



The Bush Telegraph

The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents' Association

Tough times are inevitably tougher for those already struggling. The BARA food bank collections dotted around Bushwood have collected car loads of donations in the last few months. BARA's Fiona has been talking to member Rev Polly Kersys-Hull about the onward journey of your donations.

As well as patiently queuing to shop, or waiting up until the early hours to pounce on an all elusive online supermarket slot, many BARA members have also been regularly dropping donations of food, nappies, cleaning products and other much needed supplies to support local people in need, both during the lockdown, and now as we emerge into the light of a strange new world that is much harsher for some than for others.

But just what happens to the donations that you so generously leave on St John's Forecourt or in your local BARA Box every week?

Though, because of its central location St John's is used as a collection point, it is only a temporary stop for donations which are immediately whisked away to the Holy Trinity Church. As someone more used to using pubs rather than churches as landmarks, I'd of course never heard of it, but it is a rather strange looking red brick building hidden away just off Cathall Rd which has been quietly undertaking some amazing work for the last two years in the form of a 'Pop up Shop'.

"St John's is an ideal location for people to drop to. David (Rev David Britton) and I have worked closely together for the past 3 years, and during lockdown I took over the responsibility of Holy Trinity Church. It was a natural process for us to join forces and support the incredible work already done by the Pop Up Shop. The need has massively increased during COVID19 and so churches and agencies have needed to work collaboratively more now than ever" explains Polly.

The Pop up Shop is an initiative that works in conjunction with the 'Felix Project' an organisation that collects fresh produce no longer wanted by shops, cafes and hotels that would otherwise go to waste. Before lockdown people could go to the shop and buy a parcel of packed food for a very low price and get some lunch. The parcel scheme running now is an extension of the pop up and with the help of a fantastic band of volunteers it was quickly adapted to suit the lockdown scenario.

The donations from the community taken on



Rev Polly Kersys-Hull



The need has massively increased during COVID19 and so churches and agencies have needed to work collaboratively more now than ever

a Saturday are added to the weekly donations of fresh food from the Felix Project which come in on a Monday morning. On Tuesday, all the food is laid out across the church and a team of volunteers pack on average 40 parcels a week for families who have requested support. Each parcel is tailored to individual family requirements and needs and the number and

age of any children. Even pets are covered!

Once the parcels are packed, a team of drivers deliver them out to the families though pick up at the church gate is just starting to be introduced.

On a Wednesday morning Polly packs up her car again and takes all the leftover donations to the Salvation Army on Southwell Grove ready for their foodbank on Thursday morning. "We normally have about a car load to deliver to them weekly, which is amazing and always gets a cheer when we arrive!" she says. In addition, any baby specific items are taken to the Salvation Army in Stratford for a young parent and baby project there.

Sadly, requests are on the rise each week and the initiative has also recently taken over provision for families from a local secondary school. Being able to meet demand is an increasing problem which is probably only

BARA FOOD BANK COLLECTION LOCATIONS

To make donating even easier, BARA have set up various drop off stations in front gardens in the Bushwood area. Welcome donations include: tinned veg/fruit/fish and meat; packet food; pasta; flour; long life milk; tea; coffee; cereal; pet food; cleaning products

Alternatively drop to: St John's Church Forecourt Every Saturday 10 - 11.30am
Salvation Army drop off (Southwell Grove, E11 4PP): Every Wednesday 10am - 12pm

- 21 Browning Rd
- 37a Harvey Rd
- 11 Barclay Rd
- 20 Stanmore Rd
- 7 Laybourne Rd
- 37 Lister Rd
- 44 Hartley Rd



Note From The Chair



Well, that was unexpected! When I wrote the last Chair's Letter, none of us could have imagined the extraordinary situation we'd be living through before the next edition of the Bush Telegraph. Nonetheless, here we are, facing a very different reality. I hope you and your loved ones have been able to weather these uncertain times, and are enjoying the chance to reconnect with friends, albeit at a safe distance.

The Covid pandemic seems to have impacted every aspect of our lives, and the work we do at BARA is no different. So it seems appropriate to begin by thanking all the members who came forward to volunteer when we put out the call at the beginning of lockdown. In the end, over 100 people offered their time and energy to supporting neighbours who were sheltering or self-isolating. It was hugely encouraging to see just how many of our members were willing to lend a hand.

One consequence of the lockdown is that we were unable to hold our usual Litter Pick. Unfortunately, as the warm weather hit, many people (especially those without an outdoor space of their own) took to Wanstead Flats to enjoy the sunshine. And, while many of them were responsible and cleared up after themselves, others left behind plenty of rubbish to blight our green spaces. As a consequence, the clean-up has been more ad hoc this summer, but there are litter pickers available if you fancy spending half an hour keeping our area green and tidy.

The committee has fully embraced the digital revolution, holding regular catch-ups on Zoom and Teams, to make sure that we all stay connected. One extension of this online migration was the most recent BARA quiz which, by all accounts was a roaring success. James excelled himself with a creative and inventive solution that ensured everyone was able to give it their best shot. In fact, it was so popular we may hold another online quiz before all of this is over.

The fact is, we're not out of the woods yet, and while restrictions are lifted across the country, many people are now facing a period of economic uncertainty. This means foodbank donations are more vital than ever. We've been running foodbank collections throughout the lockdown, and will continue for the foreseeable future. If you've got some food or essential items to donate, look out for the signage on many of our streets, indicating where you can drop off your contribution.

Wishing you all a safe and secure summer.

Doug Sheedy
Chair

The BARA Team

BARA Committee

Doug Sheedy
Chair
Barclay Road

Andy Irvine
Vice Chair & Membership
Leybourne Road

Anna Davies
Treasurer
Browning Road

RoseMary Warrington
Environmental
88 Mornington Road

Kate Duffy
Social & Facebook
St Augustines's Court

Katy Smith
Safer Neighbourhoods Team
Harvey Road

Janet Lee

Will Higham
Town Team &
High Street Liaison
Leybourne Road

Robbyn Linden
Aylmer Road

Annette Loakes
Planning
Bushwood

Fiona Sinclair
Membership
BARA e-Mail Newsletter
Leybourne Road

James Cowen
BT Editor
BARA Website
Library of Things
Lister Road

BARA Road Representatives

Aylmer Road
Alice Haigh, 31 Barfield Road

Barclay Road
Doug Sheedy, 11 Barclay Road

Barfield Road
Alice Haigh, 31 Barfield Road

Beacontree Road
Janet Lee dropat 21 Browning Rd

Browning Road
Anna Davies, 21 Browning Road

Bushwood
Brian Hopson, 49 Bushwood

Carlton Road
Alice Haigh, 31 Barfield Road

Colt's Yard
Jan Osterley, 4 Colt's Yard

Dacre Road
Alice Haigh, 31 Barfield Road

Forest View
Liz Maloy Jollands, 5 Forest View

Grove Road
Doug Sheedy, 11 Barclay 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
Liz Hayman, 54 Leyspring Road

Lister Road
Helen Westerby, 50 Lister Road

Michael Road
Sue House, 32 Michael Road

Mornington Road
RoseMary Warrington, 88 Mornington Rd

St Augustine's Ct
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
Kate Duffy, 29 St Augustine's Court

For membership, please visit your road rep to make the £3 payment and receive your discount card or subscribe online at our website. If you would like to get in touch with BARA or require further information on the area and a list of local services then please email BARACONNECT@GMAIL.COM or visit the BARA website.

Thanks to this issue's contributors, we are always looking for Bushwood or Leytonstone articles, stories and ideas for the Bush Telegraph. If you would like to contribute please get in touch with the editorial team at 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.

