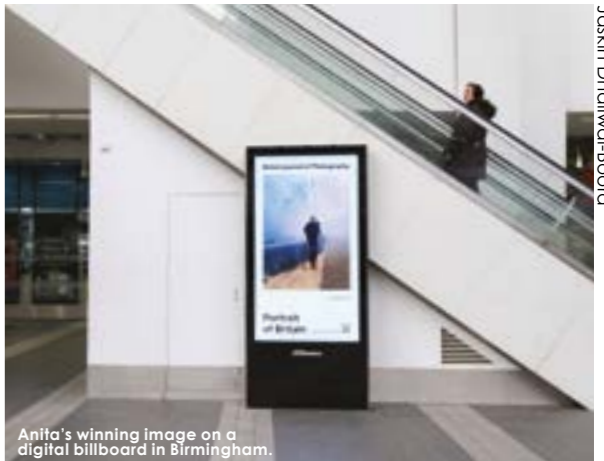
Artists, designers, makers, photographers and writers. Does Lister Road represent a cultural hub in Bushwood? Hilary Douse talks to the immensely talented Anita McCullough who has brought a prestigious award to the street.

As we struggle towards spring the long, hot summer of last year feels like a distant memory. However, you may have spotted a reminder of the summer on billboards and advertising spaces. A photo by local artist and photographer, Anita McCullough, is a winner in the annual *Portrait of Britain* series; a prestigious photography contest that aims to capture life during that year. Her portrait 'East London Firebreaker' is of her husband, Mark Thomas. They were some of the first people on the scene when fire engulfed the tinder-dry grasses around Bushwood. Anita snapped Mark amid the smoke as he worked to beat back the fire. The conditions on Wanstead Flats meant that the spread of grass fires was a real and worrying possibility. When smoke drifted over the tops of the houses, Anita and Mark guessed what was happening. They grabbed a spade and a bottle of water near at hand and rushed over to Wanstead Flats. Anita said "I don't know what I thought a bottle of Evian would do but as people bought out their hosepipes, I was able to top it up and help just a bit". Mark beat back the flames with his spade to stop them reaching the houses. The fire happened shortly after some houses in Essex had been burnt out in a grass fire so people were really worried. Anita's photo captured his expression, and the concern that everyone felt, as the fires raged close to the

**“ I was very happy just to be on the shortlist of 200, I didn't expect to be one of the 100 winners, so it was a very nice surprise. ”**



Anita McCullough



Anita's winning image on a digital billboard in Birmingham.



Anita's striking photograph spotted at a Knightsbridge bus stop.

Joski Dholiwai-Bloor

Chris Vile @distractedidler

Another frame taken on the same day as the award-winning image.

## Local gardener and garden designer **Mark Cummings** looks at the subterranean world of wonder that keeps our gardens green.

All told it's been an erratic winter. I was still gardening in my T-shirt in November. Then we had a snowfall that wouldn't look out of place in a trashy American Christmas movie (no judgement here). Now it's early February and I'm back in my T-shirt. The combination of this temperature fluctuation and one of the hottest and driest summers on record has cost some of my gardens dearly. Dead and diseased plants have been pulled out and now inspiration for replacements that will cope better with our changing climate is being sought.

While I wait for said inspiration, I am turning my attention to the soil. Many of my gardens are typical London clay, mulched yearly with fine shredded manure. Others are sandy imported topsoil and there is a range of weird substrates in between the two. But digging out a myriad of casualties across London, I have noticed just how impoverished the ground is. Indeed, one garden is so poor in areas that I'd hazard that it is now dirt rather than soil. Dirt is the dusty mineral base of soil that is devoid of organic life.

“ **Organic matter comes in the form of dead material such as leaves, excreted waste from living organisms large and small and decomposition of the bodies of residents of the soil.**

However, healthy soil is teeming. Critters that look like aliens from Star Trek (hello tardigrade, you are ugly/beautiful) jostle with nematodes, fungi, bacteria, viruses and crustaceans. All too small to be seen by the naked eye, they meet, greet, eat and excrete each other. But bigger bugs and earthworms do an essential job of churning the party up by providing a free taxi service for every little thing that manages to hang on or pass through.

This micro/macro meze is the soil biome. It is widely reported that just a single teaspoon of rich soil contains more living organisms than there are people in the world. It's true – I googled it. Twice. But the key word is rich. Richness comes from organic matter. And that organic matter, matters. It's the very essence of life.

