



The Bush Telegraph

The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents Association

From the Chair

The majority of the jigsaw pieces are now in place for the regeneration projects in Leytonstone. By the time our next issue is published in September, most parts of The Link Road should have been opened.

There are conflicting messages regarding how the road will be brought into operation. From the best information available, the road is to be opened in stages and not in one piece as we had all been led to believe. The current mayhem at the Green Man roundabout is here to stay until mid-September. Our focus should now centre on the landscaping which is still "... not finalised" to ensure the allocated budget is used appropriately.

On 22 June the Council took the decision to implement a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) around Leytonstone tube station. The manner in which it was pushed through is no longer a surprise. Although people were consulted in March, they really did not have an option as originally

promised following the first consultation in 1995. The consultation this year was a basic comment form which made it difficult to **objectively** assess whether people were in favour of or against the proposal! The Council made their decision on returns from each street rather than for the whole area.

The scheme will cost £90,000 to implement and in the first year is expected to raise £20,000. Businesses and those wanting to bring a car to work in Leytonstone will have to pay £175 for an annual permit to park. Experience of CPZs in other parts of the Borough shows them to grow in size as parking pressure increases in roads just outside the CPZ.

CLEAN-UP TOUR BRINGS HOPE TO DIRTY AREA

ON THE morning of Wednesday 30 June a group of people with responsibility for street cleanliness in Leytonstone went round the area to inspect the situation. The tour was organised by Louise Buchanan of the *Leytonstone Forum 2000* and led by BARA committee member Robert Gay. I was there along with Forum Chairman Adrian Stannard, Cllr Simon Tucker, Ward Councillor Clyde Loakes, representatives from Highways & Services and the Cleansing contractor.

by
Parvez Hussain
BARA chairman

Although BARA has monitored the litter problem for quite a while there has been little success in the grey area where the responsibility has not been clearly defined between three Council Departments.

Confusion exists as to who is responsible and to what degree for:

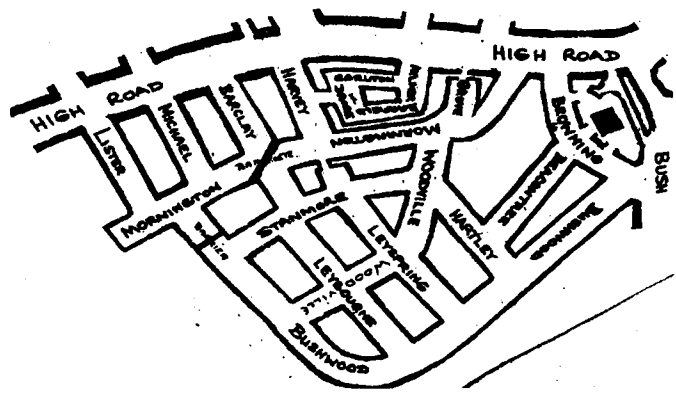
- ◆ little pockets such as the sliver of fenced Church land on the left of the *Pioneer* entrance with the High Road

- ◆ accumulation of chewing gum, such as on the pavement outside the toilets near the *Pioneer* store
- ◆ the alleyways behind properties

- ◆ fly tipping hot-spots such as the refrigerator at the junction of Burghley Road with High Road
- ◆ accumulated residential rubbish on highways from people living above shops who are allowed to place their black bags on the street, as they do not have space for a wheelie-bin. This rubbish can often be left for days until the next refuse pick-up. Alternative arrangements are to be investigated.

If regeneration is to be perceived to be successful then the little eyesores have to be removed if the area is to have an improved look. This tour was an effort by the Leytonstone community to do their bit to improve street cleanliness in a Borough that was shown in a survey to be one of the dirtiest in London.

THE BUSHWOOD AREA



MILLENNIUM HEIRLOOM!

SOME Leybourne Road residents are considering producing a year-book – a record of their street and its residents at the turn of the Millennium. If people from other roads in our area are interested, BARA would help co-ordinate volunteers and we could then produce our own BARA year-book. Interested? ☎ Jo: 530 3569.

◆ Our chairman and committee members can be reached by e-mail:

BARA@level.globalnet.co.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single people – £1.00	Households – £2.00
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Trees for our streets

BARA is conducting a survey of missing or dying street trees in our area, with the aim of getting the Council to replace them later this year.

