

# The Bush Telegraph

April 2021 The Spring Issue



The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents' Association

## Help Keep Bushwood Tidy

BARA were very happy to be able to start up their monthly litter picks again in April and you responded with another excellent turnout. We're now planning to run them regularly on the 2nd Sunday of each month and can supply pickers (if you don't have your own) and heavy duty bags. There really are no limits to the joys that you can discover in the undergrowth. In addition to the usual McDonald's and KFC debris, in previous years we've managed to get Bushwood shut down after finding WW2 munitions and found an encampment so large that it could house a small army. All picks meet at the junction opposite the corner of Leyspring and Bushwood and start at 11.00 but for those who want to ad hoc pick there are always pickers available to borrow from the doorstep of 37 Leybourne. BARA would like to thank Clyde Loakes and the council for supplying our bags and pickers, arranging for special rubbish collections and sorting out encampments to be dealt with (including help for any vulnerable people within).



Credit: Kate Duffy

The bluebells are back and over the next few weeks will form an intense blue carpet in the woodland in Chalet Wood, Wanstead Park. Bushwood residents are lucky to have this spectacle right on our doorstep. Bluebells are unusually delicate, and this wonderful sight could be lost if visitors don't play their part in the efforts that go into conserving them. Please don't walk on them, or allow your dog to trample them as they are particularly sensitive to footfall and if their leaves are damaged they can struggle to grow back.

## 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 Leybourne Rd
- 37 Lister Rd
- 44 Hartley Rd



## Note From The 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**  
Secretary

**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  
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. 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](mailto: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](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.

Please support BARA and follow us on our social media pages

 [BARACONNECT@gmail.com](mailto:BARACONNECT@gmail.com)

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

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

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

After what seemed like an endless winter, I'm so pleased to be able to welcome you all to the Spring edition of the Bush Telegraph.

The days are longer, the skies are brighter and the temperatures are... well, let's not get ahead of ourselves. Nonetheless, if you're anything like me, you've been taking advantage of the drier, sunnier days to get out in the garden or allotment. Especially now that we're finally able to meet up with friends and family again.

Now's a great time to be thinking about front gardens too, as our annual competition will be taking place during the summer. If you've been putting off plans to spruce up that patio, or plant some new bushes, you've still got plenty of time to be in with a chance of winning.

I know not everyone is lucky enough to have a garden, so I hope you've at least been able to make use of all the great green spaces around us. Unfortunately, with more park usage comes more discarded rubbish, so you'll notice that we've resumed our monthly litter pick on the second Sunday of every month. It's amazing what a difference an hour of picking can accomplish, so do try to join us if you can.

It's the community spirit that has always made this such a special place to live, and I'm reminded of just how strong that is when we do the food bank collections every week. It's important to remember that, although we're starting to come out of lockdown, many people still have some difficult months ahead, so the foodbank is more important than ever. If you can spare any donations at all, I can assure you they're all very gratefully received.

Another way you can help local people is by supporting all the businesses that have been facing their own struggles during lockdown – from shops and cafes to bars and pubs, they all depend on our custom.

Many of them have special discounts and offers for BARA members, so it's a good time to remind you to renew your membership if you haven't already.

On a final note, the committee has taken the decision to postpone our AGM until we can all get together safely later in the year. Hopefully, we'll be in a position to announce the date of our AGM and summer social in the next edition of the BT.

Until then, enjoy the sunshine and I hope to see you out and about soon.

**Doug Sheedy**  
BARA Chair

### 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**  
Jan Osterley, 4 Colt's Yard  
**Dacre Road**  
Alex Maws, 1 Aylmer 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

## Leytonstone Arts Trail 2021 – A Bushwood theme for Bushwood

### Hilary Douse explains how this years Arts Trail is launching in a different experimental format

How to go about hosting an Arts Trail, is just a very minor challenge during a Pandemic. Better times are ahead and we are determined to do something this year to help us on our way. We have taken the opportunity to have a complete rethink and experiment with an alternative way of presenting the 2021 Leytonstone Arts Trail.

Inspired by the Jumble Trail/Yard Sale model we have pared it down to the basics. We love our paper guide, superbly produced each year by Bushwooder, Joyce Quarrie (...Thanks Joyce for all your hard work!). However, it takes 6 months to get it to publication and it felt like a bit of a stretch to be that optimistic in January this year. What would the world be like? Which businesses and venues would be open and able to host exhibitions?

Many venues have reconfigured and repurposed their walls for shelving, some have sadly closed or are yet to reopen. We are lucky that we have always had the "Lets Fill Leytonstone with Art" project and that carried on last year, regardless. So, we are going to major on window displays and if any of our businesses or premises are prepared to have work on their walls then that is a real bonus!

The good news is, that if we substitute a paper guide for an online map, we can charge a lot less for people to enter. Many people put a lot of effort into the window displays in their houses and this now makes it affordable to register – people can then make an effort to pass by during the first two weekends in July. Window art at home will be able to have a dot on the map for just £5. You absolutely don't have to pay, but if you do - it will make more of a

trail the more that people participate! Half the proceeds this year will go to charity, the rest to publicity and running the trail infrastructure. The organisers are all volunteers - so we do it for love!

Feel free to make your display about whatever you want and in any medium you like. However, a lesson from last year's "rainbows" is that themes seem to get people inspired. On that basis, I propose that in this area, we have a very open theme of "Bushwood Life". We are lucky to have a mass of natural beauty, plus a range of urban architecture, so plenty to get you thinking.

There will be an Eventbrite link to help you to register. Keep an eye on the Leytonstone Arts Trail social media sites, the BARA email or sign up to the mailing list on our website to hear more about the process. The main trail dates will be during the first two weekends in July and then displays can remain throughout the summer.

We look forward to seeing your creations!  
[www.leytonstoneartstrail.org](http://www.leytonstoneartstrail.org)  
@Leytonstonearts - Instagram  
@Leytonstone Arts Trail - Facebook  
@Leytonstone Arts - Facebook  
@Leytonstone\_art - Twitter  
[www.LetsFill.co.uk](http://www.LetsFill.co.uk)



## Deck The Halls

### In December, BARA, launched its new annual Christmas decoration competition

Christmas was always going to be difficult in 2020. We thought it might be fun to get people involved from their homes by launching a Christmas decoration contest. Running in a similar format to the BARA Garden Competition no formal entry was required. Judges walk Bushwood and award prizes on the most interesting, beautiful and creative decorations. Best windows, doors and gardens are all considered for the prizes. To Be Consumed and Stone Mini Market supplied hampers as prizes which were delivered without notice to the unsuspecting winners.