Organic matter comes in the form of dead material such as leaves, excreted waste from living organisms large and small and decomposition of the bodies of residents of the soil. All carbon-based rather than mineral (dirt). If we break down who does what and where in the soil, we can work out how to keep it healthy.

Protozoa are single-celled organisms that feed on bacteria and make nitrogen available to plants. Nitrogen is essential to plant growth. Yet by some quirk of nature is not usually in a form available to them. It has to be 'fixed' and this is also the job of bacteria. The food growers among you will be pondering legumes by now.

Bacteria are usually found in the greatest numbers. They do everything, from making nitrogen in the ground available to plants (fixing), to giving the earth its smell. Fungi, in the form of mycorrhizae, build a symbiotic relationship between soil and roots making it easier for the plant to take up water and



Organic manure.



Healthy soil looks rich and dark.



Composted garden waste can be used as a mulch.

nutrients. In return the plant shows gratitude by exuding some of those nutrients in the form of sugars back to the fungi. It's a win-win for both parties. Bacteria and fungi help bind soil together which is crucial to preventing soil erosion and flooding. Woody-stemmed plants, such as trees and shrubs and perennials tend to prefer a fungal soil while annuals and food crops tend to prefer a bacterial base. Mulching with woody matter promotes fungi. Leaf mould and compost, bacteria. The correct mulch conditions our soil to be either bacterial or fungal, based on what we decide to grow. Nematodes and tardigrades eat bacteria, fungi and organic matter and contribute to the churn of the biome. It's all about balance. Rich, healthy soil keeps harmful bacteria and fungi in check. Predators eat pests and provide fodder all the way up the food chain to birds and mammals.

To keep soil healthy and our food chain uninterrupted we need to ditch the chemicals. Fungicides and pesticides are indiscriminate

and will kill the biome. This can reduce the soils' ability to filter water and contributes to flooding. Soil erosion becomes a problem. Plants find it harder to take up nutrients and protect themselves. So, we then enter a vicious cycle of chemical feeds and more pesticides which further stress the soil. We've gone from win win, to lose lose with the spritz of the Provado.

But we can help our soil recover. Organic mulches such as leaf litter, manure and compost are perfect ways to kick start a recovery. We can even reintroduce earth worms care of Wiggly Wiggles. In my gardens I'm now being less tidy with the remnants of our pruning (the chop-and-drop approach). It is heaven to the earth and sequesters carbon too. We no longer clear the autumn leaves off the beds. We leave that to the earthworms that drag them down into the ground. Small changes to how we garden, and a little care and patience are all it takes to invest in the earth. It will pay dividends in the end.

## BUSHWOOD AUTHOR'S NEW BOOK

Woodville resident **Meryl Pugh** explains how she came to write her new book, *Feral Borough*, a love letter to our amazing area.

My new book, *Feral Borough*, is all about the joys of being a Leytonstone local. A mixture of memoir and nature writing, it argues that the urban environment is just as worthy of interest and as full of beauty as the remotest mountain.

Ironically, when we first moved here in the late nineties, I paid no attention to nature. Our terraced house and its little garden on a quiet, tree-lined road had been – for London – relatively affordable and both our jobs were only half an hour away by Tube. There were pubs and shops and lots of fantastic local restaurants and takeaways – everything you could want, really – and that was enough to make us love the area. Wildlife was the last thing I thought I'd find here.

“ **I got interested in local history – and eventually decided to use the mass of scrappy notes I'd collected to write this 'love-letter' to E11.**