Please support BARA and follow us on our social media pages



BARACONNECT@gmail.com



www.bara.london



Bushwood Area Residents' Association



@BARA.e11

going to get worse. “You don’t need to go far to meet people struggling with daily essentials” says Polly. “The reality of the need in our community is something we all need to be acutely aware of”. A big thank you to all those that have, and are continuing to donate BARA food bank collection boxes can be found at the following locations:

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

St John’s Church Forecourt Drop off: Every Saturday 10 - 11.30am
 Salvation Army drop off (Southwell Grove, E11 4PP): Every Wednesday 10am - 12pm

<https://thefelixproject.org/>
<http://eatorheat.org/>

Photos: Hassan Akkad



Help for the High Street

Town Team on hold but Council offers business support

A quick update to the Town Team initiative that Waltham Forest’s Annette Russell talked about last issue. The impact of Covid-19 means the council has had to pause the initiative temporarily. But it will be returning soon. Meanwhile Annette wanted us know what the council is doing to help shopkeepers and related businesses during the pandemic.

Waltham Forest has created a special three-step High Streets Action Plan to help “recover, re-open and re-imagine” the area’s shopping hubs. In the short term, the initiative is offering business rate relief and £47m of small business grants to the areas businesses, developing a Toolkit of Support so they can adapt and re-open, and widening their business support programme to include online content. In the medium term, they are redesigning public space to enable businesses to trade outside, being more flexible with policies and regulations to enable businesses to adapt and create innovative new business models, and organising a campaign to encourage residents to shop locally. They also plan to create new workspaces in Council buildings such as Leytonstone library, vacant high street properties and mixed-use town centre development, and focus investment on regenerating vacant property along the high street.

We’ll keep you posted once we hear any more. Any businesses looking for support should speak to Waltham Forest Council or view the High Streets Action Plan document on the Council website here: https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/WF%20High%20St%20Action%20plan_FINAL.pdf

Show us your lockdown Art!

The Arts Trail isn’t happening this year but organiser, Hilary Douse, still wants to see your art

For obvious reasons, we couldn’t run the official Leytonstone Arts Trail or Leytonstone Festival this year but we are still able to run the “Lets Fill Leytonstone with Art” project. For those not familiar with this activity it simply means that we can put our own art in our windows and gardens – this starts in July and

carries on throughout the summer and beyond if you want.

If you don’t know what this is all about take a trip to the corner of Leybourne Road and Woodville Road and the two houses opposite each other usually have a year long display of art produced by the members of their households. Stanmore Road has a window that is constantly changing and if we are lucky a bush that may soon become adorned with a display as happens every year. Check out the website www.letsfill.co.uk for a look at the artworks and displays that have been produced over previous years and a poster to help us to promote the project! You will see that anything goes.

Come on - Show us your lockdown art!

Cancelled BARA Quiz goes online

BARA’s regular quiz was cancelled as the UK came under the lockdown so we found a different way to deliver it

The BARA quiz has recently had a bit of a renaissance. The twice yearly quiz has been getting bigger turnouts than ever before with tickets selling out weeks before the event. The March quiz was scheduled the week the lockdown began and was inevitably cancelled.

How could we put it online and still keep a cheat proof element of competition?

The answer was to make it a multimedia quiz where Googling was not really an option and have players email their answers in within 5 minutes of the round ending.

The initial plan was for a seamless prerecorded broadcast on Facebook Live. However, due to an unknown technical issue it wouldn’t play for more than five minutes. With about 100 people tuning in it was about to become a crushing disappointment. Instead of a live stream we uploaded the rounds as individual posts, it wasn’t ideal but it worked.

Six video rounds and two table rounds later the scores started coming in. Twenty two teams entered but the runaway winners were English Tapas, only getting nine wrong.

With the success of the online quiz its very possible we’ll be doing another one in the Autumn. Stay tuned for details and how to get involved with your creative contributions.



Winning teams with their prizes. English Tapas took first place. Second went to The Jammy Dodgers. Third place was won by 37 Shades of Grey

BACK IN TIME TO... THE BARCLAY STORES

Andrew Shields uncovers the story behind Bushwood's own corner shop



The recent BBC2 reality documentary series 'Back in Time for the Corner Shop' traced the story of Britain's independent retailers from their early 20th century heyday to modern times. Right up to the 1950s people bought groceries and provisions daily, with visits to the corner shop part of the routine. Shop assistants would offer a personal service with goods carefully weighed out, cut, sliced and wrapped – and the bill totted up on a paper bag. Despite the dominance of supermarket shopping today, the convenience store has clung on – there are still more than 46,000 across the UK.

Even with the High Road so close by, Bushwood had its own thriving corner shop for many decades. The Barclay Stores was located at the junction of Barclay Road and Stanmore Road and older BARA members have fond recollections [see 'The Barclay Stores remembered']. All that remains now, however, is a poignant, faded 'ghost sign' on the wall above the door.

As the sign shows, groceries were not the only items for sale. The Barclay Stores was also a 'beer retailer'. This was a legal term defined in the 1830s for any premises selling beer, cider or perry (but not wine or spirits) in quantities of less than four and a half gallons.

From the 1880s onwards it was common for shops to be adorned with advertisements for Epps cocoa, Colman's mustard, Crosse &

Top, 1911 census showing the Clark family running the stores. Middle, 1901 census showing the Clapton family at 1 Barclay Road. Left, the stores as they are now. Right, a reproduction of the original sign by Russell Frost of Hooksmith Press. Copies of his version of the sign are available at his shop in Church Lane. Open weekends 11am-6pm. www.hooksmith.com Bottom, extract from the 1922 Kelly's London Suburban Directory

Blackwell sauces, Hudson's soap and many other branded products. The Barclay Stores may well have sold all these items, but its own green sign was hand-painted courtesy of Mann Crossman's to promote ales and stout brewed just a few miles west. Mann Crossman & Paulin operated from the Albion Brewery on Whitechapel Road, which merged with Watney, Combe, Reid & Co. in 1958 to become Watney Mann. The Albion Brewery closed in 1979 when the site was converted to flats and a Sainsburys.

Opening up

Barclay Road began to be developed from the 1860s with the houses on what was originally

known as Barclay Road North occupied from 1893. In 1908 the two parts of the road were united and completely renumbered, starting from the High Road end, so that the Barclay Stores at number 1 became number 63.

The shop was definitely in business by 1896 and the proprietor greeting customers was called William Thomas Clapton.

Born in Shoreditch in 1853, the son of an embosser, William was listed as a 'Grocer and Beer Retailer' in the 1896 Kelly's Lon-

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.
Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The names should be written in full.
The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Special provisions will be made for the purpose of the Census. The names should be written in full.
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The Corner Shop Project

The history and heritage of corner shops is a current research and public engagement project as part of **Layers of London** (www.layersoflondon.org).

This website brings together digitised assets from the British Library, London Metropolitan Archives, Historic England, The National Archives and MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) which are linked to allow users to interact with many different 'layers' of London's history from the Romans to the present day.

The layers include historic maps, images of buildings and films as well as information about people who have lived and worked in London over the centuries.

Layers of London is also a fantastic tool to explore our neighbourhood: placing an 18th century layer over the layer showing Bushwood today reveals just how closely our road layout follows the ancient field pattern.



WT Clapton plaque on 47-49 Leybourne Road

don Suburban Directory. Five years later, the census shows him living at 1 Barclay Road with wife Susan (then 45), son William (7) and daughter Elsie (10). Also part of the household was Henry Wood, aged 24, whose status is given as 'Boarder' and occupation as 'Grocer's Assistant'. Clearly the shop was sufficiently thriving for an extra pair of hands to be needed.

Henry must have used his time in Leytonstone well. By 1911 he had moved to Merton in south London, close to where he was born, and set himself up as a wine and spirit merchant. He and his wife were even prosperous enough to employ a live-in domestic servant.