Deck The Halls winners receiving their prizes from the BARA judges

## Santa Claus In Bushwood

### Despite the lockdown, Santa still managed his Bushwood deliveries

It seems many moons ago now when we were all planning for that Christmas get together that never happened. After almost a year of slim opportunities on the social event front, BARA had been looking to do something to celebrate a hard won year-end, whilst still keeping in mind the restrictions in place. A popular postbox to collect Christmas letters from kids in return for a present was set up in Aylmer Rd, but what else to do? We decided to enlist the help of Leybourne's Suzanne as we knew her to have an in with Santa, in 2019 she'd managed to get him to attend a Leybourne Rd Christmas street party. Did she think, we asked, that he would be willing to go a little larger this year? Santa, it turned out, was very enthusiastic and at the time we were full of big ideas for a full on trailer sleigh accompanied by 5 helper elves, hitting the roads of Bushwood, Christmas music blaring in its wake. Well, as we know, those grandiose plans had to be cut down a little...but undaunted Santa and his one Elf friend followed a carefully pre-planned route where they knew that BARA children would be waiting for a glimpse of the big man. A chariot of chocolate accompanied them (in reality a heavily disguised wheelie bag full of Cadbury's heroes).

A huge BARA thank you to both Santa and Suzanne.





Josefina rummaging for stock in Notting Hill



# LOCKDOWN STARTUP

**A year into lockdown and the way we work has changed forever. Here in Bushwood some residents have turned the negativity of lockdown into an opportunity to change careers and start businesses. We meet some of our neighbours who have started up as we were locked down**

## The Clothing Business

Originally from Stockholm, Leybourne's Josefina Boston worked in PR for luxury fashion brands before taking a masters degree to focus on digital marketing. Feeling increasingly uncomfortable working with companies that didn't share her views on sustainability and their impact on the planet she'd been searching for something different.

A decade of experience hunting Paris flea markets, dusty London basements, NYC thrift stores and more recently eBay and Depop, Josefina has launched Second Archive. A highly curated online second hand boutique distinguishing itself with a clear style - self ti-

tled *Scandi Rock* - a place where Scandinavian simplicity and rock 'n' roll meet. Think vintage Levi's, rocker t-shirts, unique coats, oversized blazers, designer handbags and amazing leather boots.

Josefina says "The devastating environmental impact of the fashion industry on the planet motivated me to start a business encouraging others to fall in love with preloved. Second Archive is a chance to breathe new life into items and give a second chance to the unique items I find."

Second Archive started as idea when Josefina was pregnant with her second child in 2019. She was approached to be a buyer for a second hand shop which made her think that she could just start her own business. What started out as a fun hobby during her maternity leave ended with her quitting her day job to focus on Second Archive. The website [secondarchive.com](http://secondarchive.com) launched in March this year and is a big step towards ramping up the business and allowing it to grow from just selling on Instagram alone.

Lockdown has enabled Josefina to connect with her customers on a new level. She says "They depend solely on me showcasing the

items through images, videos and conversations before buying - mainly via Instagram. I believe this has created a deeper connection and following, which has resulted in many returning customers."

When we finally emerge from lockdown Josefina doesn't plan on slowing down. Once the shops and markets are open she can source stock in person. She says "There is such a difference seeing an image on ebay and physically feeling it and its condition and, when I buy designer items, checking it is genuine."

It will bring more possibilities allowing the business to expand into helping others personal second hand shopping, styling and wardrobe structuring. She already has a few clients but wants to take on more once allowed back into people's homes.

Currently, Second Archive releases weekly-collections which Josefina calls 'drops' but as the business grows these drops will become bigger and more frequent.

If you are interested in stylish second hand clothes, support sustainability or want to connect with Josefina then stop by [SecondArchive.com](http://SecondArchive.com) and support a new local business.



Russell in his studio

## The Trouble with Fashion

The fashion industry, including the production of all clothes which people wear, contributes to around 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions due to its long supply chains and energy intensive production. The industry consumes more energy than the aviation and shipping industry combined.

To make just one pair of denim jeans, 10,000 litres of water is required to just grow the one kilo of cotton needed for the pair of jeans. In comparison, one person would take 10 years to drink 10,000 litres of water. Cotton production is also responsible for 16% of the world's pesticide use and has been labelled the 'world's dirtiest crop' by the Environmental Justice Foundation and the Pesticide Action Network.

Cumulatively, the fashion industry produces about 20% of global waste water. Furthermore, 85% of textiles end up in landfills or are incinerated when most of these materials could be reused. In 2020 an estimated 18.6 million tonnes of clothing ended up in landfill. Over half of that will have only been purchased that year.

"Fast fashion" might be making clothes more affordable but it comes at an environmental cost. The proliferation of cheap, throwaway clothing has meant production has doubled since 2000. Corporations and the fashion industry need to lead the way in recycling their clothing but there are also lots of things we can do too. Buying second hand clothes from places like **Second Archive** is great way to help reduce the global waste. You can also donate your old clothes or sell them on second hand sites instead of throwing them in the bin.

To find out more about clothing waste and re-use take a look at the following websites.

[ClothesAid.co.uk](http://ClothesAid.co.uk)  
[Aboutorganicotton.org](http://Aboutorganicotton.org)  
[Ethicalconsumer.org](http://Ethicalconsumer.org)

## The Picture Framer

Barclay Road's, Russell Frost, has branched out from his Hooksmith Press to set up a local framing business with the emphasis on high-quality bespoke frames.

Russell is well known locally for his hand printed letterpress artwork using historic machines and historic type which he offers at his Church Lane shop.

Russell says "I had been getting more and more enquiries for framing. If anything this has increased with the transition of homes to home-offices and increased time spent locally. In 2019 I won a Fine Arts Trade Guild Picture Framing scholarship and in September 2020 I was able to make it to Northern Ireland to receive training to become a guild certified framer. Dromore is a tiny rural town in County Down, known for the home of Harry Ferguson and his eponymous tractor. Each day training started early with the emphasis being on the creation of a beautiful frame but also the reversibility of the framing process in respect of the artwork. To this end the guild has various categories of framing ranging from museum quality, to conservation framing, to commended level as well as budget / minimum levels. I was exposed to a number of machines, materials and processes - importantly, I was also able to wind down in the evenings with some contemplative fly fishing on a beautiful section of the River Lagan."