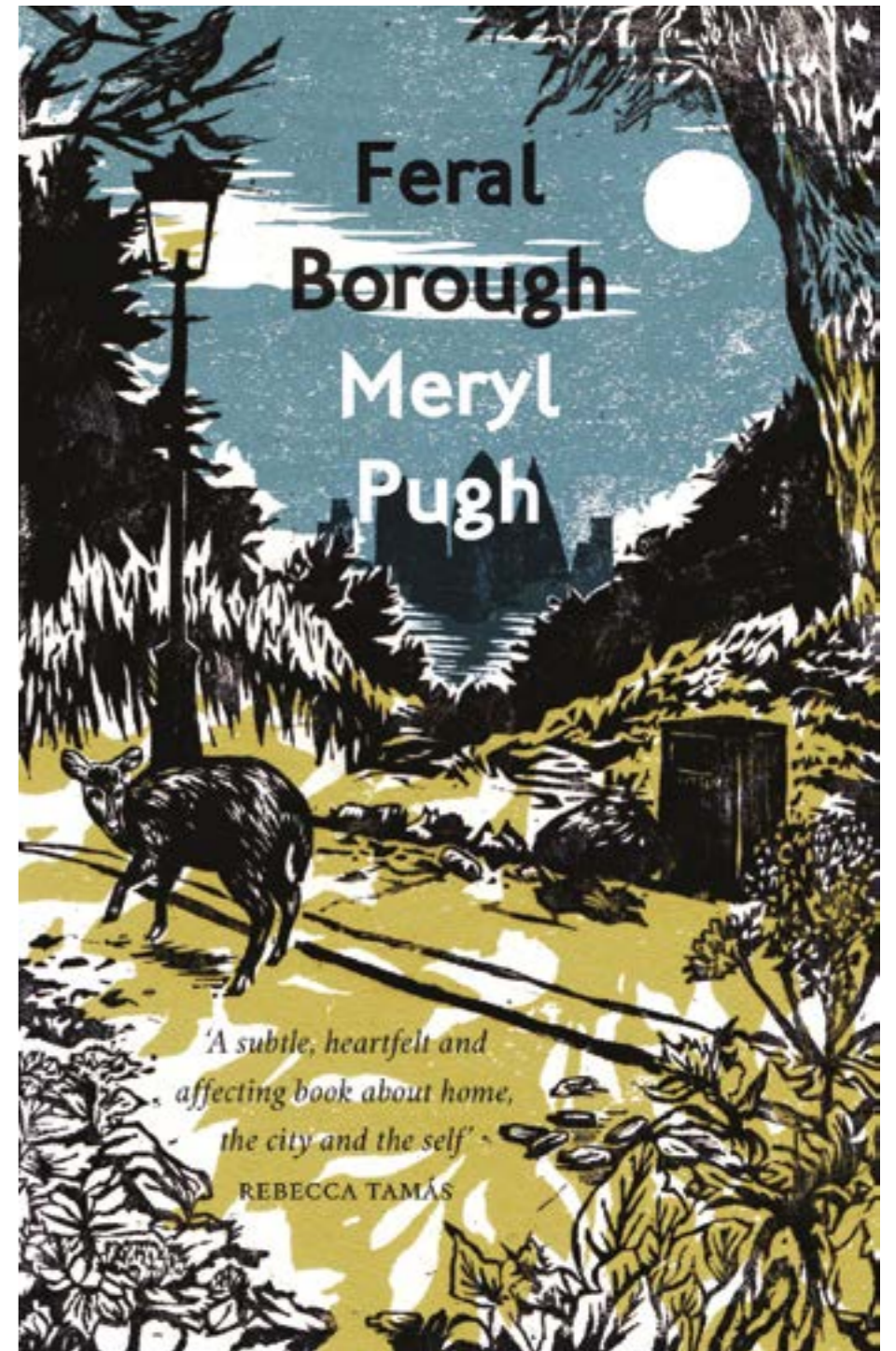
It wasn't until the death of a close friend that I started paying proper attention. In the weeks that followed the shock of losing her, I wasn't much good for anything. But by then I had discovered Wanstead Flats and Park – and the playing field, lime tree avenue and wood that border Bushwood itself. So I walked, for hours, as I tried to come to terms with the loss. One day, I found myself crouched over a plant that jutted out of a crack in the pavement. I'd seen it everywhere that summer, the flowers an intense blue. What was it?

It wasn't long before I was hauling out the bird and wildflower books, trying to identify what I saw on those walks. The plant turned out to be green alkanet and I added it to my rapidly-growing list of local flora and fauna. I got interested in local history too – and eventually decided to use the mass of scrappy notes I'd collected to write this 'love-letter' to E11.

The book is organised into short chapters, each titled with the name of a plant or creature, many of them common things like yarrow or feral pigeons. But not all; there's a chapter on the City Tree (a contraption outside Leytonstone station, designed to improve air quality) – and another on a flasher, complete with (invented) scientific name. There's a boa constrictor, too – as well as, of course, the famous white-cheeked turaco of Leytonstone.

I've lived in the Bushwood area now for nearly 25 years – I'm slightly shocked to realise that – and all the things we loved at first are still here: the sense of community, the lively high street, the leafiness. I feel so lucky to live here – and to be able to step out of my door now we're out of lockdown and be under trees or by a pond within minutes. See you out there!

