



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

January 1985

1. 1985 - Just Another Number?

"A Very Happy New Year to You" from the Chairman Norman Williams and members of the BGA Committee. This seasonal greeting through our newsletter is inevitably a little impersonal because of the written word and even between colleagues and friends can often be a polite cliché. So the best way perhaps is to also wish ourselves as individuals a Happy Year. Even better, using a glass of wine or sherry, in a warm house with the decorations and cards still around. But, no use just wishing - think about those things over which you have a little control and really do something about it. Achievement of something practical and possible will likely bring you a little bit of "Happy New Year".

Well, you know we always try to start our newsletters with a little philosophy, so don't be surprised at the above; and that we turn it towards the Association, which is you and a few others like you. Do you know Norman Williams, or any members of the committee? Not that it is absolutely essential - but very helpful. Why not help the "doing" part of achieving a Happy New Year by attending the AGM on Wednesday 20 March - 8pm - Sessions Hall and, whilst making a note of that date don't forget a very interesting lecture arranged for Wednesday 20 February about local private railways 'teaming in the Welsh Halls' and in particular the Taly-llyn Railway. The speaker is Richard Hope - Editor of the Railway Gazette who will be showing films of journeys on several private railways - 8pm - Sessions Hall.

Easy to remember! 20 February and 20 March. So 1985 need not be just another number - make your number with something that interests you!

2. Environment Award

This is another way to make someone happy! Look around the town, High Street and back roads and decide what buildings have been completed in 1984 which seem to you to have improved the local scene. It could be a large development of houses / offices or a snail extension to a shop or house. Over the years we have had all types and sizes nominated. Last year's winner was a block of flats built by Dacorum Council in Westfield Road, before that Ashlyns Hall won the Award. But extensions / redevelopments of cottages have been nominated and have received a commendation certificate. The George public house on the High Street used to have a garage which was converted to a lounge. The way in which this was skilfully done, you would not know it was not always part of the building. Our 'Environment' is made up of lots of these changes, some of which are 'mistakes' and others an improvement or, at least, a change compatible with the surroundings. Help us to show that local people care about these things. Nominations please to Sheila Walton, 11 Murray Road, Tel. 5988, preferably in writing. Send entries within 2 days of receipt of this newsletter. All nominations will be mentioned (after the AGM business meeting) with slides and discussion on the reasons behind the choice of winner.

3. Your Association

AGM's and Environment sometimes seem pretty boring stuff. Maybe! Just ask someone who has a new block of flats built behind their house or at the end of the road. Ask someone who has had their favourite trees felled right under their nose. So, don't just sit there, say your piece! The Association was formed 60 years ago to create a body of opinion concerned about the life and environment of the town and surrounding areas. The AGM programme and certain meetings through the year are occasions when you as a member are specially asked to raise matters of interest and concern. There is no reason why views cannot be given at any time (and often are!) but the Open Forum session of the AGM evening is specially designed for this. So Turn-up, Stand-up, Speak-up and.....!

4. Youth Club

If we really had one wish to make it a Happy New Year, perhaps it should be spent on wishing for new adequate promises for the Youth Club. We hope that all parties concerned political, non-political, local and county authorities, will strenuously try to achieve this. We will be doing, our best as an Association, with members directly involved, to try to bring this about. Any readers / members who can have influence and, particularly, Councillors who have power and influence, should put it high on their list for 1985. It has been too long and too easy to keep trotting out the reasons why it cannot be done. Let us ask why not?

5. Parish Church Restoration Appeal

Another important, but different part of our 'Environment' is the Parish Church of St. Peters, began when Henry III was 13 years old! Now, in 1985 over 750 years later, after many generations have worked to complete and restore the Church, this generation has its part to play. The external stonework has deteriorated, the lead-work of the stained-glass windows is perished, and the organ must be rebuilt and resited. In addition, the heavy traffic on the A41 is affecting the structure - like much in Berkhamsted!

As for leisure so for church! They are both applying the dual-use principle, as the church is kept open seven days a week and has increasing public use for concerts, plays, recitals and civic services.

To achieve replacement of lighting and heating, to support increased public use and higher standards plus redecoration needs £60,000. Restoration needs £90,000. So, £150,000 is the target to be raised over the next three years. The Appeal Office is at 154 High Street (Tel. 2533) for details of how you can help by donations, covenants and in other ways.