From beer to building

William, meanwhile, proved to be an enterprising and ambitious individual. As other roads on the Bushwood estate began to be laid out and plots of land put up for sale, he spotted an opportunity. There is nothing in his previous life to suggest any construction expertise, yet a plaque on 47-49 Leybourne Road confirms William's next venture: it reads 'Built by WT Clapton 1899'. The following November, his application to build the houses that are now 2-16 Leybourne Road was approved by Leyton Urban District Council. Indeed, by the time of the 1911 census, William was grandly describing himself as a 'Master Builder'. It must have been a profitable enterprise and he moved his family, plus a domestic servant, from the Barclay Stores to a larger property at 68 Bushwood. William and Susan both died in 1917.

BROWN SHELVES AND OLD-FASHIONED SCALES

The Barclay Stores remembered by Bushwood's older residents

"Showing my age but I remember it as an off-licence-cum-everything shop. The owners used to live upstairs and I can remember the big jar on the counter in which there were very large biscuits. Arrowroot, I think. Also they sold Black Jacks and Fruit Salad sweets. If memory serves me well they were open from 9am until 8pm, closed on Sunday."

Ray Gross

"I think the two men who ran the shop were brothers called John and Lou. They were both really lovely men and never seemed to mind how long you took to decide how you were going to spend a few coppers. In those days, the '50s and '60s, you could get four Fruit Salad chews or Black Jacks for a penny."

Kathie Fuller

"The kids could go there with their pennies and buy sweets, sold loose from jars and boxes. So you could buy 2oz of pineapple chunks and a liquorice shoe string or whatever you could afford with your money."

Evie Edworthy

"The shop had two doors—one was the entrance to the off-licence end and the other to the 'sweets' end. The shop had large jars of sweets which were weighed out in old-fashioned scales and put into small paper bags. I liked the Tom Thumb drops which were always stuck together in one big lump by the time I got home."

Dawn Eldridge

"We moved into Barclay Road in 1971 and the corner shop was very useful. I remember my daughter was a bit nervous to go inside but once in she loved the sweets. When she started at Davies Lane School we would stop by the shop two or three times a week. We did miss it when it closed."

Linda Standen

"When I moved here in 1981 the shop was still there and remained so for a few years. It was great having a local shop and it sold everything. Wonderful brown shelving everywhere. Somebody bought it all when the shop closed. There was talk of turning it into a community shop, quite a radical thing at the time. Sadly those of us who were interested in doing that were too busy with careers and families so it wasn't to be. I thought the door was right on the corner so I'm not sure the two doors there now are the originals."

Joyce Quarrie

"The owners uncovered the sign a few years ago. The lower half of the wall had polished green tiles but they weren't in good enough condition to restore."

Diane Spivey

"I remember it well. I used to go in there every day after picking my daughter up from Davies Lane School. A lady called Val (Wickard?) worked in there, she had two daughters and later lived in the house attached to the Welsh Church on the High Road."

Mary Olley

"In about 1968 the confectionery manufacturer that owned Mars, Rolo, Milky Way etc ran a promotion. If you sent in a certain number of their product wrappers you received a voucher to redeem against any of their choc bars. I searched the streets and bins around the Barclay Stores and sent 100 or so wrappers off. I received so many vouchers that I had a month's worth of choc bars for no cost! The owners of the Barclay Stores not only happily redeemed the vouchers but helped me get more by collecting wrappers for me!"

John Buniak

"As a child I remember it being our local 'offie'. The shop also sold sweets out of jars, which particularly interested me when I started school in 1934. When I was older, you could take your own jug in for beer. Most of the local pubs also had an off-licence, people used to call them the 'jug and bottle department'. The stores had a wooden floor and smelt like a mix of methylated spirits and vinegar which they used to sell out of a barrel. I only remember one door, beneath the sign, and you turned right to the counter with the sweets behind on shelves. Lots of Leytonstone streets had a corner shop, there are still some surviving in the roads on the other side of the tube station."

Ron Allen

"Two elderly brothers owned the stores when we moved here in 1977. We always called them 'the brothers'. It was our local off-licence but it sold crisps, sweets and bits of food as well. The door was definitely on the corner. My husband had Ménière's disease and one day was talking to the brothers about going to hospital. One of the brothers said he'd had the same condition and gave him some very good advice"

Kathleen Lucking

Enterprising Arthur

The Barclay Stores were taken over by Arthur Frederick Charles Clark and his wife Alice Emily, described in the 1911 census as 'Assisting in the business'. They lived above the shop with son Russell, daughters Evelyn and Eileen and 20-year-old May Carter, a 'Companion help (domestic)'. Arthur had some relevant experience – his father was in the licensed trade and by 1902 Arthur had set up as a beer retailer in Chelmsford Road, Walthamstow.

Born in 1877, Arthur was just young enough to be conscripted for service in World War 1, as a Private in the Royal Irish Rifles. He returned to run the Barclay Stores but by 1925 was also listed in the London Directory as a beer retailer at 2 Cullum Street, EC3. Five years later his address was a smart house in Wandsworth Bridge Road, Fulham. Arthur, it

seems, had overseen a successful expansion of his business.

Yet he retained his connection with Bushwood. Arthur also lost his wife and in 1936, aged 58, he remarried. The wedding certificate described him as a 'Licensed Grocer' and still gave his address as 63 Barclay Road. Muriel McCarthy, from Mitcham in Surrey, was 14 years his junior and they set up home in near-by Banstead. Arthur died in Brighton in 1963.

Who came next?

There, for the moment, must end the chronology of the owners of the Barclay Stores. With Vestry House closed and access to the newspaper archives at the British Library restricted, further research into who ran the corner shop in the period after Arthur Clark will have to wait!

Backyard Marathon

Keen runner, *Maud Hodson*, explains how she had to improvise when her monthly marathon plans were put on hold

My plan was to run a marathon every month in 2020. January was along the banks of the Stort near Sawbridgeworth, February was on the seafront in Deal (a late replacement for another race lost to Storm Dennis), March on the 400m running track at Walton-on-Thames. April would have been Boston (Lincs), May Halstead (Essex), June Amersfoort (Netherlands), July a wine estate in Surrey.

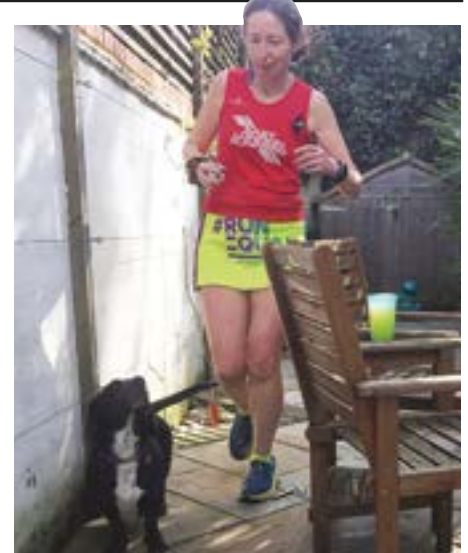
When the country locked down in late March, all races were cancelled for at the very least April & May, so I had a choice of either abandoning my plan altogether or continuing by myself. The government rules back in April allowed us to exercise once a day, close to our homes. While this didn't technically rule out running a marathon, I felt it would be taking liberties. So to make the best of a bad job, I decided to run my April marathon in my back garden, and raise some money for two charities, Refuge and NHS Charities Together.

My garden is not very big – about 8.5 metres long and quite narrow. By moving the garden chairs into the middle, I managed to plot a 19m

figure-of-eight course. 2221 laps would make 26.2 miles. I borrowed a lap-counter from a friend as GPS would be useless on such a tight course, stocked up on snacks and named the day – April 4th.