You can order *Feral Borough* direct from the publisher at [pennedinthemargins.co.uk](http://pennedinthemargins.co.uk), but it's also stocked by three fantastic, local-ish bookshops – **Newham Bookshop**, **Phlox Books** and **Pages of Hackney**.



Author Meryl Pugh.

### BARA MUG

Own a piece of Bushwood history with the official BARA mug. The BARA logo on one side and the Bushwood street design on the other. Available from our online shop. [bara.london/bara-shop](http://bara.london/bara-shop).



# PASTURES NEW – WHAT’S ON OFFER?

**Andrew Shields reflects on a campaign breathing new life into one of Leytonstone’s forgotten treasures.**

In 2020, a group of local residents began a campaign to protect the Pastures site in Davies Lane from proposed redevelopment. The site had been identified for housing, which threatened the future of the sports hall, community rooms, historic Good Shepherd building and surrounding grounds.

The claim was that these facilities were ‘surplus to requirements’. In response, the ‘Save Our Pastures’ group quickly identified at least 26 community groups that had booked to use the sports hall and main community space. The group tartly pointed out that the issue with Pastures was not under-use but under-investment and a lack of publicity.

A press release issued to local media in December 2020 stated: ‘With more effective and targeted promotion of the facilities and services available, the buildings and site should be the basis of a multicultural, social resource to meet the current and future needs of our local community, and a vibrant hub to engage and inspire young people’.

Walking down Davies Lane you cannot fail to notice how Pastures is delivering on that aspiration. The sports hall and community rooms offer a busy programme for all ages, including free exercise classes at lunchtimes and a much-needed youth hub for 11-25 year olds. The gardens are being beautified by a team of regular weeders and diggers. And the rebranded Good Shepherd Studios has revitalised the somewhat austere building that backs onto the street as a vibrant coworking and community space with creative arts at its core – plus a popular café.

I became involved with the campaign because I used the sports hall regularly and felt the facilities had so much untapped potential. Important but overlooked community resources couldn’t be allowed to decline or be lost forever. It’s fantastic to see how determination and imagination have helped to secure a positive future for this wonderful site.

To find out more about the Pastures facilities and make a booking visit: [walthamforest.gov.uk/libraries-arts-parks-and-leisure/sports-and-leisure-centres/pastures-centre](http://walthamforest.gov.uk/libraries-arts-parks-and-leisure/sports-and-leisure-centres/pastures-centre)

Visit [goodshepherdstudios.com](http://goodshepherdstudios.com) to find out about activities and opportunities here.

Day	Event	Time	Venue
MON	Walking Football	10.30	Pastures Sports Hall
	Free Adult Fitness	14.00	Pastures Sports Hall
	Mini Soccer Stars	16.00	Pastures Sports Hall
	Table Tennis, Pool, Tea & Cake	17.30	Pastures Community Room
TUE	Free Pilates	12.30	Pastures Sports Hall
	Over 50s Table Tennis	14.00	Pastures Sports Hall
	Childrens Volleyball - 5 to 9 Years	16.45	Pastures Sports Hall
	Childrens Volleyball - Cycle Maintenance	17.00	Pastures Sports Hall
	Badminton	19.30	Pastures Sports Hall
WED	Golden Racquet 50+ Badminton	11.00	Pastures Sports Hall
	Women’s Badminton	14.00	Pastures Sports Hall
	Free Girls Football 9-13	16.00	Pastures Sports Hall
	Footsteps CIC	17.00	Pastures Community Room
THUR	Christ Assembly Group	19.00	Pastures Community Room
	Youth Hub for ages 11-25	16.30	Pastures Community Room
	Children’s and Adults Volleyball	16.45	Pastures Sports Hall
FRI	Women’s Badminton	19.15	Pastures Sports Hall
	Women’s Badminton	9.30	Pastures Sports Hall
SAT	Free Zumba	12.30	Pastures Sports Hall
	Cricknet	17.00	Pastures Sports Hall
SUN	Inclusive Children’s Multi-Sports	9.15	Pastures Sports Hall
	Women’s Badminton	10.30	Pastures Sports Hall
	Christ Assembly Group	11.30	Pastures Community Room

## New youth club for Pastures

**Youth clubs were thought to be on the decline but now Pastures have launched one for people age 11-25.**

The Pastures is one of two youth clubs that the council has launched in Waltham Forest. Working in partnership with Lymore Gardens to run the Leytonstone club, Lead member for Youth Hubs and Engagement, Cllr Kizzy Gardiner, explains: “We value our young people in Waltham Forest and want them to have the best experience they can through their teenage years. Our Space4All youth hubs have been named by our young people, and are run by qualified, motivated and committed youth workers”.

