



S U M M E R 1975

Although it may seem a short time ago since your last Newsletter fell through your door, we greet you again in accordance with the Committee's new policy of producing more newsletters during the year.

You may have noticed that your last edition - and this, we hope - came somewhat stealthily on foot. We now have a noble band of volunteers : of the 272 Newsletters, 258 were delivered by hand. A big 'thank-you' to those who hoofed around the town - in vulgar sordid monetary terms you saved the Association in postage and envelopes some £15.

Town Hall

The main purpose of this Newsletter - to report upon the 'members only' meeting - must be thin smoke from a damp squib. Only twenty one members turned up, one with a particular scheme and others representing in force a group with a particular interest in retaining the present building. The Chairman gave an objective historical summary of the past history of the Town Hall and submitted five resolutions to the meeting as focal points for the expression of views. The Committee wished to know whether they should sit on the sidelines or adopt a positive policy towards the use of the site. Inevitably, sectional interests became apparent: 'a building in a precarious state!'; 'a tragedy to demolish'; 'the obstructive attitude of the Council'; 'the solution must be financially viable'; 'the horrid prospect of a continuation of Philistinism from Tesco to the Town Hall'; 'one of E.V.Lamb's buildings - an architect becoming respected!' echoes from many previous meetings.

The principal resolution, that the Association should take such action as may be appropriate on any occasion that the Committee considers the Trustees of the Berkhamsted Town Hall are, acting outside the terms of the Trust or against the interest of the people of Berkhamsted was passed to the Committee as the unanimous decision of the meeting.

Other resolutions with the recorded votes were as follows:-

That, the Association should encourage the trustees of the Berkhamsted Town Hall to sell the existing Town Hall, and apply the proceeds for the purposes of the trust on another site in the town;	6 in favour 15 against
That the Association should object to any application for listed building consent to demolish the market house; town hall and sessions hall;	14 in favour 6 against
That the Association should develop an imaginative and financially viable plan for making use of the existing building for some form of community purpose;	21 in favour 1 against
That the Association considers that only residents of Berkhamsted should be appointed trustees of the Berkhamsted Town Hall Trusts.	19 in favour 1 against

The Chairman announced that the Association would be objecting to the recent restrictive interpretation of the Trust Deeds by the Charity Commissioners whereby only subscribers were allowed to attend and vote at meetings of the Trust.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that a Study Group of Trustees and Subscribers was due to meet and so any future developments from that source would be viewed with interest. The Committee might, meanwhile, co-opt other members to its Town Hall sub-committee from interested parties.

Volunteers at Work

Last Easter the Trustees accepted an offer from a group of volunteers - some of them members of the Association - to secure the Town Hall building against vandalism and to

prevent further depredation by weather. This work has continued during weekends in the Spring. Mr. Bernard Orna (Berk. 5889) a member of the Association would be interested in any further offers of assistance.

Events

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For your diary: Annual Wine and Cheese, Victoria School, 4th July 1975. Victoria School is in Prince Edward Street.

Tickets : £1 for food and drink. (invitations enclosed). We hope our Member of Parliament, Robin Corbett, will be able to join us during the evening.

Thursday 18th September 1975 : 'Meet your Councillors'. Councillor Jack Johnson will lead a team. Start at 8 p.m in (we hope, it is complete by then), the re-modelled Civic Centre.

By the time you read this the Common Market meeting held on Wednesday 28th May in St. Peter's Hall will be past. Hope you didn't miss it.

Apologies

To those who wondered what happened to our normal publicity for our joint meeting with the Parish Council on the County Structure Plan on May 6th. We had in fact cancelled our own meeting in favour of that organised by the Parish and didn't know until late in the day that we were being invited to share the meeting.

Guardians of the Countryside

Perhaps you might notice that the Common and Ashridge are remarkably clear of rubbish. People who feel that the countryside needs their old brickwork, waste paper, broken bottles and the odd washing machine are being pursued by a group who have active social consciences the 'Guardians of the Countryside'. Founded in 1968, they have received several awards for their work. The Citizens' Association have agreed to act as an umbrella organisation for them. The Guardians operate in this way : each member has a section of the Common to keep clear of rubbish. Nine areas are without a 'Guardian'. If you, or your family want to have your own Womble Patch, please ring Mr. Quin, Berkhamsted 4565 or Dr. Wilson, Berkhamsted 6921 who are our 'links' with the Guardians.

Canal Project

The tow paths have been checked for access and the stretch of hedge running from the St. John's Well footbridge towards Lower King's Road has been trimmed by a Citizens' Association group. Pussy willow cuttings have been taken for striking ; if they grow we'll mask eye-sores with them. Something for your grandchildren to appreciate.

Cheap Fare Victory

For nearly a year we have been pestering British Rail about the lateness (9.56 a.m.) of the first cheap day train. Late in April we heard that British Rail had relented and you may now travel to town as early as the 9.14 without paying the earth. Tring also benefits from the new concession.

Court House

The Appeal Committee are hoping to throw open the Court House to townspeople on June 14th. Since, as they say, the townspeople and churchpeople have paid for it, no opener will be coming to cut a ribbon : the contributors will do the opening by visiting. A nice thought! And they still need £5,000 to finish paying the bill!

Spring Bank Holiday Fete

Stop Press - Our 'Down your Way' stall grossed nearly £20 for the third year running. Not so much a money-raiser as an exercise in Public Relations.

Subscriptions

If you have forgotten to pay, pop into Lloyds Bank in the High Street or drop a cheque or P.O. in the letter box with your name and address. (Recommended subscription £1.00 per family ; 50 p per person)

Take the Berknamsted Review for regular Citizens' News.

List of Committee Members

Officers

Chairman:	Ken Sherwood	42 Gaveston Drive.	5158
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby	Edgeworth House, Northchurch	5882
Treasurer:	Stuart Rosser	c/o Lloyds Bank, High Street	71271
Secretary:	Megan Peplow	20 Millfield.	3089
Mem. Secretary:	Miss E.M. Slatter	27 Greenway	3245

Committee

Mr. Robert Allen	-	The Grey House, Kitsbury Road	-	5212
Mr. George Cameron	-	34 Castle Hill Avenue.	-	3774
Miss Valerie Clark	-	329 Bridgewater Road	-	
Mr. Michael Day	-	Snelston, Shrublands Road	-	2716
Mr. Henry Fisher	-	Fairlight, Meadway	-	4527
Mr. Roger Ford	-	Ardbraccan, Cross Oak Road	-	5027
Mr. Robin Houghton	-	1 Greenway	-	3627
Mr. Ray Miles	-	17 Ashridge Rise	-	
Mr. David Sherratt	-	Dean Incent's House, High Street	-	
Mr. Bill Snelson	-	49 Cedar Road	-	3857
Mr. Max Struthers	-	51 Cedar Road	-	4345
Mr. Norman Williams	-	Brecon, Castle Hill Avenue	-	5291