



**Berkhamsted  
Citizens  
Association**

# NEWSLETTER

March 1984

## 1. Arrangements Off - 11 April

Sad, but we have to start this Newsletter with the fact that the talk by Gerald Priestland is cancelled. As many members, and perhaps others, were looking forward to this and, indeed, rejected other commitments in order not to miss it, this news is extra disappointing. The reason is that his other commitments will take him to Scotland and Ireland that particular week and to make the journey to Berkhamsted would be extremely difficult. Some of us perhaps, saw him on the Terry Wogan programme some few weeks ago and because of this increased our anticipation of the talk on 11 April. Alas, no longer on. We have decided that it would not be appropriate at this late stage to attempt a stand-in. Apologies to all who planned to be at this event and we hope that you haven't been inconvenienced. This Newsletter (the first after the AGM) is brought forward by a few weeks in order to advise all members of the cancellation.

## 2. Arrangements On (April and May)

The visit to St. Peters Church and view from the Bell Tower is on for Wednesday 2 May. Meet at St. Peters Church entrance at 7.30pm.

The traditional Easter Ramble will be to Bourne End and Winkwell via Hockeridge Wood and Ashley Green. Lunch at one of the Bourne End pubs or, if you prefer a hot lunch you can try the 'Little Chef, return via the canal or, for more ambitious, via Little Heath Lane and Potten End from which end there are some attractive views of the Berkhamsted valley.

## 3. Special Arrangements

The 29 April 1964 is the 60th birthday of the Berkhamsted Citizens Association. This year the 29th is a Sunday and, therefore, not appropriate for many. As this is a special birthday, arrangements have been made for a special Summer social gathering of members at Ashridge College. This will be on Friday 15 June at 7.45pm for 8pm with the event closing at 10.30pm. There will be a light buffet with wine and musical entertainment provided by 'Part Four' a well known local group. They have a wide repertoire and on the 15 June will present a range of songs, some serious and some not so serious. Because of the size of rooms available there will be a limit on tickets issued of approx 150 at £6 per head. There is a cut-off slip on this newsletter. Please will you give advance indication of your intention to attend this rather special Diamond Jubilee event. Given good weather it should be an evening to remember. Do not let transport be a problem as, given notice, we will arrange for anyone to be given a lift to and from Ashridge.

#### 4. 'Cheers' for Volunteers

Dacorum Volunteer Bureau are holding a Festival Week from 14th to 18 May to celebrate and salute the many organisations in the area which are run by volunteers. The Berkhamsted Citizens Association is a prime example. Details will be available in local press and from the Library in Kings Road, which is the main source of names, contacts, roles and events relating to the many voluntary groups in Berkhamsted. The headquarters of the (national) Volunteer Bureau is of course in Lower Kings Road in Berkhamsted. What would our society do without volunteers?

#### 5. Planning Applications

The Association's committee regularly reviews planning applications to Dacorum District Council. Concern has been developing over several months now on the increasing trend to submit applications with only cursory information and drawings. We intend to discuss this with the Chief Planning Officer.

Applications now coming to fruition are:-

1. The development of the Youth Club Site on the High Street opposite the Post Office.
2. Development behind Monks Cottage next to the Post Office.
3. Dwellings on the site of the Football ground in Lower Kings Road.

#### 6. Bridge over Troubled Water

Work has now commenced on the bridge over the Bulbourne and canal from St. John's Well car park to the swimming pool. This should provide much improved access to Canal Fields. Previously, access was very inconvenient from either Park Street bridge or Lower Kings Road bridge and along the drive to the (old) Cricket Club. The river Bulbourne however, will remain regularly loaded with rubbish blown from the tip in the car park. A plague on it! The sooner it is removed the better and healthier it will be. Although described as an 'Amenity Site' it is too high a price to pay to have it in the centre of Town, alongside a natural leisure area. What other town has a tip in its centre?

#### 7. Extra Parking Facilities -

Another facility on which the BCA has long asked for action has now come about - namely the expanded car park in Lower Kings Road. This is but a small step along the path of bringing the whole area between the two car parks into public use. This should occur within the next two years provided there is sufficient willpower to overcome the problems. We must try to ensure that it does not end up like many other plans - on the shelf.

#### 8. Success

After much much pushing and reminding by the BCA, (starting 2 years ago) the roadway / pavement along Greene Field Lane (the exit from Water Lane car park on to Lower Kings Road) has been resurfaced and the kerb straightened. We have pushed for a footpath also as it can be quite dangerous for pedestrians along there with cars parked, forcing people

walk in the roadway. The original kerb was in a 'D' shape to go round poplar trees which were felled many years ago.