Expect video games, hot food, pool, mentoring, table tennis, trips away, life skills and workshops. The Leytonstone club takes place every Thursday at 16.30 for two hours and is open to everyone aged 11-25.



## Community Event Listings

### BARA Groups

#### Bara Football

When: 7-8pm every Thursday  
Where: Leytonstone School  
Contact: [contact@jakegreen.co.uk](mailto:contact@jakegreen.co.uk)  
The Details: Five-a-side with a medium and slightly varied level of skill. House rules apply. Residents can email Jake to be added to the mailing list. An email gets sent around every week checking numbers and confirming the pitch booking.

#### Cycling

When: Every Saturday morning 8.30am  
Plus social rides on first Sunday of month  
Where: Meets mostly at McDonalds  
Contact: [NorthStarVelo.com](http://NorthStarVelo.com)  
The Details: Long running East London cycling group catering for all types of riders.

#### Pet Group

BARA has had a Pet Group for a number of years. The members help out with each other’s pets, often with feeding during a holiday but can also help in other ways. New members welcome. If you would like to join the group please text Jo on 07757 964911.

#### Plant Group

The Bushwood Plant Swap group was set up during Covid and continues to thrive. Knowledgeable members help less knowledgeable members with plant queries and information. Excess seeds and plants are shared and swapped and there are occasional, informal gatherings in members’ gardens throughout the summer. To join contact Jo on 07757 964911.

## Regular Events in E11

# BARA Social

We are building and editing the BARA social listings every issue and here’s what’s happening over the next few months. If you have any events planned and want them to be included in future listings please send them to [BARAConnect@gmail.com](mailto:BARAConnect@gmail.com) If you have an existing local group or BARA group that you want to include in a group listing then please get in touch. Some of these events may change and we always advise checking with the venue first.

### Events Diary

Fri 10 Mar	Woodhouse Players Tracks	Welsh Church	20.00
Sat 11 Mar	BARA Bingo	The Birds	15.00
Sat 11 Mar	Woodhouse Players All Hallows Eve	Welsh Church	14.30 & 20.00
Sat 11 Mar	Daylight Music Concert	St John’s Church	12.00
Sat 11 Mar	Shaw’s Trailer Park	Leytonstone Social Club	20.00
Sat 11 Mar	Spring Fair	George Tomlinson Sch	11.00
Sun 12 Mar	Swap Don’t Shop	Stone Mini Market	12.00
Sun 12 Mar	Comic Fair	The Birds	12.00
Tue 14 Mar	Gaz Hughes Trio	Leytonstone Social Club	20.00
Wed 15 Mar	St Patrick’s Day Shamrock Card Craft	Leytonstone Library	11.30
Wed 15 Mar	‘What if?’ Social Transition Leytonstone	Stone Mini Market	20.00
Fri 17 Mar	Woodhouse Players Tracks	Welsh Church	20.00
Fri 17 Mar	Set It Out	Fillybrook	20.00
Sat 18 Mar	Woodhouse Players All Hallows Eve	Welsh Church	14.30 & 20.00
Sat 18 Mar	Good Ol’ Days Music Hall Concert	St Andrews Church	15.00
Sat 18 Mar	Absofab Vintage Market	Lister Hall	11.00
Tue 21 Mar	Macrame Plant Hangar Workshop	Stone Mini Market	18.00
Wed 22 Mar	Mrs H and the Singalong Band	Walthamstow Trades Hall	10:00
Wed 22 Mar	Errol Linton Band	Leytonstone Social Club	20.00
Wed 22 Mar	Shakespeare Week Celebration Crafts	Leytonstone Library	11.30
Sat 25 Mar	Free Repair Cafe with Forest Fixers	Stone Mini Market	11.00
Tue 28 Mar	The Big BARA Quiz	Leytonstone Social Club	19.00
Tue 28 Mar	Alan Barnes & David Newton Duo	Leytonstone Social Club	
Wed 29 Mar	MFC Chicken	Leytonstone Social Club	
Thur 30 Mar	Oh So Funny Stand Up	Heathcote & Star	19.00
Sun 2nd Apr	BARA Easter Egg Hunt	Henry Reynolds Park	
Tues 4 April	Alina Bezhezhinska Quartet	Leytonstone Social Club	19.30
Thurs 6 April	World Wine Tasting Club	Heathcote & Star	19.00
Tues 11 April	Sid Griffin	Leytonstone Social Club	19.30
Thr 13 Apr	Village Idiot (runs until May 6th)	Theatre Royal Stratford East	
Tue 25 Apr	BARA Cocktails	Stone Mini Market	19.30
Thurs 27 Apr	Luke Jennings Talks (author Killing Eve)	Wanstead Tap	19.00
Wed 10 May	Ballet Black: Pioneers (until May20)	Theatre Royal Stratford East	
Sat 13 May	Kimjang: Kimchi Making Workshop	Stone Mini Market	12.00
Wed 18 May	BARA Road Rep Party	TBA	19.30
Sun 21 May	BARA Spring Walk	Epping Forest	10.00