If you have any dowdy-looking trees in your road, or there are spaces where trees ought to be but aren't, please drop a note of them through any committee member's door (see list on back page) by **mid-August**. We plan to meet the Council's tree people early in **September** and will hand over our records then.

Advance notice: Annual General Meeting

THE AGM will be held at **end-September** – date and venue to be decided. Meet your committee members and have your questions answered.

Committee members wanted

THE committee is very hard-pressed. We urgently need more members, and would value your active participation. More hands get more done. If there are no helpers then BARA will, regretfully, have to do less than at present. ♦ Please ♦ Parvez: 532 9847 if you'd like to help.

REGULAR readers will have noticed that our masthead for this quarter's issue shows **July** instead of **June**. Publication was unavoidably delayed this time – which turned out to be fortunate as it allowed us to bring you the latest news on several topics. This would have been unavailable if we had gone to press in June as usual.

Do you have news or views that you'd like to share with other BARA members? Please contact Marlon (☎ 556 6623) with items for publication.

IF YOU want to work for the environment, why not join the *Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers*? For details of activities ☎ Diane or Keith Meakin: 500 2095.

♦ Members' personal advertisements are inserted free of charge in this column.

FOR SALE in aid of BARA – three-part wooden ladder. Only £10. Good condition but too heavy for us now we're middle-aged! ☎ 530 4768.

HALLS for hire at the Quaker Meeting House, Bush Road, for social and charity events. For details and rental fees ☎ Zheng Ping or Mark Rasmussen (Wardens): 989 4511.

STAMPS for charity. Used postage stamps – UK and foreign – wanted for animal charities and Guide Dogs for the Blind. Thank you! Contact Dawn, 46 Michael Road.

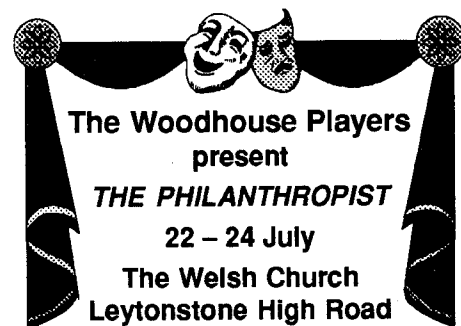
WANTED for local boys' school. Educational videos – eg science, nature, sport, health, English, etc, and classic film videos (classification up to '16' only). Norlington School would be most grateful for your gift. Also fiction/non-fiction books for boys 11-16 years would be much appreciated. Please ☎ Hilda: 530 3376 to arrange pick-up. Many thanks!

WHODUNNITS, thud'n'blunders, gripping yarns. FREE to a good home – second-hand paperbacks/hardbacks, all in good to excellent condition. Suitable for car boot sales, charity stalls etc. ☎ 556 6623.

WHAT'S ON

FOLLOWING award-winning success at the WALTHAM FOREST DRAMA FESTIVAL and a well-received spring production, *The Woodhouse Players'* summer production comes to the Welsh Church, Leytonstone High Road on 22-24 July.

The Philanthropist is written by Christopher Hampden, author of the English translation of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (to be seen in an updated version in the cinema this summer as *Cruel Intentions*) and tells the tale of the aftermath of a traumatic dinner



party in the lives of six academics. Philip, the title character, is a nice man – too nice and too polite in fact

ever to quite assert himself with his fiancée, his friends and assorted guests. Stephen Balchin, who directed the Festival Award winner *Kids*, stars and is joined by three new Woodhouse Players as the women in his life, with teacher Lynn Schrale directing.

Don't miss the beginning – it's rather explosive to say the least!

For more information and ticket reservations contact Chris Millington – ☎ 539 7735 – or e-mail chrismilli@aol.com

THE CONSERVATORS OF EPPING FOREST

SUNDAY MORNING WALK

Starts at 10.30am and lasts about two hours. Please dress suitably for forest walking. *Well-behaved dogs welcome!*

♦ 8 August: *Glorious Heathlands*. Leader: Jeff Seddon. Meet in car park off Earl's Path, Loughton.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S HUNTING LODGE

♦ *Special event – at 2.30pm and 3.45pm*

Sunday 18 July: Pleasure and Pageantry: hunting at the Tudor Court. A talk by Jeff Seddon. For details and bookings ☎ 529 6681.

THE TEMPLE in Wanstead Park is again open on selected Sundays in summer. For dates please ☎ 508 0028.