Once back in London and with the lockdown two looming, Russell teamed up with Julian, a local kiwi, to form **lpicl** and purchased a range of machines that can make frames. The three main components of frames are the frame itself, glazing, and related board products and hinging. This is reflected in the machines - a razor sharp double-bladed "morso" which bites into wooden mouldings to create precise and clean angled-cuts for the frame, an underpinner which holds the frame to enable v-shape nails to join the mitred-corners at the backs, a large easel-like structure for the vertical cutting of glass sheets, and various other tools for the precise cutting of a range of boards and making bevelled-aperture mounting boards.

Russell says "Our emphasis is the making of a range of quality wooden frames at a conservation or commended level. This includes the use of natural native woods (eg ash, oak and beech) but also a range of classical black or



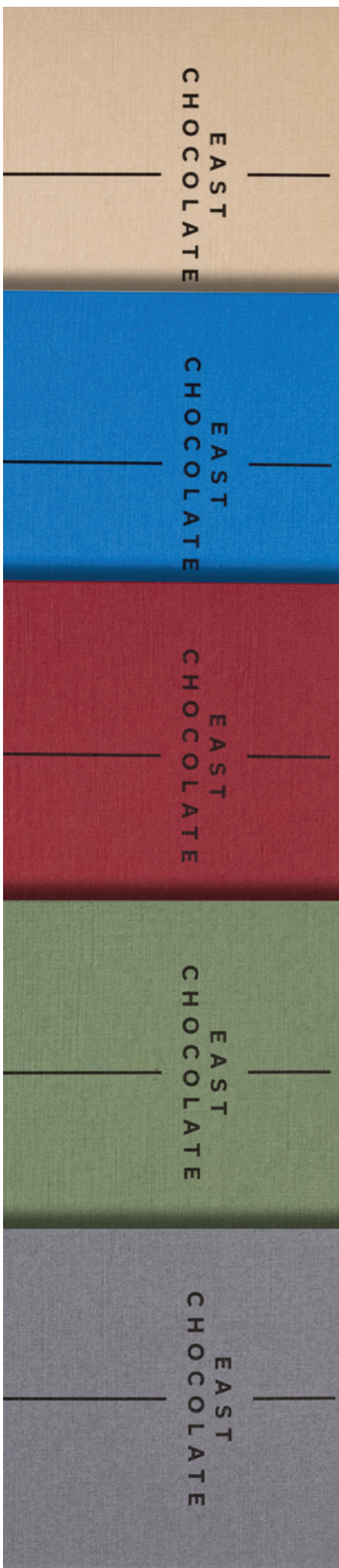
white frames. We can provide a range of finishes to the natural woods such as stains and waxes. We can also provide metal frames if desired. In displaying the artwork we can offer anything from the use of window mounts, to "floating" mounts where the edges of the artwork is seen, shadow mounts where the object is lifted up towards the viewer and box frames for the display of small objects."

There are a huge range of techniques and methods which can be used for framing. So far, they have been experimenting with see-through backboards (ie double glass), triangular frames, a rhomboid mount at the front and a cruciform mount on the back (for a closely-cut irregular shaped Ethiopian ecclesiastical painting on goat hide). So far, no two jobs have been the same. Often the most appropriate framing can be a carefully chosen field of view for the art, thoughtful margins and an unassuming moulding which complements and emphasises the artwork.

The cost of frames vary considerably depending on the size and specification of materials, and also on the amount and types of finishing required (eg waxing, staining, special mounts, insertion of fillets etc). As a rough guide a frame of about 60cm x 40cm with a conservation mountboard with a natural wood-moulding could cost in the order of £50-60 while a poster sized frame (A1 say) will cost upwards of £100, though every job is individually costed.

Up to now we've not had framing service local to E11 so its exciting to be able to get our framing done in Bushwood. If you still need your Bushwood Cat poster framing you now know where to go. Russell and Julian look forward to seeing you at **lpicl**.

From mid-April and subject to any Covid-restrictions, we hope to be operating from 'The Shed' (old Billiard Hall) on Aylmer Road. In the mean time please contact Russell via [instagram @lpicl](https://www.instagram.com/lpicl) email [shop.lpicl@gmail.com](mailto:shop.lpicl@gmail.com) or call 07450292792



### The Chocolatiers

#### Hilary Douse meets Jose and Julia of East Chocolate.

I must confess to having a regular chocolate habit. In fact, my habit really could be termed as a chocolate addiction – there - I have said it. I know I won't be the only one! I blame my habit on a sister who worked for Cadbury's who brought home boxes of it; followed by a couple of seasons working in Switzerland. That made me a bit more discerning.

These days we have choices and I have got into exercising that choice, with gusto! We still have the mass produced, sweeter than ever, candy bars which were part of our youth. These now to me seem somewhat sickly; probably containing more additives and sugar than they once did. I now prefer the real, melt on your tongue, deliciousness of the small batch chocolate makers. I realised there is a difference, and the more I have sampled the more particular I have become.

So, fellow chocolate lovers you will be very happy to hear that we have a new bar or two on the chocolate block. In fact, the people that make this particular bar live just a few doors away from me. Imagine my excitement when I heard this – I had to find out more!

I introduced myself to Julia and Jose and they showed me how they have just started to turn their love of chocolate into a serious business. Originally hailing from Andalucia in Spain, they have lived in Leytonstone for a number of years and recently moved to Bushwood with their lovely, lively, 3 year old, son Leo. Not surprisingly Leo was more interested in showing me his spiderman toys and singing songs than discussing the finer points of chocolate with the adults.

They met working as Chefs in some of the top London restaurants. More recently Julia worked for "Mast" artisan, chocolatiers in Shoreditch, where she developed her specialism and honed her craft. Lockdown has inevitably meant that there are few catering and hospitality jobs in sight, so Julia decided to follow her long held dream. It was time to develop their own chocolate business. They have named their brand "East" as here, in the east of the city is where they produce their chocolate and where they call home.

They specialise in "bean to bar" chocolate. I must now confess to having no idea what this meant! Despite my enthusiasm for chocolate, I realised I knew very little about how it was made. My visit to Julia and Jose was a fascinating education about the painstaking effort that goes into producing my favourite indulgence!