Please check with venue as some free activities (Repair Cafe, Makrame Workshop) still require booking a place

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND... FREE ENTRY**

### Absofab Vintage Market

EXPECT FAB RETRO FASHION INTERIORS GEMS MUSIC TREATS AND EATS. LET’S REUSE PAST WENS!

Lister Hall, Lister Rd Leytonstone, London E11 3DS  
Saturday 18th March 2023  
11am-4pm

INFO: 0715422710 | [absofab@outlook.com](mailto:absofab@outlook.com) | POP UP CAFE BY CHEF ZARA KITCHEN EAST

Family and Dog Friendly, Easy Access

**WOODHOUSE PLAYERS**

### All Hallows Eve

by Peter Harrison

Welsh Church Hall, 881 High Road, Leytonstone, E11 3ER  
woodhouseplayers.co.uk

Book online at [ticketsource.co.uk/woodhouseplayers](http://ticketsource.co.uk/woodhouseplayers)

Fri 10 March 2023 8pm  
Sat 11 March 2023 8:00pm & 9pm  
Fri 11 March 2023 8pm  
Sat 18 March 2023 8:00pm & 9pm

**BARA EASTER EGG HUNT**

SUNDAY APRIL 2ND

**BARA SPRING WALK**

SUNDAY MAY 21ST





# 2024 CALENDER COMPETITION STARTS NOW

Following the great success of our first calendar competition we are doing it again. Entries are now being accepted for the 2024 calendar. **Kate Duffy** tells us all about this year's competition.

After the huge success of the inaugural Bushwood calendar, we are excited to announce the BARA 2024 Calendar Competition. The theme for this year will be Buildings of Bushwood.

What we want for the 2024 calendar is to have 13 photographs depicting recognisable buildings in Bushwood and surrounding areas.

Twelve photographs will be selected by our judges for each month of the year and one photograph will have pride of place on the front cover. There will be a prize for each successful entry.

Details will be appearing on our Facebook group and in our emails so that we can remind you periodically of the competition especially when we are getting close to judging and printing. The cut-off point will probably be around October so get snapping now.

We learnt a lot from our first calendar venture so the rules for this year have been updated. Here's what you need to know:

Ideally photographs must be from 2023. However, due to the cut-off date we need to

implement in order to print the calendars for Christmas 2023, photographs from winter 2022 can be entered.

We are encouraging all age groups to take part so for younger members please give name and age along with house number and street when sending in photos.

The photographs must be your own work and by submitting them you are giving permission for them to be published.

Please make sure that any persons appearing in your photograph have granted their permission for their image to be published.

Please send your photographs to our email at [Baraconnect@gmail.com](mailto:Baraconnect@gmail.com) and mark the subject Calendar Competition.

## BARA FOOD BANK COLLECTION LOCATIONS

BARA has drop-off points in front gardens within the Bushwood area (see map, right). All dried and tinned goods are welcome including tinned vegetables, fruit, fish and meat; pasta, flour, long-life milk, tea, coffee, cereals, pet food, cleaning products. Standard sizes are preferred.





1 Aylmer  
 21 Browning Rd  
 37a Harvey Rd  
 11 Barclay Rd  
 20 Stanmore Rd  
 7 Leybourne Rd  
 37 Lister Rd  
 44 Hartley Rd



Would you like to sell or rent your home?

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*There is no substitute for great local knowledge.*

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