



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

September 1988

Something's coming, something good

Congratulations to Councillor Betty Lees who is now Deputy Mayor of Dacorum. It may be that next year, for the first time since local government reorganisation; in 1974, we shall have a Dacorum Mayor from Berkhamsted

Postal services in Berkhamsted

You will probably be interested to to read the following correspondence which took place before the postal strike.

"Mr. J.A. Savage,
Head Postmaster,
Park Lane,
Hemel Hempstead
Herts. HP1 1AA

12th August 1988

Dear Mr. Savage,

A number of our members have drawn attention to the deterioration of the postage services in the Berkhamsted/Northchurch area.

The complaints relate to

1. The variation in delivery times - any time from 8.00 a.m. to mid-day or early afternoon, and recently in Northchurch to no delivery at all on some days.
2. The apparent elimination of the second postal delivery.
3. The many instances of delay to first class letters. Examples have included letters post-marked Hemel Hempstead 1800 hours, delivered in Berkhamsted two days later, and four days for delivery from other parts of England.

I should be grateful if you will let me have your early comments and what expectations you have for an improvement in the services, so that I can report back in our next newsletter, which goes out to our members in September.

Yours sincerely,

R.J.L Feil
Chairman, Berkhamsted Citizens Association

Royal Mail Letters

J.A. Savage,
Head Postmaster,
Park Lane
Hemel Hempstead
Herts. Hpl 1AA

17th August 1988

Dear Mr. Fell,

Thank you for your letter of 12 August.

I am sorry that the postal delivery service in Berkhamsted has been unsatisfactory in recent months. In an area of high property prices and low unemployment we have been finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain postal staff and unfortunately over 20% of the postmen positions in Berkhamsted are currently vacant. The staff we do have are working extra hours to maintain the best service possible although it is inevitable that some deliveries will be later than usual or occasionally cancelled.

We are doing everything possible to obtain staff including attempting to recruit staff in other areas to work locally.

Various forms of pay supplements or allowances are also under consideration to tackle the problem and indeed you may have read this week in the national press of negotiations taking place on this matter.

I can assure you I am very much aware of the situation and that we will continue to exercise our ingenuity until a solution is found.

Meanwhile I hope you will accept my apologies for the unsatisfactory service which your members have reported.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. Savage"

Is there anybody there?

In the last Newsletter, we asked you to suggest where you would like us to plant daffodil bulbs in the town. Obviously everyone was too busy going on holiday and enjoying the summer to think forward to spring.

We would still welcome a response from you. 600 bulbs will be planted. Shall we add to those already planted on the back of the Castle moat? Or plant along the canal? or.....? Please phone Hazel Ward on 024 029 287.

A healthier heart of the High Street

Ten years ago the future of Berkhamsted Town Hall looked grim. According to the then owners it ought to be demolished except for the front. Nevertheless it changed hands and the new Town Hall Trust has battled on, creating a shopping arcade, eradicating dry rot and generally making the building sound, albeit at a cost for the dry rot alone of a quarter of a million pounds.

On August 3rd the public were admitted to examine the beautifully rebuilt beams, panelling and fretwork of the Main Hall roof by the firm of Meadowlarch, who are justly proud of their work; they even erected scaffolding towers so that people could inspect at close quarters.

Everyone who came, professional or lay alike, was full of congratulations on what had been achieved.

Now the Trustees hope that progress towards getting the Hall usable will go steadily forward, and that it will be ready by autumn of next year, perhaps in time for the Citizens' Christmas Party in 1989. When the rest of the building will be completed depends on the amount of money coming in from grants and from the general public.

More of Historic Berkhamsted

Firefly Publications of Charles Street, who last year produced a quick guide for visitors to Berkhamsted Castle have now brought out a second guide in the same format. This one is called 'Historic Berkhamsted: a town walk' and describes a circular route from the station taking in the castle, Castle Street, High Street, St. John's Well Lane and the canal.

Attractively illustrated and full of information, this guide would be an excellent introduction to the town for a visitor or new resident. It would probably also introduce many long term residents to new facts about the town.

Did you know that local ale used to be tested at the Court House?

The guide costs 50p. And is available from several outlets in the town.

Membership

Membership to date stands at 442 households, 134 of which are 5-year subscribers. Of the 104 lapsed subscribers who received a reminder letter with the last Newsletter, 35 have responded, 7 of which have become 5-year subscribers. Since the BCA leaflet delivery by Committee Members to neighbours who are not members, we have gained 9 household memberships, 5 of which are 5-year subscribers.

You, too, can recruit a new member

Please introduce a neighbour to the Association. Lots of people just don't get round to joining the Association. They may know about it and think 'it's a good thing'. You are what they need. They need you to fill up the form with them and send the form and money off for them.

If you do your bit, we can look forward to reporting a dramatic increase in the membership figures in the next Newsletter.

Please let us know your ideas for other ways of recruiting new members. (Phone Hazel on 024 029 287.)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Autumn Ramble

Sunday 16th October

Meet at the junction of Cross Oak Road and Shootersway at 10.30 a.m. Walk to the Bull at Bellingdon. No food is provided on Sundays so please take your own.

November meeting

Watch this space.

Christmas Social and Carols

Friday 16th December

The old Hall, Berkhamsted School
8.00 p.m.

New Year Ramble

Sunday 1st January 1989, Details later.