



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

September 1989

Now that September is here, it feels as if the long, hot summer may be over. Rather than look back regretfully, instead let's look forward at the accompanying programme of the Association's 1989/90 season, and imagine the treats in store!

We are all interested in other people and what they do. This isn't just nosiness: it can be part of a real sense of community - something which the Citizens Association aims to foster. That thought lies behind our programme of activities for 1989/90.

We step out, pardon the pun, with the autumn ramble, always a good opportunity to get to know people starting from the junction of Cross Oak Road and Shootersway at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday 8th October. Our two other rambles will, as usual, be on New Year's Day and on Easter Monday (16th April).

Our first indoor meeting, in the Sessions Hall on Thursday 26th October, will be an interesting forum with local people involved in voluntary work, both here and overseas, talking about their experiences and answering questions. This is, incidentally, the Citizens Association's contribution to One World Week and will be one of several events in the town that week reminding us that we are part of a larger community. Then on 15th December there is the ever popular Christmas Social and Carols evening, again a good occasion for meeting old friends and getting to know other Citizens.

The New Year kicks off with the ramble on 1st January. Then our February meeting provides an opportunity to hear David Hencke, a Berkhamsted resident who writes for one of the quality national newspapers. The AGM and presentation of the Environment Award follows in March and in April we have the Easter Ramble. Then in May there is a chance to hear another Berkhamsted resident with an interesting job, Frank Glasspool, who is a Wimbledon umpire. We hope to give this evening a Wimbledon atmosphere by providing strawberry tarts and wine (at less than Wimbledon prices!). And that leads on nicely to the final event in the programme - the Summer Wine in June which we plan to hold in the appropriate setting of the Frithsden Winery.

So do come along to as many of these events as you can and get to know some of your fellow Citizens.

We hope that you find the programme card useful. Of course, reminders and more detailed information (including times and venues) will continue to be given in the Newsletter.

When will it ever be done?

In our last newsletter we expressed our pleasure at the appointment of Mr. Graham Bailey as the Dacorum Conservation Officer because we assumed that the title heralded attention being given at last to a review of the conservation area. In Berkhamsted this is long overdue. The Hertfordshire County Council report of July 1978 pointed out the need for such a review, and there remain unprotected some 16th and 17th century buildings and some excellent examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture.

It has come as a disappointment to learn that because of the large number of applications for planning permission and a shortage of qualified staff, conservation will be but one of Mr. Bailey's responsibilities and that it will not be possible to undertake the review of the conservation area in the immediate future. Those concerned with the preservation of the character of the town will appreciate that during the period of delay Berkhamsted is the more likely to lose some of those buildings which give most pleasure.

Annual Meeting the Dacorum Councillors and Officers

We pressed hard on the need for a review of the Conservation Area at this meeting, which took place on Monday 17th June. Five members of the BCA Committee met the Leader of the Council, four Committee Chairmen and the Chief Executive.

A wide range of items concerning Berkhamsted was discussed and a useful exchange of views given. The latest information on the by-pass, Bourne Centre, Sports Centre and Rex Cinema was outlined by the Council representatives and we were also able to present our views on such topics as planning strategy, infilling, conservation, traffic and parking problems, litter, and the condition of pavements.

Although the new plans for the Bourne Centre have not yet been finalised, we were told that the proposals of the new developers are a distinct improvement over the Erostin scheme. The shopping centre will not be totally enclosed as previously envisaged, but includes the same number of shop units, and parking will be increased. We eagerly await the opportunity to see and comment on these new proposals.

Annual 'Bothy' Meeting with Berkhamsted Town Councillors

A very similar range of items formed the agenda for the rather more informal meeting with Berkhamsted Town Councillors on 13th July, held at Giles Clark's house 'The Bothy'. We were pleased to welcome June Crawley, the Town Mayor, Peter Ginger and David Sherratt.

We look forward to working co-operatively with the Town Council to press for the review of the Conservation Area and on planning matters.

The Town Council and its Allotments

There is controversy over the Town Council's proposals to look into the change of use of one of the Sunnyside allotment areas so that young first-time buyers amongst others have a better chance of owning a home in the town.

At the annual town meeting earlier this year, members of the public complained to the town council about the lack of housing opportunities because of the high cost of housing in the town.