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION – WE “WILL ALL BE INVOLVED”

Council reorganisation ... care homes ... town centre plans

BARA quizzes the councillors

A BRAND-NEW system of local government was unveiled when three local councillors met the BARA committee. Our guests at the 15 June committee meeting were Cllrs Clyde Loakes, Jenny Gray and Ian Leslie. In a friendly discussion they answered questions on three main topics:

- ♦ What can our councillors do for us?
- ♦ What policy on Bushwood care homes will our councillors be advocating?
- ♦ What is to be done about a positive policy for Leytonstone Town Centre?

In response to the first question, Cllr Jenny Gray opened the batting with the news that central Government wants a reorganisation of local Councils' old-fashioned procedures. Instead of being segmented into the various service committees, decisions will become much more centralised with inputs from relevant committees.

The new system covers Council officers as well as councillors, so it should avoid the situation where one Council department does not know what another is doing, thus leading to contradictory practices.

Jenny added that September is Democracy Month, when local groups like BARA will be consulted on how we would like councillors to represent us. She pointed out that all three councillors are elected to serve *all* local people, no matter how they voted, and she said that BARA and other groups can have a real influence on future

Council decisions. She will contact BARA soon with more information about the new system.

On the question of **care homes**, all agreed that it was only right that our area should have its fair share. However, Cllr Ian Leslie said that half the children under 18 in care in Waltham Forest (including many from outside the borough) are homed in Leytonstone, as well as elderly persons and people with psychiatric problems and learning difficulties. The reason is that large houses suitable for conversion into care homes are relatively cheap in Leytonstone.

Ian is to survey local GPs, police and other services to find out how much pressure the care homes are adding to their work, with a view to getting any new care homes sited elsewhere.

Cllr Clyde Loakes responded to the question about **Leytonstone Town Centre**. He said the Council is producing a paper on this subject. However, he warned that plans must be for sustainable regeneration – *something BARA has campaigned for* – not short-term quick fixes. Our town centre cannot be made into another Ilford or Romford; it must have its own niche as a small but viable shopping centre. Clyde is chasing the Council's Town Centre paper and wants to see it as soon as possible.

Clyde reported that, after a hesitant start, the shopfront refurbishment scheme has been so successful that at present there are more applications than available cash!

♦ In the absence of chairman Parvez Hussain on business, the meeting with councillors was chaired by committee member Dwight Wood. He thanked the councillors for attending. The councillors said that they find these meetings most useful, especially from the point of view of feedback, and are always happy to attend.

Planning your Year 2000 street party? Contact the Council first!

IF YOUR Millennium celebration is a street party for the people in your road and their families and friends, you will need street closure permission. You can get an application form from the Traffic Management Team at Highways Services: ☎ Eugene Ochi on 527 5544, ext 6197. The Team can also inform the police and other emergency services of your intended street closure.



M11 LINK ROAD COMMEMORATION EVENT

DO YOU have any memories of the Link Road that you want to share? The half-day event taking a factual look at the road and how it came to be built may be the thing for you. After the formal opening there will be videos and talks on various aspects ranging from art and road building to public enquiry.

The organisers need volunteers to help set out all the displays from 10.00am onwards. Material toward displays or ideas for a 10-minute talk on a particular aspect of the campaign is also sought. Please let Adrian Stannard on 0181 521 4400 know if you can help.

Venue: Leytonstone Library, E11

Date: Saturday 7 August

Time: Midday to 4.30pm



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RED LION PUB

Opposite Woolworths

THE pub offers pleasant cheap food and with amiable staff and customers it provides a welcome break from the rigours of shopping. There is also a wide variety of evening entertainment for your pleasure at leisure.

BARA'S SUCCESSFUL EVENTS DRAW THE CROWDS

◆QUIZ NIGHT

MORE than 40 people attended our successful quiz night, held in March at the *Sheepwalk* pub. Congratulations to David Dowsett's winning team, who received £30 in *Woolworths/B&Q* vouchers. *The Wizards* (they know who they are!) scored a magnificent 1½ out of 20 in the History round, while the highest round score was 19 out of 20 by *The Indian Traveller* team for identification of

reports by
Jo Pilc
Events organiser



being an Asian country, but most teams knew the most popular names for children registered in 1998 (Jack and Chloë). Most teams also knew that the empire which Barbara Hutton had been heir to was *Woolworths* - which was a relief as *Woolworths of Leytonstone* had kindly made a £5 contribution to the prize!