"Bean to bar" essentially means they start with cacao beans and take them through every part of the lengthy process, that goes into making a perfect bar of chocolate. They stress that very few makers actually do this; it is more common for most manufacturers to buy in blocks of chocolate rather than beans and develop a product from that.

Their process is very labour intensive, but Julia says that she wants to have control over every aspect of the chocolate they make. Their attention to detail makes a real difference to the quality of the chocolate bar they produce.

The cacao beans come from Venezuela and are from a sustainable and ethical source. They lightly roast the beans in small batches, remove the shells from the "nibs" which are the active ingredient of chocolate. The nibs are ground for three days to make it smooth and the other ingredients are slowly added. The finished chocolate is melted and poured into moulds. When set, each bar is hand wrapped.

They let me sample the plain and the Chili flavour and I have to say the chocolate was truly the best I have ever tasted. (...and I have tasted a lot!). Their chocolate gleams beautifully, has a satisfying snap when you break it and tastes even better than it looks. It may mean that a bar of "East" may cost a little more than average but this will reflect the work that has gone into making their chocolate the best it can be.

Julia and Jose's dedication to their product is to be admired. They are hoping it will be on the shelves of a local store near you soon with a BARA discount on its way  
[www.eastchocolate.com](http://www.eastchocolate.com)  
 Instagram @eastchocolate  
 e-mailinfo@eastchocolate.com

# CAT AND DOG POND

## A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

### During lockdown you might have spotted Mark Thomas walking down Lister Road carrying shovels. He explains what it's all been for.

If you walk across Lake House Road from Jubilee Pond, or take the rough route over the ant hills in that same direction, you may discover a small, semi-permanent pond that goes by the curious name 'Cat and Dog'.

This pond was depicted in an 1863 map as a body of water with a course going towards 'Harrow Lane' (now Harrow Road). That is the Cat and Dog pond, sure enough, but it's interesting to me because I'd heard, and believed, the story that there was only a pond in that spot when the weather was right for it: when it had been raining 'cats and dogs' as it were. (This expression, by the way, was used by a character in Jonathon Swift's Complete Collection of Genteel and Ingenious Conversation as far back as 1738).

There must have been plenty of regular precipitation back in the mid-1800s for this pond to have merited a place on the map.

I have since been told that the pond is 'there' when the water table has tangibly risen. Wanstead Flats and Wanstead Park's bodies of water suffer shortages and over-drainage. Drying out is a problem for them all. Acute problems of a similar nature were being experienced by Cat and Dog pond; reeds were becoming too invasive, drawing up the best any long shower could offer.

In recent years, it had become impossible to know if there was anything resembling a pond beyond the solid curtain of reeds. A few wil-



Left to right: Mark Thomas, Nick Croft and Sean Kerrigan

Credit: Tim Harris

lows occupied the middle ground and a rolling bank of bramble provided a backdrop, much-loved by wrens, robins, blackbirds and the occasional flock of greenfinches. In the recent past, reed buntings would stay for a couple of months; marvellous I thought that I could find these birds in pairs only 5 minutes' walk from my Bushwood home and 35 minutes from Piccadilly Circus!

Cat and Dog pond has a gentle history. This year, I spoke to a 71-year-old man who was passing by the spot and he told me that he remembers going there when he was a boy, catching sticklebacks and netting newts. In recent years, however, there would have been only the occasional chance of seeing the surface of the water, let alone observing any pond life within. A balance needed to be restored.

### A timely renovation

The site this pond occupies is important for wildlife, not merely because larger ponds in our vicinity are now much more visited: most have become amenities, with attendant picnic tables and jetties. The birds are there, of course, but they are increasingly crowded and they do get stressed.

Nick Croft, a Wanstead 'patch birder', strongly felt an alternative would be much welcomed by our local wildlife and offer new opportunities for migrant birds. Such was Nick's conviction that he started work in earnest in the autumn of 2020, and to begin to clear away decaying and congested reeds (rhizomes left to support future growth), and to gradually allow the water to rise. A wet winter helped, of course. The willows were pruned to rejuvenate them, and to allow the continuation of impor-

tant perches and shelter for songbirds and waterfowl (if they come). A handful of flag irises discovered were replanted in a safe place and over 50 bags of rubbish and debris were taken from the pond edges and depths. If we came across a tiny frog or a caterpillar, we carefully put it to one side.

### How it was done

Day after day, Nick turned up with his buckets, forks and wheelbarrow. Eventually, he was joined by a few other stalwarts, including myself and Sean Kerrigan, keen to offer our services. Nick, by this stage, knew the geography of the pond; the deeps and the shallows and where the clearing work most needed to be done. The trees on the east bank, mainly oak, were thoughtfully pruned and dead wood removed. Hopefully the purple hairstreak butterflies that frequent this spot in early summer will enjoy the new vigour the trees are expected to have. And what more can we expect to see? Well, two mallards have already visited. Whitethroats, moorhens, green wood-peckers, wrens, meadow pipits, stonechats and robins. That we want, at the very least! And who knows what else. Bats, moths and butterflies may be joined by water insects and dragonflies. Perhaps some dormant seeds will awake and 'old' flowers will reappear! (Check the Grass-poly/Norfolk articles on Wikipedia – an amazing story).

Eventually, in a decade or so, the pond will overgrow again and further human help will be required - but hopefully, its history goes on. Please think of the wildlife when you pass by. Keep your dog on a lead and under control and take your litter home or to the bins at the Jubilee pond. This is not really the right place to picnic. Put yourself for a second there, and you'll see the sense of that. You'll get ants in your pants. Let Nature make you feel glad to be alive and simply delighted - before she comes down on us like a ton of bricks! (Another old saying).

I was very pleased to do ten or so days of work with 'the team'. At 71 myself it's a great thing to be able to do honest manual work. But all my respect goes to Nick Croft for making it happen and seeing it through.

If you like this story, you might be interested in joining our local Wren Wildlife and Conservation Group to enjoy more fully our natural surroundings. They're nice people, with sharp eyesight.