The Dacorum Council have worked much quicker to renovate the footpath surface at the top of Kitsbury Road. There is a 'cut-through' there into Anglefield Road which had become dangerous underfoot. This was pointed out to them by us in late December and has repaired in mid-February.

#### 9. Rubbish In - Rubbish Out

Perhaps it is peculiar to the time of year, or perhaps a sign of the times, but at present there does appear to be an extraordinary amount of rubbish along the sides of the roadways. The grass, bracken and hedgerows have not yet put out their green disguise and the rubbish does stand out. That said, have you noticed the paper chase display of plastic sheeting, paper bags and tin cans that adorn our sidewalks. The country footpaths are cleaned up twice a year by the volunteer group 'Guardians of the Countryside' who will be making a special clear-up in late March or early April. There is no such group of Townies and perhaps somebody should invent one. The Council can and should keep the roadways clear but the sidewalks, corners and hedgerows will not be cleared by the Council. Volunteers again! Look around you as you walk or drive along and see what rubbish is around Shootersway, the A41, the car parks. The A41 at Hall Park, and Gossoms End are particularly bad along the side hedges. Perhaps, if we all took a plastic carrier bag on a stroll within 300 yards of our homes to pick up litter, we could make an impact. Perhaps, the Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies could have a blitz on one particular area. Maybe we could, all do a little. Visitors must think we are very uncaring.

#### 10. Berkhamsted Arts Festival

'Never mind the Quality - Feel the Width' ought to be the organisers' motto. The quality of the Festival was excellent, but what happened to the width of its publicity? How many organisations in the town were specifically contacted well in advance? What about loudspeaker cars? The noticeboards and locations around the town that most local societies use did not seem to shout the existence of the Festival. Where was the banner outside the Civic Centre? Last year, Chesham had banners across its main street. The Spring Festival 4-11 March was an excellent taste of what is to happen in the Autumn. We are happy to give advance publicity in the newsletter but the Town Council, from whom the steering committee derives, must get the publicity act together. The Autumn event will last 2 weeks and we are seeking details now so as to include them in the newsletter soon.

#### 11. It's in the Can

After the successful recycling system with bottles we now have one for tin cans. So there should be little excuse for them to litter our roads and walkways. The Can Bank is located on the Water Lane carpark behind Waitrose. You are asked to flatten them first so they take up less space. Any can will be accepted not just beer cans. At present there isn't one at the site behind the Post Office - only Bottle Banks there.

BCA Committee - 1984

Chairman	Norman Willlams,	Brecon, Castle Hill Ave.	5291
Vice-Chairman	Guy Moores,	44 Gaveston Drive	6783
Hon. Secretary	Sheila Walton,	11 Murray Road	5988
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Braybrook,	16 Castle Hill Ave.	4955
Hon. Membership Secretary	Hazel Ward,	Red Lodge, Graemesdyke Rd.	5604

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Norman Binks	123 High Street, Northchurch	6300
David Brunt	50 Castle Hill	73198
Giles Clark	The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place	2981
Valerie Clark	329 Bridgewater Road	01-278-6751
Janet Crowhurst	14 Montague Road	6556
Miranda Cummins	27 North Road	6075
John Holborn	14 Hall Park Hill	4767
Tony Hutchinson	5 Trevelyn Way	4440
Pauline Parsons	5 Bridge Street	6084
Derek Smith	c/o Nucleus House, Lower Kings Road	6926
Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby	38 Kitsbury Road	5882
Mary Yates	10 Dellfield Close	4010

Diamond Jubilee Evening at Ashridge

If you wish to attend this event, please complete and detach the portion below the dotted line. Send it to Mrs Walton with the relevant amount for the tickets. These will be delivered to you as soon as possible. Receipt of order and cheque will be acknowledged by telephone.

Cut along dotted line

.....  
To: Mrs S. Walton, Hon. Secretary, Berkhamsted Citizens Association  
11 Murray Road, Berkhamsted. Tel. 5988

From: Name.....  
Address.....  
.....Tel. No.....

I wish to attend the Diamond Jubilee gathering of BCA members at Ashridge on Friday 15 June. I require..... tickets at £6.00 per ticket and I enclose cheque for £.....  
Cheques should be made payable to Berkhamsted Citizens Association

If transport is required - tick this box:

I can give someone a lift - tick this box:

signature