It was always going to be a mental challenge as much as a physical one, although all those tight turns would be tricky too. We live-streamed the run on Facebook, and it had already featured in the Ilford Recorder, so quitting was clearly not an option. The key was not to think too far ahead. 10 laps done, 100, 500 – that's almost a quarter. Try not to trip over the dog – do you have to sit exactly there, Steevie? I allowed myself a toilet stop at half way – that was a treat. Then I could start counting down instead of up – 500 to go, 100, 10 – I attempted a rather ungainly sprint finish. The whole thing took me six hours and seven minutes, which is about 50% longer than a regular marathon would take me.

Since then I've run my May & June marathons by myself out and about on the roads, turning them into a cheeky little double header



on May 31st & June 1st – running into town (to Buckingham Palace & back) then out of town (Epping & back). I've also done a virtual 24 hour race which involved running one mile every hour for 24 hours, including the fancy dress mile at midnight. If you saw an idiot running around in the dark in a camel suit, that was me.

BUSHWOOD IN LOCKDOWN

How Bushwood kept busy and creative during a global pandemic

Clapping for the NHS, Key Workers and... Us!

Hilary Douse looks at how Thursdays became something more than just clapping for the NHS

Who misses the Thursday night clapping ritual? Whilst it started as a gesture to support the NHS and then all keyworkers, the whole event certainly developed a life of its own in Bushwood.

The woeful lack of PPE and real support for health and care workers brought controversy to the event. Some felt it was patronising and others appreciated the gesture. Some joined in wholeheartedly and others didn't feel it was the right thing to do and stayed behind closed doors.

People I spoke to were heartfelt in their support for the NHS and keyworkers but the event also started to feel like a lifeline for us too. Sat inside, keeping our visits outdoors to a minimum, people began to latch onto Thursday night clapping as a moment when we could connect with our neighbours and some real human faces. Phone calls, Houseparty and Zoom were helpful but no substitute for real human contact and Thursday night clapping was for most of us the best it got. Queuing at Tesco's had nothing of the fun and frivolity of Thursday nights!

If you recall, the first Thursday was a dark night, before the clocks changed. As the weeks wore on the light nights came with it. Our lockdown spring was spectacular, warm and bright, which belied what was really going on as a dark, global pandemic crept into our midst. As the lockdown weeks became months, the clapping ritual became an event that really was enjoyed and valued by many of us and has served to cement relationships and bonds throughout Bushwood.

Stanmore Road enjoyed noise - lots of it - Nigel played a recording of Church Bells, to get us out and that was followed by a cacophony of drumming, banging and shouting down the street at each other – everybody smiled. Young Dylan banged so hard that he broke his Mum's whole set of wooden spoons through the weeks!

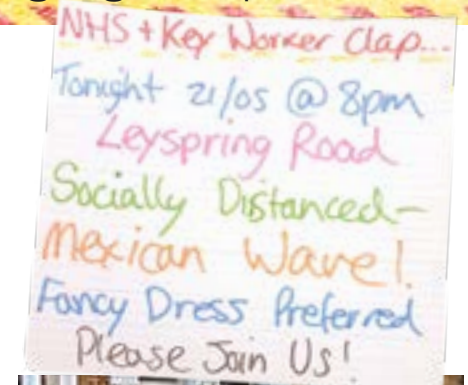
Leybourne Road was much more lyrical – their WhatsApp group voted weekly on a song to sing after the clapping finished. On Mornington and Barclay Road, Maud entertained the residents with a different instrument every week – clearly others matched our enthusiasm with some real talent!

On Leyspring Road they did a socially distanced Mexican Wave and a series of fancy dress themed events to match the dancing. Rumour has it that Hartley Road was visited by the Queen or was that "a Queen"? Anyway she gave them all a "royal-ish" wave.

My personal highlight was discovering "MirrorBallPaul" on Bushwood. He set up one of the huge mirrorballs made by him, to spin and twinkle into the trees of Bushwood – that was perfectly magical.

Thursday nights were a highlight of lockdown for me. People have told me how it strengthened the existing friendships within this community and enabled those who were struggling with the isolation to connect with people. Kafi on Leyspring Road said the all the children now know each other and play in the street together, evidenced by all the chalked drawings on the pavement – more like childhood used to be.

Big claps must go to Lister Road that have really supported the elderly in their street – even going to the extent of holding birthday parties for them and building a beautiful garden for Ron and Cherry some of our oldest Bushwood residents. Hats off to everyone – there was certainly a lockdown spirit in this area which makes me believe I would never want to live anywhere else!



"In times of new reality, with respect to the space between us, I present to you the sunny side up of this situation: my neighbours in Leytonstone and beyond..."

Going Nowhere

Stanmore Road's Jan Rockar turned lockdown into a marvelous photographic project

Lockdown has spawned many creative projects and one of the best we've seen is Jan Rockar's *Going Nowhere*, shot during the first couple of months of the UK lockdown. Jan said *'About a week into lockdown I woke up and thought that I really need to figure out my angle real quick. How could I continue shooting people as usual...?! I thought I'll just ask my neighbours to stand behind their front windows and hoped it will spread by word of mouth. Which it did, but social media was the real boost to spread the word.'*

Jan shot 72 volunteers windows when restrictions were at their harshest, capturing people locked behind glass with the reflection of the outside world. Take a look at the images and see how many friends and neighbours you can spot.

You can purchase the book from Jan (email jrockar@gmail.com) or from Kevin at the North Star where the images have been exhibited. The exhibitiois currently still on but will be coming down soon. Alternatively, you can view the images on [flickr.com/photos/22736422@N03/sets/72157714218407013](https://www.flickr.com/photos/22736422@N03/sets/72157714218407013)

Jan's can be found on his website www.janrockar.com or instagram [@jrockar](https://www.instagram.com/jrockar)

Jan Rockar and his book *Going Nowhere*



Bushwood Young Writers

Jai Fussey, returns with his account of the Leyspring Road Lockdown

Leyspring Road has been at it again! Honestly? A socially distant Mexican wave? Sounds like some pretty intense devotion to partying, despite many slight challenges (mainly the global pandemic) that might cause some minor inconveniences. How did they organise a Mexican wave? These persistent partygoers drew chalk 'x's on the road that were two metres apart to indicate standing spaces. I noticed that one was one metre and 99 centimetres, but hey, everyone's a critic. You may realise that already, me being a journalist and all,

yadda yadda, I would like to now shout and scream about this infringement of the law!! ≈However, I recently turned 13 (an official Quaran-teenager) so I just gotta say 'humph whatever' and just move on. (Don't judge me, it's who I am now.)

Now, onto the thrilling story. The epic event was masterminded by a house-hold on Leyspring Road, you know them? On the sunny side? The side with the sun? I won't name them here (mainly because I don't actually know their names...) The theme was Mexico so basically all of the women were dressed as Frida Kahlo – some even went to the extent of tying a chilli around their necks!!

This has been the epic ballad of clap 9. Will the fate of clap ten face an unexpected turn, find out in the next issue of the Bushwood Telegraph...



Lister Unlocked

A simple clap on a Thursday night during a crippling quarantine kick-started a social change in Lister Road. James Cowen, a resident for fourteen years found being locked in unlocked a street.

Lister Road has always been lovely and alive. The beautiful trees, the school run kids and the bustle of the high road on your front door. But apart from a few doors either side of our house we didn't really know that many people in our street beyond a nod of the head on the way to Stone Mini Market.

In March and April the importance of helping vulnerable people and making contact with them made it necessary to get as many people on the street in a WhatsApp group. The group began to grow fuelled by clapping for the NHS on a Thursday night - a lifeline for people missing human contact.

Humorous posts, chitchat and offers of help brought everyone closer together turning the Thursday clap into a distanced social evening. Now the group has become a general place to keep the road informed and organise street get togethers, something that has never happened in the time I've lived here.

People came out to celebrate VE Day from their front gardens, then a celebration for Lister Road's Ron and Cherry Allen's 64th Wedding Anniversary and finally an 86th birthday celebration for Mary.