Wren joining details can be found here  
<https://wrengroup.org.uk/>



The pond before being restored

Credit: Anita McCullough

# EASTER ART

We asked the BARA kids to submit an Easter artwork in exchange for an Easter egg, delivered by BARA's very own easter bunny. Here are some of some the eggcellent artwork we received



# A BRIEF HISTORY HOLLOW PONDS

Local historian and Bushwood resident, Peter Williams gives us a background of one of our best loved green spaces

Leyton Flats is the historic and official name of the area of the forest near Whipps Cross Road that most locals know as Hollow Ponds. The ponds themselves are old gravel workings that were abandoned by 1880 or so and over the next 30 years were transformed into recreational ponds, and are now essentially one largish lake fed by a spring.

Geologically, they sit on something called the Boyn Hill Terraces, great areas of gravel created by a River Thames that was a couple of miles wide at the end of a glacial period, when the Thames was a tributary of the River Rhine. Much of the gravel was laid down about 400,000 years ago. Wanstead Flats sits on a slightly lower Thames terrace. Hollow Ponds is about 30m above sea level.

## From Gravel Pits to boating lake

The minutes of the City of London indicate enlargement of the ponds started in 1902, and there were further expansions in 1906, and then in 1908 there is a reference to the water body just north of the Hollow Ponds that eventually became the separate swimming lido, which closed in the 1980s.

In the early 1900's, there was widespread unemployment, and a number of lakes were dug on the flats by unemployed men. The Alexandra Lake on Aldersbrook Road was dug and expanded about the same time. So-called Distress Committees organised the work. They tended to be bigger employers working with the local council (in this case Leyton borough council) and the City of London. It was a kind of job creation scheme, and the ponds were hand dug.

A letter from the Superintendent to the Epping Forest Committee, concerning the unemployed states that the Leyton Distress Committee had kept about 100 men at work on the extension of the Hollow Pond.

There were obvious tensions between the



Above: Whipps Cross prefabs shortly before they were demolished c1960

Left Whipps Cross Road – VE Day party 1945

**The Leyton District Council did the right thing in voting £300 towards the cost of converting the Hollow Pond at Whipps Cross into an ornamental lake with facilities for bathing and boating. The estimated cost of the undertaking is about £1,200. Towards this sum each of the Verderers has subscribed £25, Mr. BARCLAY £25, and the Forest Committee of the City Corporation £100, and now that Leyton has agreed to contribute £300 it is confidently anticipated that the Court of Common Council will consent to the balance coming out of the coffers of the City Corporation.**

Hollow Ponds - ice skating (undated). It has also been used for model yacht sailing and rowing boats, and you can still hire boats there, unlike in Wanstead Park where it has stopped.

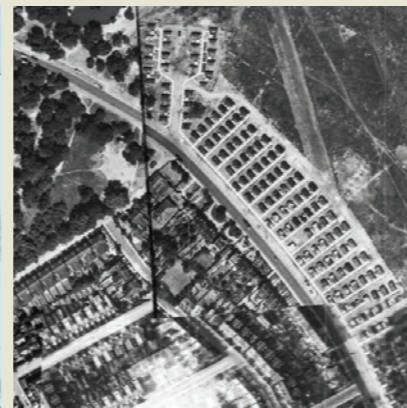


This press cutting showed a start had been made before the end of the nineteenth century in converting the abandoned gravel pits to recreational use



The unemployed digging the swimming lido near Hollow Ponds c.1905. Forest school is in the background. There had been numerous drownings in Hollow Ponds around 1900 so safer swimming was needed. That might have been the motivation for starting work on the lido. It opened first about 1908.

Below is an RAF aerial reconnaissance photo of Leyton Flats taken probably in summer 1944. The rows of prefabs can be seen along Whipps Cross Road. To the right are some larger looking white buildings. These could be military huts.



Prefabs and their gardens at the Manor Park part of Wanstead Flats, Newman Avenue. Ones on Wanstead Flats opposite the Golden Fleece pub were more like bungalows and considered posher than these Nissen huts. Notice the roses and well kept gardens. People had happy memories of prefab living. Many prefabs remained till 1960s or even later.



committee and the City of London Corporation

*"The season's work (by the Leyton Distress Committee) at the Hollow Pond is due to finish in about a week. The Superintendent concludes by lamenting that "[...] work by the 'unemployed' is all supposed to be carried out more or less under my supervision, but I often have great difficulty in getting my instructions attended to"*

Forest Gate's Paul Ferris writes on his website [WansteadWildlife.org.uk](http://WansteadWildlife.org.uk)

*"Leyton Flats is, like the somewhat similar Wanstead Flats, an open area in the southern reaches of Epping Forest, close to, and almost surrounded by, heavily populated residential areas. The borders of Leyton Flats are Whipps Cross Road to the south-west, Lea Bridge Road in the west, Snaresbrook Road in the north and the Central Line railway cutting and Hollybush Hill (road) to the south and the east. The private grounds of Snaresbrook Crown Court are in the north-east corner as is the Eagle Pond, which is part of Epping Forest. More forest land in the neighbourhood of Whipps Cross Hospital is separated from Leyton Flats by Whipps Cross Road.*

*Leyton Flats proper comprises about 75 hectares of land, of which 38 hectares is flat open grassland, 20 hectares woodland and the rest mainly ponds or wet areas. The same cattle grazed on Leyton Flats as on Wanstead Flats, though it seems that they had preference for the latter which might be related to differences in the vegetation of the two areas.*

*Poor drainage of rain-water from Leyton Flats give rise to considerable waterlogging of the grassland, particularly during winter. There are a number of drainage ditches across the area, of which some drain to the Hollow Pond or the Eagle Pond. Numerous other ponds or damp hollows are mostly the result of past gravel diggings and are scattered around the north and west edges. They have a variety of shapes and sizes, and of these only that at the west edge of the Flats by Lea Bridge Road normally has a covering of water for any length of time.*

*At the north end of the large Hollow Pond is a much smaller expanse of water known as the Round Pond, which drains into its larger neighbour. The water that feeds this pond is mainly gathered from Gilbert's Slade to the north. There are some kiosks and a boat-house by the Hollow Pond, the only buildings on the Flats.*

*In a birch wood adjacent to the fence of Snaresbrook Crown Court (once the Royal Wanstead School and before that the Infant Orphan Asylum) and close to the Eagle Pond, is Birch Well. This is a small spring enclosed by a stone surround about five feet across, once used for drinking water. Particularly in the north and west part of the Flats and mainly around the edge are areas of woodland; there is a scattering of trees elsewhere."*

At the end of World War 2 a large number of prefabs were built along Whipps Cross Road, in total there were 117 homes

There are still one or two signs in the ground of the estate, including a strip of bricks on the flats opposite Forest Glade and the Hindu Temple (which used to be a Christian Science Reading Room).