Events in aid of the Appeal include:-

January 26 8pm	Court House	-	A talk by John Ely
February 2		-	A mammoth Jumble Sale
February 27	Court House	-	John Cotton will read poetry with friends and musical accompaniment.

Watch for posters about these and other events.

6. Leisure Strategy

We have now had time to read the 38 page document. It starts by referring to The Sports Council 1982 target for the next 10 years as an overall increase in participation in indoor sports of 15% (men) and 70% (women) and outdoors 15% (men) and 35% (women). It accepts that these targets can "be met only by the provision of additional facilities".

The document assesses the situation in Dacorum by (a) identifying the present provision of recreational facilities, (b) assessing demand for various recreational facilities, (c) suggesting the need for new or modified facilities.

It uses standards and ratios agreed by national and regional sports bodies to assess whether Dacorum area is good, bad or adequate. Examples of these ratios are: - 1 sports hall of 4 badminton court size per 25,000 - 30,000 population, 1x9 hole golf course per 20,000 pop., 7 metre square of water space per 1,000 pop. Ratios are given for soccer, rugby, cricket, tennis, bowls and golf, and assume that 30% of a town's population between 10 and 40 years will use such facilities.

It is Dacorum's policy to pursue joint provision and dual use facilities with the local education authority ie. Herts County Council. This policy seems sensible to many people, and is supported by the Association as the only realistic policy which will enable Berkhamsted to achieve an improvement of facilities, particularly those which are capital intensive and offer the versatility of use for minority interest sports.

Berkhamsted needs are described (against the above standards) as:-
1 indoor swimming pool (25m), 1 sports hall (4 badminton court size)
2 football playing pitches. The sports hall site is designated as Ashlyns School and is given number one priority in a list embracing five neighbourhood areas, four of which are in Hemel. No sports hall facility is suggested for Tring as they already have one.

Tring Sports Centre with a catchment of some 15,000 population is presently running at 80% usage. This indicates well for the Berkhamsted priority with a catchment area of 20,000. Astley Cooper School at Grovehill, Hemel has an alleged 17,000 population area, but of course, individuals / groups can more easily use Dacorum Sports Centre than can Berkhamsted folk. The priorities are, of course, only 'on paper' and any provision is controlled by the money available by Dacorum and government policy on Capital Spending. It will also be controlled and decided by the political decision of the majority on the Leisure Services Committee and Borough Council. It is therefore critically important that all people in Berkhamsted, particularly the Councillors ensure that the 'logic' expressed in the Leisure Strategy is followed through and is not over-ridden. The proposals in general terms are we believe sensible and fair to Berkhamsted if they are carried out without delay and within the priorities specified.

Any member wishing to know more details can obtain copies of the Strategy from Mrs. S. Robinson, Town Clerk, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted. There is also a Summary Folder available. Members having specific views should contact Norman Binks, 123 High Street, Northchurch (tel. 6300).

7. Berkhamsted Volunteer Bureau

The Berkhamsted Volunteer Bureau is open one morning a week in Gable House, Prince Edward Street. Its function is to put people who would like to

volunteer in touch with organisations that can make use of their help. Potential volunteers are first interviewed at the bureau so that a good match can be made between volunteer and job. It is important that the volunteer obtains satisfaction from the work and also that the organisation has a helper suited to the task.

There is a wide variety of work, available. In Berkhamsted we have clubs for people with mental or physical handicaps, playgroups for children with special needs, all of which use voluntary help. People with secretarial skills and competent treasurers are frequently in demand by committees ranging from those helping the disabled locally to those concerned with world issues. Caring for the environment, delivering meals-on-wheels, driving minibuses and fund raising are other examples of ways of helping. The degree of commitment required ranges from a couple of hours a month to several hours a week.

For the bureau to function well it needs a good supply of volunteers but also a comprehensive list of possible tasks. It is important that the information about these tasks should be both detailed and up-to-date. The bureau would therefore be glad to hear from groups needing helpers and to be kept informed of their requirements. Of course, people wishing to discuss the possibility of volunteering are more than welcome at the bureau and if anyone reading this newsletter has suggestions for new ways of making contact with potential volunteers, their ideas would be gladly received.