The upstairs room at the *Sheepwalk* was ideal and they thoughtfully provided a public address system for us. Our thanks to *Woolworths of Leytonstone* for their £5 donation - it really is encouraging when local businesses support our efforts.

◆LITTER CLEARING

IN APRIL we had a campaign to clear up the litter in our area. On a sunny Sunday a good turn-out of volunteers joined in to clear litter from Bush Wood.

We also cleared the areas outside St John's and St Mary's Courts in Mornington Road, and wrote to estate agents managing empty properties where these were becoming dumping-grounds for litter.

More than 30 sacks of litter were collected, together with bits of cars, metal piping, old clothes etc.

Our thanks to the *WRENS* wildlife group for the loan of litter-picking sticks, and to *The Conservators of Epping Forest* for providing equipment and taking away the rubbish collected. And, of course, thanks to all of you who came along to help. Good attendance at these events really is appreciated and lets us know you support what we are doing.

◆PLANT SALE

ANOTHER successful plant sale. By opening time at our sale on 22 May a long queue of people were waiting - despite the Cup Final taking place that afternoon! About £235 was raised for worthwhile causes, the BARA stall gaining nearly £40. Star money-spinner was Mervyn's stall in aid of Action for the Blind, which raised £95. This year we had nine stalls and even more items on sale. Many customers were return visitors with encouraging stories of their successes with plants from our sale last year.

Our special thanks to the landlord of the *Red Lion* pub who once again lent us his garden free of charge. Our thanks as well to all those who helped: the stall minders, the plant growers, those who lent tables and helped deliver plants or helped with setting up on the day. These events take some organising and it took about 15 people to make it the success it was. We always welcome help at these events so don't be shy! Let us know if you can help in any way. It was good to see the number of shops and local businesses that willingly displayed our posters - our thanks to the artistic Judy for these.



News around Bushwood

Leytonstone Tube Station subway refurbishment. Work has been under way for the last month to modernise the thoroughfare with better security, flooring, and ambience. Plans for the installation of murals on the life and works of Sir Alfred Hitchcock in the subway are now very advanced. Six to seven local artists have been short-listed to design a total of 18 panels that will be put on display in autumn for the public to express a preference. The *Hitchcock Gallery* will cost more than £50,000 and will use mosaic as the main material with some ceramic.

M11 Link Road. The Green Man Tunnel is scheduled to be opened in September subject to completion of electrical work. Finishing touches are being applied to the earth bund (barrier against sound) and the fourth subway. The Wanstead part (Contract 4) will be open in July and the Leyton Way (Contract 2) in August.

Railway Arches, Leytonstone High Road Station. At the planning committee last week the Council considered the change of use for the vacant arches under Leytonstone Rail Station for a variety of uses including retail, professional services, food and drink. Approval would allow *Railtrack* to woo businesses to locate there. The proposal is certainly one step forward towards the improvement in the visual appearance of the arches and when taken up by retail or small businesses will enliven the surrounding area considerably.

Central Hall, Leytonstone House. In the original plans for the development of the site by *Tesco* the Central Hall was earmarked for conversion into 16 flats. It is now proposed to change the use of the Hall to retailing, most probably for beer, spirits and wine. This will add an extra 333 sq m to the store's retail space and will preserve the listed historical content. The central space of the Hall would be opened up, enabling the public to appreciate the structure and hammer-beam roof. The interior will include facilities for the public display of archives, pictures and photography of Leytonstone, the House itself and the Buxton family. The display aspects have been agreed in principle; the exact details have yet to be agreed.

The BARA Committee 1998/99

Alf Addison	179 Mornington Road
<i>Treasurer</i>	
Judith Aldridge	35 Leyspring Road
David Dowsett	74 Mornington Road
Robert Gay	137 Mornington Road
Ruth Greene	30 St. Augustine's Court
Parvez Hussain	4A Bushwood
<i>Chairman</i>	
Jo Pilc	57 Leybourne Road
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	
Marion Roper	35 Michael Road
<i>Bush Telegraph Production</i>	
Dwight Wood	Carlton House, Aylmer Road
<i>Social Secretary</i>	Vacant
<i>Vice-chair</i>	Vacant

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

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