The huts on the flats were Nissen huts – there were in fact many kinds of prefabs during the war. For example, I have some great memories of Leytonstone. I was born in Whipps Cross in 1947 and we moved to a brand new council house in Lansdowne Road. I have photos of my dad digging in the garden to grow vegetables. Wanstead Flats was just seconds away past the prefabs

This article has previously appeared in a different form in the Wren Conservation Group newsletter.

## A POSITIVE OUTLOOK

**How a positive outlook and connection with neighbours can provide happiness - even in lockdown. Bushwood resident, Amanda, shares her story**

When we first went into lockdown a year ago, I had the overwhelming feeling that we were in it for the long-haul and so determined to concentrate on the present, explore what made me happy and enjoy it as much as possible.... after all, life rumbles on.

A year on and I've not yet managed to redecorate my entire house or landscape the garden and my bestselling novel remains unwritten. However, I HAVE had the great privilege of spending more time with my children. I've PE'd with Joe, baked, cut hair, collected for our local food bank, grown vegetables, zoomed, delivered shopping, completed a safe-guarding certificate, answered a helpline, hung wallpaper (badly), got my groove on in the kitchen, been down the biggest slide in Europe, become the chair of the school PTA, drank too much and life-changing for me - re-trained as a coach. As a family, we've clambered over beaches in sunshine, wind and rain, stayed in a shepherd's hut and caravans, seen seals on the beach. We've FaceTimed our loved ones, camped in the garden, litter picked and the other Campbells (with more talent than me!) formed a band. In other words, despite it all, we've had fun!

Whilst I've desperately missed my friends and family, I've found solace in becoming closer to our neighbours and friends within the community. Last year, the clap for the NHS became the highlight of our week. We've all got to know each other and now share a deeper connection than just a cursory nod in the street. Last May, with the help of our neighbours, we

organised a mini street party for VE Day celebrations. The sun shone, everyone excitedly brought out tables and chairs, ate scones and popped open the Prosecco. By 10 pm we were dancing in the street laughing and chuckling like good friends.

Just before Christmas me, my husband and our children all tested positive for covid. I was unable to be ones of Santa's elves in Bushwood and we never got to the BARA post box in time. That didn't stop Father Christmas from coming to our window to talk to the children and thanks to the magic of Christmas (well OK Anna) beautifully wrapped presents arrived at our doorstep. We received many offers from neighbours to help with food shopping and the pick-up of parcels. At one of my lowest moments of the crisis, the kindness of the lovely people of Leytonstone didn't let me down.

The first lockdown coincided with my decision to retrain in coaching and now I gain real satisfaction helping others work with their strengths and values to gain a positive mindset and happier life. Today, I emerge from the experience of living through a pandemic more grateful than ever for those that love me, grateful for my family and the amazing community around me. I have learned that happiness doesn't have to be a five-star holiday abroad or even getting drunk with your mates (although let's be honest, there's a place for that too!). Happiness is something that, with a positive mental attitude, can be discovered and cultivated in even the most difficult of times.

More information on Amanda's coaching can be found at [www.thehappinessandpositivitycoach.com](http://www.thehappinessandpositivitycoach.com) you can email her on [amanda@thehappinessandpositivitycoach.com](mailto:amanda@thehappinessandpositivitycoach.com)

You can follow Amanda on [www.facebook.com/happinessandpositivitycoach/](https://www.facebook.com/happinessandpositivitycoach/) and [www.instagram.com/thehappinessandpositivitycoach/](https://www.instagram.com/thehappinessandpositivitycoach/)

## Get your Rhubarb

**BARA's Rosemary Warrington reminds us of The OrganicLea and Transition Leytonstone stall for locally grown fruit and vegetables.**

I was a rhubarb hater after dreadful school lunches until I was converted by Delia's wonderful rhubarb and ginger Brulee.

You can currently get Champagne Rhubarb that's grown in Chingford on the weekly seasonal organic fruit and vegetable stall outside Matalan. The stall is run by a partnership of OrganicLea and Transition Leytonstone. All the produce is as local as possible with some, such as their salad leaves bags, each with an edible flower, grown at OrganicLea's site in Chingford, and in local gardens and allotments or from small organic producers in Essex and Kent. Some items are from further away depending on availability, weather and growing conditions, with fair trade bananas and ginger coming by boat.

The stall is open every Saturday from 10am to 2pm. It is also a pickup point for the OrganicLea vegetable and companion plant box scheme when you order online. A variety of sizes are available to order of vegetable and fruit boxes.

[www.organiclea.org.uk/plant-compost-sales-spring-2021](http://www.organiclea.org.uk/plant-compost-sales-spring-2021)

If you want to try Delia's brulee you can find the recipe here [www.deliaonline.com/recipes/main-ingredient/rhubarb/rhubarb-and-ginger-brulee](http://www.deliaonline.com/recipes/main-ingredient/rhubarb/rhubarb-and-ginger-brulee).



Last issue, garden designer Mark Cummings met the ring-necked parakeets. In this issue mark suggests ways of welcoming more birds into the gardens of Bushwood.

I was recently asked if my 'Fat Balls' were vegan. Before coughing up my tea I realised I was being asked about the bird food bags I was selling for Forest Flora, the local group that supports community gardens in Waltham Forest. The bird food bags were a gift idea with a beautiful, printed design by Jules from *And So On*. They contained four fat balls and a bag of mixed seed. I had to confess that they were not vegan, and the potential buyer tutted and walked away. But here's the thing. Birds aren't vegan. As many an earth worm will attest. Grubs, bugs, and beetles are all fair game. Carrion crows are particularly voracious meat eaters as Alfred Hitchcock immortalised. We often mistakenly think of our feathered friends as vegetarian because we liberally sprinkle bird seed about. But actually feeding time is a much more carnivorous affair. It's literally grubs up!

Despite the carnage, supplementary feeding is a fantastic way of encouraging even more birds into your garden. Plus nowadays, the decline in the natural insect population is having a detrimental effect on our bird life. So, I am all for hanging feeders of all shapes and sizes in the garden. But what to feed, how and crucially when?

When considering what to feed, variety truly is the spice of life. A more varied food supply encourages a greater variety of bird life.