The road also pooled its muscle and talents to help elderly residents. From shopping for essentials to organising teams to dig out a front garden for a patio or clearing back gardens. The kids are also involved running a car washing business and a bake sale. It's nice to think that during such an awful period communities are growing stronger.

The garden diggers, celebrating a job well done, 2 metres apart



Mary's surprise 86th Birthday



Lister Road
What a truly special place to live!!!!
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for looking out for Mary and everything you all do!
We appreciate everything!
Mary and Bernie were very special people and we are glad they touched your lives in such a positive way.
Love,
Marie, Lisa, Nicole, Chris
And all of Mary's family
Xxxx



Lister Kid's Bake Sale



Dominic and Dave putting in a shift



Ron and Cherry's 64th wedding anniversary

The BARA Lockdown Initiative

It was early March and though no-one was yet in lock-down, it was just beginning to dawn on us that what we had all been reading about happening in Italy was very likely to quickly become a reality for us.

The BARA committee had already started thinking about things that a residents' association could do to support its members during such exceptional circumstances and an email from member William Wan of Leybourne Rd, who was full of good ideas for how a volunteering service might work, was all that was needed to springboard us into action. At this point no-one knew how bad things might get, and how much work volunteering might mean but over 100 BARA members nonetheless immediately put themselves forward to be added to the list. Some volunteered as Road Leads who would have their names and contact details put on leaflets that would be delivered to all homes in the BARA area. We were most concerned that older or other more vulnerable members of the community knew that there were people that they could turn to for help, however, with people going in and out of self isolation all the time the service was also there to help anyone who couldn't shop, get medication or even walk their dog for certain periods of time during lock-down.

Though the initiative did pair up many people in need with a volunteer, in the end we know many volunteers were not called upon. However what is important is that so many of our wonderful members were willing to put their names forward to help not knowing what that would actually mean in reality, and that the framework was there to support anyone in our area had the need arisen. A massive shout out and thanks to you all involved!

Elizabeth Nicholson
James Muir
Lynne Abrams
Senay Ozkaya
Doruk Ozkaya
Doug Sheedy
Minnie Life
Michael Brown
Susan Harrison
Tom Pickhaver
Tom Boyd
Maria Boyd
James Hodgson
Leila Powell
Matthew Alston
Caroline Coleman
Mike Watson
Rachel Castell
Beth Andlaw
Zoe & Phil Cook
Anna Davies
Alison Mason
Katie Hastie
Glyn Hastie
Debbie Murray
Claudia Civai
Anna Whelan
Mike Innes
Laura Minns
Sally Duncan
Joe Kallarackal
Rebecca Cornwall
Jeannie Bruce
Lizzie Lake

Chris Noble
Miriam Muzzell
Petra Dodd
Kate Brett
Douglas Barr
Louise Barr
Liz Malloy Jollands
Andrew Shields
Liam Flanagan
Venn Chesterton
Hong Yoke
Hepburn
Jethro East
Katy Smith
Laura Thorogood
William Wan
John Daly
Cynthia Daly
Jo Pilc
Paul O'Donnell
Sara O'Donnell
Eleanor Moreton
Vicky Weaver
Richard Morgan
Emily Marsh
Tony Clarke
Natalia Clarke
Nell Ridgway
Suzanne Veitch
Fiona Sinclair
Amy Hinsworth
Nadia Higham
Cathal Lynch
Karen McRitchie
Kelly Barker

Roy Barker
Stuart Spearpoint
Pete Fussey
Marigemma Rocco
Tabitha Brear
Amy Barbor
Zoe and Benedikt
Peter Carey
Mike Kirkham
Rose Kirkham
Emma Bravo
Charlotte Smythe
Helen Westerby
Dominic Webb
Andrew Mueller
James Cowen
Clare Losty
Emma Scarr
Julia Hughes
Evie Edworthy
Louise Jameson
Alex Jamieson
Sue House
Angela & Ian
Adam Egan
Rakhi Chand
Janice & Louise
Michael and Louise
Deborah Anderson
Richard Silverwood
Lina Nicolli
Mark Barton
Laura Tomlinson
Jennie Hawley
Dena Read

Stacy Burdsey
Amy Bannerman
Paul Bannerman
Maud Hodson
Peter Craik
Natasha
Amy Jones
Brett Cummings
Rosemary Warrington
Amanda Campbell
Tony Pamphilon
Jan Rockar
Jen Fisher
Joe Adams
Jay Srinivasan
Vera
Romanovskaya
and family
Owen Clegg
Michael O'Donoghue
Jack Shepherd
Melina Padron
Clare Thorne
Andrew Thorne
Lisa Osbourne
Ellie Ross
Nigel Lovell
Katherine O'Reilly
Simon Graham
Katy and Dom
Thompson-Talbot

Some lockdown heroes
Zoe the gardener and family
for the Bushwood Egg Tree. So
needed during the height of
lockdown and still cheering me
up now.

Nadia and Eleanor for helping out
those in need on Leybourne Road.
Julia Woledge for always having
some tales to tell me when I go
round to visit.

James Cowen for the quiz -high
light of my social experiences for
the last four months!

Jo and Cynthia for organising the
sing alongs on Thursday evening
on Leybourne. It was so nice to
see everyone out.

Everyone involved in helping with
the food donations at St Johns
Church.

Suzanne, Leybourne

THANK YOU

The lockdown was a tough time for many people and Bushwood pulled together to make it just that little bit easier for each other. We would like to thank everyone that contributed to making this period a more bearable experience for others and to anyone who brightened someone else's day.

We asked our members to write in and leave a message of thanks to anyone that helped them during this time. To the street support network setup by BARA that was overwhelmed with the support of volunteers, to the shopkeepers that worked tirelessly, to the people who creatively entertained us, to the neighbours who looked out for the each other, to the food bank donations, to those that shopped for others and to everyone who tried their best to be excellent to each other during such a difficult time. Bushwood, we salute you.

I'd like to express my appreciation to the lovely fella from the flats on Lister Road (No19) who throughout the Lockdown led and amplified our clapping for the NHS and keyworkers with a 'Hip Hip Hooray' every time. He also does a fantastic rendition of the Charge of the Light Brigade.
Anita and Mark, Lister Road

A few local heroes have helped us with the arrival in April of two new Bushwood residents, our twins, Charlie and Cecily. We would have felt stranded were it not for Tessie who drove all four of us back from Whipps Cross, whilst we were slightly delirious. We were also very touched by unexpected gestures from Liz & Jim and Kerrie & Jake. The homemade pie and pack of nappies were wonderfully timed and very useful! We've also been very grateful to our next door neighbours, Agnes and Claudia & Margarita, who claim that the twins have been very quiet but we don't think this is quite true!
Alice & Justin, Barfield



I would like to say a big "Thank You" to Anna Whelan, who has been doing a weekly shop for me each Monday since the LockDown started. We always have a little chat when she brings the groceries, she is like a ray of sunshine. Also, a Thank You to Toni, my neighbour who has kept us supplied with a Saturday Guardian. Thanks very much,
Margaret Davis, Bushwood

"Big thanks to Joe from Mornington Road who helped us out several times by picking up our prescriptions while we were shielding."

Peter, Hartley Road

While we have been in lockdown in these strange and dangerous times, Cherry and I have been moved and humbled by the generous and unstinting help we have been offered by our friends, neighbours and people we don't even know in Lister Road, especially, Norman and Val, Helen and Dave, Nanja and Werner, Dan, James and Olwen, Peter and Aaron, Nick and Dijana, Seb, Dominic and Martin. If we have left anybody out we are sorry.

We have had our shopping done for us and a celebration held for our 64th wedding anniversary, with drinks and presents.

In addition, a team of volunteers, led by Norman

Haynes, dug out part of our front garden and filed it with plants then dug out the foundations as a prelude to a builder paving the rest of the garden. Quite astonishing!