The Berkhamsted volunteer bureau is open on Tuesday mornings between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm. in Gable House, Prince Edward Street (Tel. B. 6051). At other times (Mon. - Fri. 9.30am - 4.30pm) information can be obtained from the Dacorum bureau (Tel. HH 47209 or 53935).

8. Membership Subscriptions a reminder from Hazel Ward - Membership Secretary

1985 has arrived and so has the time for you to pay your subscription to the BCA!

The cost of membership remains at a minimum of £1 per individual and £1.50 per family subscription. Of course, you are welcome to give more than the minimum. Please pay to your newsletter deliverer or to me at Red Lodge, Graemesdyke Road (be sure to include your name and address -last year I received a £1 note in a brown envelope and I still do not know who it was from) or to Lloyds Bank (be sure to fill in a pay-in slip).

As soon as I receive your payment, I will make out a membership card which should reach you with the following issue of the Newsletter. Please help me to join a record number of new members this year.

9. Bowlers Get Ready

As part of the Leisure Strategy relating to Berkhamsted, a bowling green is being built at Canal Fields. It should be ready to be played on in 1986. As part of a general policy, Dacorum plan to provide the physical facilities and encourage people to organise themselves into a club rather than everyone relying the local authority to maintain and run the bowling green. A meeting held on 16 December in Gable Hall attended by some 40 people some with experience and others just interested in joining - resulted in a working group being created to think through the problems of organising a club. They will consider all details and produce recommendations which will be put to a further meeting in the spring. The meeting was organised by John Nisbet, Dacorum Leisure Services Officer, who will work with the committee which is:- Mr.T. Kenyon (B4515) Mr J. Buzzing (B73331) Mr J. Riach (B4214) Mrs K. Bayliss (B6439) Prof. E. Shotton (B6402).

Anyone interested in being kept informed, or potentially being on a mailing list should contact Mr Nisbet or any member of the committee.

Berkhamsted Citizens Association

Committee Members 1985-6

Chairman	Norman Williams, Brecon, 23 Castle Hill Avenue	5291
Vice-Chairman	Valerie Clark, 329 Bridgewater Road, Northchurch	2613
Treasurer	Peter Braybrooke, 16 Castle Hill Avenue	4955
Secretary	To be appointed	
Membership Secretary	Hazel Ward, Red Lodge, Graemesdyke Road	5604

Committee

Norman Binks	123 High Street, Northchurch	6300
David Brunt	50 Castle Hill	73198
Giles Clark	The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place	74347
Jean Clark	1 Red Lodge Gardens, Graemesdyke Road	4360
Miranda Cummins	27 North Road	6075
Eric Drake	18 Holliday Street	73122
Lovell Feil	13 Upper Hall Park	5752
Tony Hutchinson	5 Trevelyan Way	4440
Guy Moores	44 Gaveston Drive	6783
Pauline Parsons	5 Bridge Street	6084
Mike Prentice	44 Kitsbury Road	72877

Sub-Committees

Activities

Valerie Clark – Convenor	Miranda Cummins
Norman Binks	Eric Drake
Peter Braybrooke	Tony Hutchinson
David Brunt	Pauline Parsons
Jean Clark	Hazel Ward

Country, Canal & Leisure Amenities

Tony Hutchinson – Convenor	Eric Drake
Norman Binks	Lovel Feil
Miranda Cummins	Guy Moore

Town Amenities

David Brunt – Convenor	Hillary Talbot-Ponsonby
Janet Crowhurst	Ben Johnson
Margaret Phillips	Tony Hutchinson
Mike Prentice	

Publicity, Newsletter, Review and Briefs for Chairman

Norman Binks – Convenor	Hazel Ward (Membership)
Jean Clark	David Brunt
Eric Drake	Tony Hutchinson

Representatives on other bodies

Citizens Advice Bureau)	Norman Williams
Crime Prevention Panels)	
Berkhamsted & Northchurch Community Council)	Hillary Talbot-Ponsonby
Town Hall Trust)	
Library		Norman Williams
Arts Trust		Norman Binks
Youth Club		Guy Moores
Road and Home Safety)	Valerie Clark
Ladacan)	
National Trust)	
Chiltern Society)	Tony Hutchinson
Hertfordshire Rights of Way Association)	