Meal worms are full of protein with a little bit of crunch and are especially favoured by robins and blue tits. Suet balls contain essential fats that provide energy for all birds when breeding and to carry them over the winter months.

Seed is often the primary purchase for the gardener with the average bird feeder. But not all seed mixes are created equally and there is fair bit of chaff out there on the market. When you consider the bird food industry is worth a whopping £200 million per year it's a good idea to know what's eaten and what is left on the floor. I once carefully moved a healthy-looking plant from under the bird feeder only to be told by the client it was seed that had sprouted from those discarded by the birds. There was a lot.

Finally, we are not the only ones that need our five a day. Birds love something fruity and if you don't have the space for a fruit tree or you aren't keen to share your prized currents (which is fair enough) a few grapes, an apple or two and some citrus rinds will go a long way to preventing avian scurvy (I really did just make that condition up, but you get the point).

So, when is best? I tend to supplementary feed over the winter months and on into the spring when birds are mating, nesting and rearing chicks. By the summer there should be enough fodder crawling wriggling or flying around the garden. This is essential as birds need a huge volume of insects and grubs to feed to their chicks. And here comes the science bit... the insects that are rounded up are dependent on many, many British native plants. They have evolved over thousands of years to live symbiotically. Lose the plants, lose the insects, lose the birds.

Fortunately, there is lots you can do as a gar-



Photos by Jane Hillon



Top: Seed heads provide food in Autumn and Winter. Left: Fresh water is essential for garden birds. Bottom: Bird boxes don't have to be boring. Head to ForestFlora.co.uk or BorrowedLightforals.com if you want to get hold of one

dener to help encourage that summer diet. A wide variety of plants with a liberal smattering of our natives will go a long way to encouraging insects. Don't be too tidy. Leaf litter and brash allows habitats for all sorts of creepy crawlies that ground feeding birds can scavenge. And allow many plants to go to seed. Ok so maybe not your most annoying weeds. But ornamental grasses provide food well into the autumn and if you have space for a teasel or three, the finches will love you.

But there is so much more to encouraging birds into your garden than some sunflower seeds and a fat ball or two. Firstly, consider that birds need cover, they are relatively shy creatures (with the exception of the robin which is a brazen hussy of a bird) so shrubs and trees make essential habitat. I don't tend to prune my shrubs too harshly, preferring to allow them to retain their natural habit. Evergreen shrubs will supply essential winter shelter.



If you are looking to encourage nesting those natural shaped shrubs will play their part but in smaller gardens bird boxes might be the way forward. Bird boxes come in all shapes and sizes. But siting is essential. Boxes must be well out of the sun (Kentucky fried chick is not a good look for the eco-friendly) and must be away from cats and other predators.

Lastly, we need to remember that birds need to drink. Access to clean water that is refreshed regularly is essential in all seasons. So, remember to defrost that bird bath in the winter and make sure it is topped up in the summer.

And it's easy to see the benefits of these simple actions.

Every year the RSPB coordinates a birdwatching survey. The Big Garden Birdwatch was supported by over a million participants this year. A record number, no doubt due to the Pandemic (If you are listlessly going to stare out of your window because you can't go to work, school or shopping, you might as well count some birds). Over 17 million birds were counted by a million volunteers in just one hour. Of these there were 2.6 million sightings of house sparrows alone. It sounds a lot. But consider that their population has declined by 58% since 1979. It's time we opened up our gardens and ruffled some feathers.



Andrew Shields explains how BARA residents can support a campaign to protect and develop much-loved community facilities

# PASTURES NEW

Over recent weeks, many houses around Bushwood have been prominently displaying neon 'Save our Pastures' posters in their front windows. These are part of a community campaign to protect important buildings and grounds just outside the BARA area from redevelopment.

Behind high brick walls on Davies Lane, and set in attractive, biodiverse grounds, stand the 150-year-old Good Shepherd Building and the Pastures youth and sports centre of more recent vintage. In late 2020 the site was identified by Waltham Forest Council for housing, which would entail the demolition of one or both buildings and the loss of facilities that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic were well used by local groups for a wide range of sport, culture and youth activities.

A group of concerned residents quickly set up the 'Save our Pastures' campaign, which included an online petition and extensive social media activity. The strength of opposition to the council's housing plans immediately became apparent, along with testimonials from former youth centre members who powerfully described the role of Pastures in helping to shape their lives.

In March, the campaign group was delighted to learn from Councillor Clyde Loakes that following feasibility reviews and discussions with Council Officers and Councillors from both Leytonstone and Cann Hall Wards, the

Council had concluded that it would not take forward the proposed housing redevelopment. However, that announcement is not the end of the 'Save Our Pastures' campaign. In fact, it merely signals the start of the next phase.

The move to withdraw housing proposals now enables local businesses, organisations and residents to discuss how best to take advantage of the huge potential of the site's unique combination of buildings and grounds. The group is working to produce a robust and realistically costed business plan for use of the Pastures facilities and grounds by the whole community.

The shared vision that will emerge from this period of consultation will include opportunities within the creative sector, community services, culture, employment skills, sport and well-being, youth engagement, and business support. The revitalised Pastures centre will help to develop greater self-sufficiency for the Leytonstone area, supporting healthier and safer lifestyles without people having to travel to access such facilities.

If you're involved with a group that could benefit from a revitalised Pastures centre, visit [saveourpastures.org](http://saveourpastures.org) where there is a questionnaire to register your interest. To find out more about the next phase of 'Save our Pastures', you can also follow the campaign @SaveOurPastures on Twitter, @SavePastures on Facebook and @saveourpastures on Instagram.



## Remembering The Good Shepherd

The history of the Pastures site dates back to a house of that name erected in the 1670s. This was remodelled in the 18th century and sadly demolished in the 1960s.

In 1879 Agnes Cotton, sixth daughter of William, a governor of the Bank of England and owner of the estate, built a home for 'fallen girls' and 'those rescued from persons or houses of ill-fame' within the grounds. The three-storey brick building running along Davies Lane is what remains of the 'Home of the Good Shepherd', which included a chapel, school-room, laundry and infirmary.

Agnes fell ill at the age of 14, and after her recovery devoted herself to philanthropic causes, especially those caring for children. She often dressed in black and wore a veil, with many locals thinking she was a nun and referring to her as Sister Agnes.

The home attracted unwanted publicity in 1879 when newspapers carried reports of an unruly inmate being publicly flogged, and again in 1894 when charges of ill-treatment again surfaced. Girls were trained for domestic service, with good conduct and industriousness bringing small financial rewards.