I would also like to praise BARA for their swift action in organising a team of volunteers to help those in need.

As the oldest and longest resident of Lister (previously Cowley) Road, 85 years, I am proud to have been a founding member of this fine organisation.

Thanks to All
Ron Allen, Lister Road

I just want to say a huge THANK YOU to my wonderful neighbours.
On 5th of January I fell in the street and broke my femur. I was admitted to hospital where I remained for almost ten weeks. My neighbours Kate S, Clare S, Michael T, Dave S, Chris D and Clare L sprang into action and within had drawn up a rota for caring for my four cats. There were morning feeds, evening feeds and night time treats and no doubt much cuddling and fussing. Of they also had to shop for cat food, treats and litter. On top of this they also visited me in hospital. They had to move things around in the house before I got home to make it possible for me to walk around with a walking frame but fortunately I was using crutches not a frame. Their care and

concern for me continued when I got home with offers of shopping and help in the house. Chris D often brought along an evening meal - my very own "meals on wheels"

As I improved and was able to drive and do my own shopping even people I hardly knew stopped to ask me if I needed help carrying bags from the car into the house. I have had so many offers of help - totally unbelievable.

This is such a great place to live. I have lived here since birth, having been born in one house then at the age of four my family moved into the house next door where I still live. Many of my friends just cannot believe the way everyone has treated me. I cannot think of anywhere I would rather live.

Kathie, Mornington Road

I'd love to thank Adrienne and Okan at Stone Mini Mart. I know I'm not alone in appreciating how they've gone above and beyond for our community, from quickly developing delivery options for those of us who needed to self isolate, to including both informative and entertaining bits and bobs on their social media, and just generally being kind, warm, amazing people.

Maria, Barclay Road

Big thank you to Kev at the North Star for his generous donation to NHS charities with his beer sale in May.

A hearty thanks to our local Police and Council Workers who kept us safe and protected during lockdown.

Thanks to Dave Sabbarton for Fried Chicken Friday, it was a real treat during the strict days of the lockdown

I have to say a huge THANK YOU to Katy, our neighbour, who was a lifeline for food and the weekly paper while we were quarantining - we would have been bored and food free without you. Also a massive thank you to Stone Mini Market who saved my quarantine birthday with emergency margarita ice cream and crisp supplies - thank goodness you are here.
Laura and Alex, Harvey Road



Aylmer Road's Alex Maws committed to learning and broadcasting a different live cover song every day for 100 days. Gareth Dimelow talks to Alex about his lockdown project - Alex's Bad Covers

When the U.K. went into lockdown on 23rd of March, none of us knew how long it was likely to last, or when life might be expected to get back to normal. Faced with the prospect of being unable to see our friends and loved ones face-to-face, many of us turned to technology in order to bridge the gap. However, one musical BARA resident took things one step further...

Why don't you introduce yourself to the BARA members who don't know you...

Well, I'm Alex Maws and I've lived on Aylmer Road for ten years now with my wife Robbyn and our cats Fenway and Wrigley. In 2013 I decided to start a band, along with several other BARA residents, called The President Lincoln. You may have seen us at one of our many local appearances, such as Car Free Day, What's Cooking?, or Leytonstone Festival. We've released two albums so far – both available on all fine music streaming services!

So how did Alex's Bad Covers come about?

Back in March, I remember posting something on Facebook about the uncertainty we were all feeling, and my concerns about being apart from friends for so long. I kind of wished

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One of the reasons I felt compelled to keep it going was that we built a great little community that comprised all the random corners of my life.

that we could come out of this experience feeling more connected to each other, rather than less.

About a month before lockdown, we were in the States visiting family and friends for my brother's 50th birthday. Sitting around a campfire, someone pulled out an acoustic guitar and asked me to play something. In that moment, I realised that I'd spent so long practicing our original material, I really couldn't play anything by any other artists. In that moment, I figured I should probably learn to play some covers!

And the lockdown provided the perfect opportunity?

Well, kind of. Like I said, we quickly started using technology (FaceTime, Zoom, Skype) to connect with people – some of whom I hadn't seen in over 20 years. Rather than coordinating a bunch of diaries, I thought I could do a song every day, and use Facebook as the meeting point where people could come together.

Playing a different song every day is quite a commitment...

To be honest, I didn't know how long it would last. We could have come out of lockdown sooner, or people might have grown bored with watching me play. But pretty quickly it seemed to become something people factored into their own new daily routine. And I liked getting the chance to share my music taste with everyone.

Why did you call it Alex Bad Covers?

To manage people's expectations, mostly. Anyone in a band will tell you about the importance of rehearsal time. Playing a new song every day meant I'd rarely have time for more than one quick run-through. This way, I could prepare people for the worst, and then hope that they'd be pleasantly surprised by the end result. There's nothing worse than over promising and under-delivering. My approach was always 'look, I might butcher this, so let's see how it turns out...'

Do you have a favourite song that you performed?

I have lots of favourite songs, but the one performance that stands out for me is The Origin of Love from Hedwig and the Angry Inch, which I played way back in the first week. Not all of them turned out quite the way I'd hoped. My taste is pretty wide-ranging, so some of the songs had to be rearranged to suit a guy and a guitar. Stripping them right back was often the biggest challenge.

What kept you going for 100 days?

One of the reasons I felt compelled to keep it going was that we built a great little communi-

SETLIST

- The Beatles - Golden Slumbers
- The Beatles - Carry That Weight
- The Beatles - The End
- Brinsley Schwarz - (What's so Funny 'Bout) Peace Love and Understanding
- Phosphorescent - Song For Zula
- Simon & Garfunkel - The Only Living Boy in New York
- Hedwig & The Angry Inch - The Origin Of Love
- Sin ad O'Connor - The Emperor's New Clothes
- R.E.M. - You Are The Everything - Remastered
- Stone Poneys - Different Drum
- Pulp - Common People
- Neil Diamond - Girl, You'll Be A Woman Soon
- Smokey Robinson & The Miracles - The Tracks Of My Tears
- Billy Bragg - Waiting for the Great Leap Forwards
- Robyn - Dancing On My Own
- Bruce Springsteen - The River
- John Prine - Angel from Montgomery
- The Magnetic Fields - Papa Was a Rodeo
- Madonna - Like a Prayer
- Fountains Of Wayne - I-95
- TLC - Unpretty
- Simple Minds - Don't You (Forget About Me)
- David Bowie - Heroes
- Pixies - Where Is My Mind?
- The Beatles - While My Guitar Gently Weeps
- Louis Armstrong - Go Down Moses
- Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers - Refugee
- Leonard Cohen - If It Be Your Will
- The Replacements - I'll Be You
- Neil Young - After the Gold Rush
- The Mountain Goats - This Year
- Lucinda Williams - Sidewalks of the City
- The Beach Boys - Sloop John B - Remastered
- Talking Heads - Heaven - 2005 Remaster
- Robbie Williams - Angels
- Glen Campbell - Rhinestone Cowboy
- Bee Gees - Massachusetts - Stereo Version