The town council should at last be given credit for being pro active on their control of the allotments, this being one of the few matters for which they have executive power. The results of proposed investigations will no doubt be made public so that more townsfolk can voice their opinion. It is evident that teachers, amongst others that our community needs, have been unwilling to accept posts here because of prohibitive housing costs. In addition there are those inhabitants reaching adulthood who do not want to be forced to live elsewhere for the same reason.

There is a long way to go before final decisions are taken, so let us hope a healthy debate brings out all the main facts before wisdom finally prevails!

The Lagley Meadow Sports Centre and the Youth Club

The marvellous summer has aided progress on our new sports centre and a major part of the steel framed structure has been erected. Planning permission for the Youth Club was granted on 12th July so we hope construction will proceed before long.

A model showing the developer's proposals for the Jarmans Field complex is on display just inside the entrance to the Civic Centre in Hemel Hempstead. The public are invited to express their opinion on forms near the model, which gives a very good idea of the proposals, which include a major sports arena as well as the leisure pools with their water slides and shoots.

The Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust

Once again this year we shall be applying for daffodil bulbs from the Herts Groundwork Trust. Many of you will recall enjoying the golden results of the Association's labours on the banks of the castle moat.

The Trust, an independent charity, exists to provide technical expertise, practical assistance and financial backing to community groups, including businesses, who wish to improve their environment.

If you appreciate attractive surroundings, open spaces, trees, wild flowers, woodland walks and safer recreation areas for children to play, then Groundwork may be an organisation you would wish to support. For details of membership, contact:

The Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust,
Mill Green,
Hatfield,
Herts. AL9 5PE Tel: Hatfield 60120/60129

B.C.A. Logo - on anything!!

If you wander down Lower Kings Road, stop and look through the window of "Monogrammed Leisurewear" (half way down on the left!) They display a board with numerous logos of local clubs and societies, and at long last the BCA now also appears.

The shop stocks good quality sports and leisurewear, including lambswool jumpers and sweatshirts in various colours. You can purchase any item from the shop and have our logo embroidered on it at no extra cost!

Committee members have purchased sweatshirts which have proved a good buy and very useful.

We are always striving to raise our profile within the town and we hope the visual impact of the BCA logo on the garments will help in our endeavours.

If you have any further ideas as to how we may heighten the awareness of our organisation within the local community, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Remember you can use our collection address:

11 Berkley Court, Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 2DT.

The Association's Publicity Officer resigns

For the last two years, Joan Palmer, our Publicity Officer, has been doing her job with consistency and flair; placing advertisements about our events, writing copy for the local newspapers and the Review, making sure the Committee takes publicity seriously. So it is with much regret that we accepted her recent resignation, due to pressure of work. We extend to her our thanks and appreciation for all her hard work.

Our next Publicity Officer

Who will be our new publicity person? Could it be you? If you are interested and would like to talk through what is involved, please phone Hazel Ward on 024029 287.

Membership

At the end of August, our membership stands at 533 households (890 individuals), this includes 38 who have not yet paid. Since the beginning of the year, 30 new members have joined.

Should your friends want to join, application forms are always available in the library and the Civic Centre.

Berkhamsted Volunteer Bureau

What does the Volunteer Bureau do?

What do volunteers do?

If you would like the answer to these questions, then the Berkhamsted Volunteer Bureau would like to invite you to their Open Day on September 27th at the Court House in Berkhamsted.

The Open Day will be hosted by Cllr. Betty Lees, Mayor of Dacorum, and President of the Volunteer Bureau, and there will be an opportunity to chat informally to volunteers who are already doing a wide variety of work.

If you would like to come along to find out more about voluntary work, you won't be pressed to take on anything, but it will be a chance to find out more about how volunteers help. Do give the V.B a call on 0442 47209 between 9.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. if you would like to go along and they will make sure they have enough coffee and biscuits.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 8th October Autumn Ramble, to The White Hart, Whelpley Hill, starting at 10.30 a.m. from the junction of Cross Oak Road and Shootersway. Please bring your own food.

Thursday 26th October One World Week event. Sessions Hall. 8.00 p.m.

Friday 15th December Christmas Social and Carols, Old Hall, Berkhamsted School

Citizens' Comments

Your comments on any of the items in the Newsletter, or even those not in it, will be gladly received at 11 Berkley Court, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 20T.