Agnes died in 1899 aged 71, after which the home was taken over by the sisters of the Community of St John Baptist, Clewer, an order of Augustinian nuns. It continued until the Second World War when the residents were evacuated to Northamptonshire.

To find out more about this fascinating and little-known aspect of Leytonstone's history, visit [childrenshomes.org.uk/LeytonstoneIS](http://childrenshomes.org.uk/LeytonstoneIS)







# THE THROWBACK - 1991

This issue, The Throwback, stories from the 1991 issues of the Bush Telegraph to see what was on Bushwooder's minds the year Operation Desert Storm ended, Terminator 2 was the highest grossing film, Bryan Adams was number one were for 16 weeks and £100 pounds would be worth £191 pounds today. In a year that saw Freddie Mercury die, Ed Sheeran born, the Super Nintendo released and USSR dissolved it seems in Bushwood the big subjects were the ongoing link road plans, the Channel Tunnel and amusement arcades.

## A12 Hackney to M11 Link Road

The question of the conduct of the Public Enquiry into the Compulsory Purchase Orders required by the Department of Transport to free land needed for the construction of the proposed road was taken by Councillor Huw Morgan-Thomas and others to the European Commissioners.

The Commissioners are requiring information of the Dept. of Transport and it may well be that the European Court will take action against the Dept of Transport who have not obtained an Environment Assessment Study of the impact of the road in compliance with EEC Regulations.

However, some of you will note that the Dept. of Transport has already commenced some works in the adjacent area, i.e. the road bridge at Gainsborough Road.

It just goes to show that ordinary people can obtain a hearing in the highest quarters when an injustice has been perpetrated.

Whether or not the Link Road is required is, of course, another question but the road is appallingly badly planned. Those of you who have followed the saga over the years will know that not only does the road go from "open cut" to covered tunnel to fly-over for its length, but it also narrows from 3 lanes in each direction to 2. There is also no hard-shoulder nor access for emergency vehicles. Whether or not the road eventually slashes through Leytonstone, it has always been my contention that the road design must be improved in light of modern traffic requirements. One has to remember that this road was designed 27 years ago, since when things have changed dramatically.

## Planning Issues

The main planning issue in which we have been involved recently is the Public Enquiry to decide whether or not we will have a third amusement arcade at 22 Church Lane, Leytonstone. BARA (and the Neighbourhood Watch) opposed the application for several reasons but basically because we felt two arcades were a sufficiency for any shopping centre. We also have had complaints from members that many children under 18 frequent these establishments on school days! The applicant in fact converted the property ready for an amusement arcade before getting Planning Permission which was -in due course-refused. Ada Buckhurst and I spent a whole day at the Town Hall whilst the issues were debated. The applicant's witness, with a "superior air", advised the Inspector that we in Leytonstone did not know what we wanted and did not know when change was required! Naturally I disabused the gathering and let them know that we were not stupid and knew exactly what we wanted and, more importantly, knew we did not want another arcade! It was of particular concern that Sunday opening from 9-9 was sought in addition to the other six days a week!

The Inspector's decision is awaited with interest!

## Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Now that the decision is made for the Channel Tunnel Passenger Link at Stratford (see separate item any road proposals must take into account the increased traffic flow which this development will undoubtedly bring Stratford from the M25/M11 should be by way of the Link Road and the A102 (Blackwall Tunnel Road) to the Bow Flyover and so into Stratford town center from the west. The route keeps the traffic as far as possible away from the houses and shops, and all the way from the M11 to the Bow flyover there would be no traffic lights and no pedestrian crossings to make the traffic stop and start, which causes most of the fumes.

And this is bad for Bushwood residents in particular, because to get any benefit from the M11 Link Road as a "Leytonstone by-pass", we need there to be measures to reduce the traffic on the High Road. Indeed, BARA's committee would prefer to see the High Road closed to through traffic, except for buses and 999 vehicles. We are not likely to get any serious reduction of traffic if the High Road remains a trunk road.

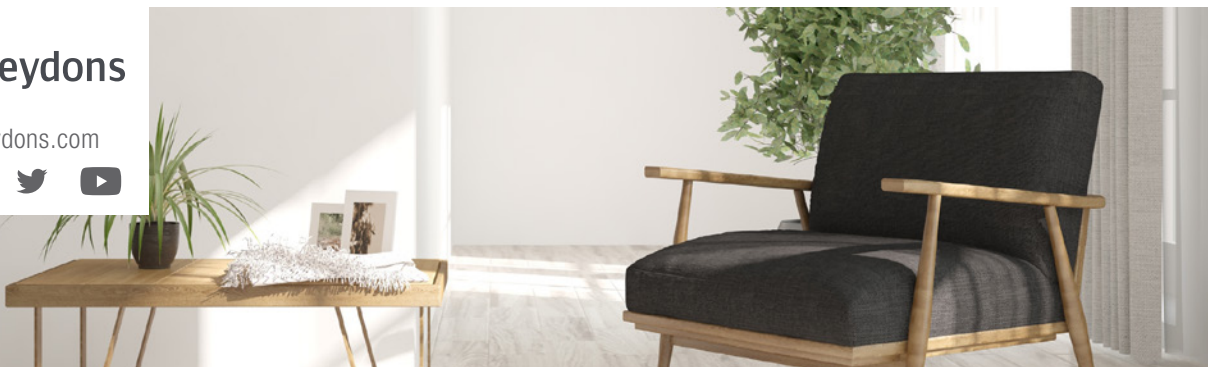
We have written to the Minister, and we hope that he will pay heed.

## Letter from the chair

What an incredibly busy year BARA will face in 1991/2. Those of you who attended the AGM will have realised that my fears concerning the future of the Leytonstone House site look justified as a read of the Guardian E Gazette will have borne out. Will Leytonstone House be demolished as the Health Authority hope? The Government has decided that the Channel Tunnel Passenger Terminal will come to Stratford (no mention yet of the Freight Terminal). This may suit Newham, but will it suit Leytonstone? The future of the M11 Link Rd hangs in the balance. If and when it is built, will our area become a "rat run" for either construction or local traffic? Pedestrianisation of the High Road. How will this affect our area-will it be reopened for traffic? All these issues are under constant watch by us and we are in close contact with other interested groups and will ensure that our input counts.



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