- The Lemonheads - The Outdoor Type
- Big Star - Thirteen
- The Who - The Kids Are Alright
- Okkervil River - Plus Ones
- George Michael - Faith - Remastered
- Radiohead - Karma Police
- The Velvet Underground - Sunday Morning
- The Velvet Underground - I'll Be Your Mirror
- The Kinks - Better Things - Single Version
- Yusuf / Cat Stevens - Trouble
- The Replacements - I'll Be You
- Neil Young - After the Gold Rush
- The Mountain Goats - This Year
- Lucinda Williams - Sidewalks of the City
- The Beach Boys - Sloop John B - Remastered
- Talking Heads - Heaven - 2005 Remaster
- Robbie Williams - Angels
- Glen Campbell - Rhinestone Cowboy
- Bee Gees - Massachusetts - Stereo Version
- The Lemonheads - It's A Shame About Ray
- The Lemonheads - The Outdoor Type
- Big Star - Thirteen
- The Who - The Kids Are Alright
- Okkervil River - Plus Ones
- George Michael - Faith - Remastered
- Radiohead - Karma Police
- The Velvet Underground - Sunday Morning
- Velvet Underground - I'll Be Your Mirror
- Kinks - Better Things - Single Version
- Yusuf / Cat Stevens - Trouble
- Elbow - One Day Like This
- Jimmy Cliff - Many Rivers To Cross
- Bon Jovi - Livin' On A Prayer
- Carly Simon - You're So Vain
- Erasure - A Little Respect
- Prince - Purple Rain
- Old 97's - Niteclub
- Nirvana - On A Plain
- ie Tyler - Total Eclipse of the Heart
- ton John - Goodbye Yellow Brick Road
- Richman & The Modern Lovers - That Summer Feeling
- rd Jones - Things Can Only Get Better
- aran Duran - Hungry Like the Wolf
- Postal Service - Such Great Heights
- c Chesnutt - Stupid Preoccupations
- Victoria Williams - Fryin' Pan
- ABBA - Dancing Queen
- Guided By Voices - Hold On Hope
- Daryl Hall & John Oates - Rich Girl
- Richard O'Brien - Science Fiction/Double Feature
- The Rolling Stones - Angie
- The Rolling Stones - Sympathy For The Devil
- The Jam - That's Entertainment
- Loretta Lynn - Don't Come Home A-Drinkin' (with Lovin' On Your Mind)
- Christina Aguilera - Beautiful
- Don Henley - The Boys Of Summer
- The Psychedelic Furs - The Ghost In You
- Tom Waits - Ol' 55
- LCD Soundsystem - I Can Change
- Wilco - Jesus, Etc.
- Carpenters - Superstar
- Queen - Under Pressure - Remastered
- Ad Frank & The Fast Easy Women - Pillar in My Soul
- Bob Dylan - A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall
- Lizzo - Good as Hell
- Pete Seeger - We Shall Overcome
- Alicia Keys - Empire State of Mind (Part II) Broken Down
- Sin ad O'Connor - Black Boys on Mopeds
- Roberta Flack - Killing Me Softly with His Song
- The Clash - Clampdown
- New Order - Bizarre Love Triangle
- Elvis Costello & The Attractions - Everyday I Write The Book
- Johnny Cash - Man in Black
- Peter Gabriel - Don't Give Up
- Ezra Furman - Ordinary Life
- Ezra Furman - Love You So Bad
- Dolly Parton - 9 to 5
- Ramones - The KKK Took My Baby Away
- Belly - Feed the Tree (Radio Remix)
- Tears For Fears - Everybody Wants to Rule The World
- The Zombies - This Will Be Our Year
- Cyndi Lauper - Time After Time
- The Cure - Boys Don't Cry
- Fleetwood Mac - Go Your Own Way
- Faces - Ooh La La
- Bruce Springsteen - My Hometown
- The Hold Steady - Certain Songs
- Semisonic - Closing Time
- R.E.M. - It's The End Of The World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)

ty that comprised all the random corners of my life. People who had no way of knowing each other in real life, but at 7.30 every evening they'd all show up and join in the conversation.

Did you take requests?

Occasionally I'd ask people their opinion, and sometimes there'd be a request that fitted with what I was planning. But I saw it more as a chance to indulge my inner music nerd and share a wide range of influences with people. Over the 100 days there was pop, rock, country, blues, disco, ballads and folk, male and female artists. I tried to stay true to the songs' intentions, gender pronouns and such, even though I was sometimes playing them in a very different style than the originals. I never told people ahead of time what I was going to play - I much prefer the element of surprise. Plus, I didn't want people to decide ahead of time to opt in or out based on their expectations.

Presumably you converted some new fans?

Not sure whether I won any new fans myself, but people certainly commented to say that they were exploring the back catalogues of some of the artists I performed, because they liked what they heard. If people ended up discovering a new band or artist, then so much the better.

Would you ever do it again?

I don't think I'd want to commit to 100 days on the trot again. Once you've reached the peak of a mountain, you don't necessarily start looking for the next one. But I do like the idea of doing an online mini-gig. And as much as lockdown is starting to lift, we're still going to be spending a lot more time inside. But next time, I'll use the opportunity to share a bit more of my own material, and maybe take more time to rehearse!

THE THROWBACK - JUNE 1988

As events are thin on the ground at the moment we take a look at an old edition of the BT and highlight some of the articles and stories that represented E11 during that time. In this issue we look at June 1988. A time when England did poorly in the UEFA '88 football tournament, London had a house price boom, income tax was down, 80,000 people attended a concert at Wembley in honour of Nelson Mandela, thousands of nurses formed picket lines to protest the underfunded NHS and the pound note ceased to be legal tender

McWho?

Everyone will have noticed that McDonalds is now open for business. However, we are opposing the construction of a 6 metre high illuminated sign at the entrance to the restaurant on the High Road. Our grounds for opposition are:-

1. Visual intrusion for the residents living above the shops opposite due to the illumination.
 2. Unsuitable design for the area which consists of older property, none having similar signs
 3. Unnecessary to draw attention to the restaurant, which is totally visible to all
- Watch this space!

A Euro Meeting

Louise Buchanan recently attended a meeting which the guest speaker was Alf Lomas, our Euro MP. He gave a clear picture of his role in the EEC. Not much food for thought on local matters, though we did wonder exactly how they are going to succeed in keeping rabies out of Waltham Forest (and elsewhere in the UK) once border controls effectively disappear in 1992 and the Channel Tunnel is opened.

Mark Carrol writes: When I bought 56, Bushwood, I did my own conveyancing. One of the advantages of doing it yourself is that you get to see all the old documents relating to the house. On the basis of this information, you can build up an interesting historical view of the land and the house. You can also see how prices have escalated over the years. Here is the history of my house - and the neighbouring ones too.

May 1879 A large part of the Bushwood area, called the 'Leyspring Estate', is sold to Charlotte Knighton by the Earl of Cowley and William Henry Wellesly.

July 1906 Mrs Knighton sells part of the estate to Rev. John Bradford (minister of Leytonstone Free Church) of Browning Rd. He pays £1,425 for eight pieces of ground on the northern side of Bushwood. Mrs Knighton wrote some covenants into the contract. For example, no more than 10 houses to be built on the land, each house must not cost more than £400 to build and no water closet or privy shall be detached from the houses.

Dec 1923 Bradford sells the land to Frank Petty, a surveyor from Blake Hall Road for £1,500.

March 1924 Petty needs permission from Loyzeleur Johnson of 60 Bushwood to build a sewage drain through the land. So Petty sells Johnson a strip of land 8ft by 145ft for £68 in return for permission.

About 1925 Petty builds a terraces of houses (50-59, Bushwood). As well as this historical info, the entry in the Land Registry also gives prices paid for the house at each change of ownership. For example, my house these were: **1967** - £4,000, **1972** - £7,500, **1979**, Not Stated, **1983** - £34,000, **1987** over £80,000 (for house next door). So in twenty years the value of my home (in cash terms) has increased twenty times! Now you can see why a house is the best form of investment!

My Bomb Story

Yolande Ternouth tells of the time when, as a teenage, she was working in Holborn. One morning her boss, who also lived in Leytonstone, said, "My wife has just phoned to say there has been a bomb in Leyspring Road. If you'd like to leave now, you can. "No thanks" she replied, "I'll wait till tonight." Her young sister had been evacuated to Shenfield and her dad would be at work, but mother and auntie were sure to be at home.

In those days, Leyspring Rd was just a straight drive-through continuation of Harvey Rd. By the evening, police were letting residents back into the area, and it turned out the bomb had fallen on a doctor's house which stood at the junction of these two roads. Mother and auntie were safe! They hadn't even been down in the horrid Anderson shelter that filled the whole of their tiny back garden; they usually retreated to the cupboard under the stairs!

For the third time, the house had no covering on its windows; the glass went in the previous air-raid, but tarred paper had been nailed up and teams of men were now working to replace that, so at least they didn't have to spend the evening with the lights showing. The dust and debris in all the rooms was awful, and several of the very solid stone windowsills had cracked. But they got on with life - and considered themselves luckier than some!

Meet your local Verderer

You might not be aware of our local Verderer or that such a thing even exists. BARA's Andy Irvine meets Nicholas Munday, your local Verderer



Waltham Forest, Whipps Cross Hospital and Snaresbrook Crown Court all commoners!

How do you become a Verderer?

Anyone who is not a member of the City of London's Court of Common Council and lives in the parishes within the forest boundaries can stand for election as a verderer. The election of a Verderer is a quaint affair with very different rules to the council and general elections which we're all used to. For a start, the ballot is open and so all votes are known. Secondly, only 'Commoners' may vote.

Verderers Today - All royal forests used to have verderers, but Epping Forest, the New Forest in Hampshire and the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire are the only ones where the post remains. Verderers give their services in an entirely voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration for their time. As the amount of grazing etc done by Commoners has steadily diminished the Verderers increasingly considered their role as more widely representing public living around the Forest.

In Epping Forest, two verderers represent the northern part (south of Epping), and two rep-

resent the southern end (north of Leytonstone). Our Verderers in the South are William Kennedy and Nicholas Munday, the latter of whom I had the pleasure of lunching with shortly before the start of lockdown.

Introducing Nicholas Munday - I had become acquainted with Nicholas due to my work on the Epping Forest Consultative Committee which was set up so that the Epping Forest and Commons Committed could canvas opinion from local groups with an interest in the Forest (BARA is one of 16 groups represented on the committee). He was re-elected in the recent March elections and has the charming old school air one expects from a former Head of Litigation at the Clifford Chance LLP (a prestigious law firm). These days he splits his time between a number of entrepreneurial enterprises and Epping Forest. He originally became involved with the forest as the one time owner of the Grade II listed "Hurst House" in Woodford Green (the frontage of which you can see behind the Winston Churchill statue). The garden was also large enough to qualify him as Commoner! Eventually he was invited to stand as a verderer in 2018

Nicholas is interested in the forest as a resource for the people and also in the challenges inherent where urban areas butt up against areas such as Epping Forest - a precious natural area of national and historical importance. He is keen to be accessible to residents and facilitate a two way communication between the conservators and users of the forest.

Look out for a BARA hosted 'Meet your local Verderer' walking event once lockdown measures allow.



We all know that our wildlife is in trouble. It is all too easy to feel a little overwhelmed by the environmental doom and gloom that bombards us daily. Local Garden Designer Mark Cummings suggests an alternative view of how to (mis)manage our gardens with nature in mind.

There is a way that every one of us with a garden or an accessible windowsill can do a little bit for biodiversity. We just need to build an ARK. I'm not expecting 40 days and 40 nights of rain (though this is the UK so it's not out of the question). I am talking about Acts of Restorative Kindness in our gardens. Kindness to Nature and Restoration of habitat.

With Wanstead Flats and Epping Forest on Bushwood's doorstep it might be easy to think that there is already enough green space locally. But The Making Space for Nature Report 2010 and the State of Nature 2019 argues that we need more. A lot more. And better- bigger and better. The gardeners of Bushwood can help create 'more' and 'better' - by doing less.

Whaaaaat?! I hear the collective cry of E11's green fingered army. You see nature is at its best when it can remove the shackles of domestication. And what are (most) gardens if not a shining example of an exercise in control? We mow our lawns we cut our shrubs we pull weeds we poison pests and we sweep up. Weekly.

For nature to thrive we need to do less. We need to mow less, tidy less and spray less. We need to relinquish a little bit of control of part of our gardens. Mary Reynolds who is the founder of the ARK movement advocates several easy steps that everyone with a garden can take.

Firstly, the general idea is that you willingly and lovingly give over as much of your garden as you can to nature. This may draw sharp intakes of breath from the majority of gardeners (as well as sighs of relief from those who haven't found their garden in the last few years) but slowly exhale into that brown paper bag and consider why we do what we do in the

“ Nature is not bound by the E11 post code. Each patch of wild created, acts as a 'habitat island' where creatures can feed and mate and rest on their way back to their usual home.

garden. Is there scope to change our mindset a little?

Could you consider leaving a patch of your lawn unmown? I let my entire front lawn grow this year. But I keep a tightly mowed edge and curved path through the middle that leads to a bench. Some of my neighbours think I am crackers, but most see that this is intentional habitat creation by design. I keep the edges and path tightly mown each week, but it takes only a fraction of the usual time. The bees dance all over the clover and moths and butterflies rest on the grasses. In the winter there will be seed for the birds and shelter for beneficial insects. Cost? Nothing.

What about a pond? London has lost 90% of its ponds in the last century. These freshwater habits are a huge boon for biodiversity and many of the creatures that a pond will support will eat many of the pests in your garden. Love Hosta's? dig a pond. Just make sure that it is deep enough not to freeze in the winter. Cost? £100 for pond liner and a few oxygenating plants plus a day's labour.

Stop spraying weed killers and pesticides. Just stop and don't worry. For the first year some of your perennials might get mullered but pretty soon the balance of predators will be restored, and the pests won't get a look in. Weeds are trickier. Either learn to love them, forgive them and accept them or invest time with a hand fork and trowel. The plus's are the calories burned and that soil contains an antidepressant. Our native weeds are also great forage for our native insects which also turn out to be great forage for our native birds. Cost? Nothing. Money saved a reasonable amount, environmental impact priceless.

There are a few other very easy tricks that will help. A discrete log pile in a shady corner of the garden will provide home for beetles. Dead wood supports hundreds of insects. Spend a tenner on a couple of bird boxes (hang them high and out of direct sunlight) and consider the bees. While many are happy in a hive of activity most are solitary. A pile of sand out of the way, holes drilled into wooden posts and a small bug hotel will help them survive the winter. Speaking of the winter, supplementary feeding of the birds will help (but put a bell or two on your cats' collar) and hang feeders high and with tree or shrub cover close. A bird bath will supply fresh water if kept topped up and frost free

What if you don't have a garden? Are your windowsills accessible? Well thought out planting in large planters can give year-round interest and support lots of critters. Susanna Grant runs a business specialising in window boxes that support wildlife through most of the year.

Individually you may think what is the use of a few square meters of unmown lawn? But 1500 households in Bushwood creates the potential for a few thousand square meters of new grassy meadow, hundreds of bird boxes and dozens of thriving ponds. Just think how many thousands of litres of toxic chemicals wouldn't be sprayed. Nature is not bound by the E11 post code. Each patch of wild created, acts as a 'habitat island' where creatures can feed and mate and rest on their way back to their usual home.

The phrase 'Think Global, Act Local' has never been more pertinent. Saving the planet starts in our own back yard.

For sustainable, Wildlife friendly window boxes contact:

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- The Garden Jungle, or, Gardening to Save the Planet by Dave Goulson**
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BABYSITTER Experienced babysitter residing in Bushwood. I am on my gap year so am very flexible with days/hours. £7 per hour. References available on request.
Hannah (age 19) 07973227419

BABYSITTING Pippa, a university student and Milly, an A Level student are sisters living locally who both regularly look after children, including babies, in the Bushwood area. Either are available on Fri, Sat or Sun evenings and some week nights at a rate of £7 per hour. Please contact Pippa on 07487 670 970 or Milly on 07956 182 720 (references from other Bushwood parents can be provided)

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