



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

May 1990

Dear Member,

As your new Chairman, I very much look forward to seeing you at our Summer Wine at 7.30 p.m. on Friday 15th June at Frithsden Vineyard (the home of Peter Latchford viniculturist). The members only price is £2.50. for a tour of the vines (no high heels!) plus two tastings. The Association will be underwriting the cheese and biscuits, but additional wine can be bought.

How to get there: At the top of Gravel Path go across crossroads in direction of Frithsden. After exactly 1 mile down hill turn left by signpost to Frithsden/Ashridge. After 200 yards Alford Arms is on right. Immediately past pub take sharp right down hill, directly in front is a narrow track marked "No through road". Go up track (c. 200 yards) and vineyard is on right with parking marked.

Cheers,

Giles Clark,
Chairman

AGM Report

There was standing room only at the Court House for the AGM on 22nd March.

The retiring Chairman, Ken Davies, said that he had enjoyed an interesting and stimulating year. He particularly thanked Hazel Ward and, Gerry Atkinson, who were both leaving the Committee, for their work on behalf of the Association. Margaret Phillips, retiring as Membership Secretary but not from the main Committee, was also thanked.

After the formal business of the meeting, during which Giles Clark was elected the new Chairman, Ken Davies was thanked for the energetic way in which he had led the Association during his year of office.

Environment Award

David Brunt, as always, gave a most entertaining and informative presentation of the short-listed entries for the Environment Award, showing slides and providing comments on the merits and shortcomings of the entries! The Award was finally presented to Berkhamsted Railway Station for the recent refurbishment. Ken Davies presented the plaque to Mike Holden, British Rail Area Manager at Watford, Mile Papp, Network South East's architect, and Bill Lobb, from Edmund Tory Associates of Berkhamsted.

Certificates of Merit were awarded to the Pennyfarthing Hotel and to the office development at 103-109 High Street, Berkhamsted.

Canal Mural Competition

Town Amenities conceived the idea for a mural to be painted professionally on the ugly concrete abutment underneath Raven's Lane Bridge, facing the Boat public house. Local artists were asked to submit design ideas and their entries for the competition were on display. There had not been a very large number of entries, but those that had been entered were of a high standard. The first prize of £50 was awarded to James L. Honour, second prize of £50 to Teresa Woollacott and third prize of £25 to James R. Honour.

Tom Horne

The Dacorum Rights of Way Officer gave a most interesting, entertaining and inspiring talk about his work, describing the policies and aims of the job, the liaison with local councils, farmers and voluntary associations, including the Chiltern Society, Ramblers Association and our own Association. Actual groundwork is carried out by local youthful labour. Mr. Horne showed slides showing the type of work they carry out in restoring footpaths and he is obviously an amusing but determined foreman! Members who find blocked paths should contact Tom at Dacorum early each morning (Tel: 60161).

Life Member

Mrs Nancy Rhind, first woman chairman, was proposed by Mrs Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby, second woman chairman. She said,

"Nancy's family has long links with Berkhamsted - her mother was a boarder at the Girls' School exactly a hundred years ago, and she herself was both pupil and teacher there. But it wasn't until early 1939 that she came with her husband, Mr Watt, and her two young children to live in North Road, Berkhamsted. During the war, she had evacuees, of course, but also ran a play group for 300 children, largely evacuees, in the late afternoons at Park View School.

After the war, by then widowed, she was elected on to the first committee of the reformed Berkhamsted Citizens' Association (it had been in abeyance during the war) which met on May 15th 1945, exactly one week after VE day - They didn't waste much time!

She was particularly active in walking footpaths and her great contribution to the Association at that time was being largely responsible for the preparation and publishing of the footpath map in 1948. She also helped and encouraged Percy Birtchnell with his book of walks, all of which she checked by walking them.

In 1952 and 1953 she was Chairman, as Mrs Watt, making her our most senior living chairman. During her years in office, the Citizens' provided the town sign outside the Civic Centre.

In 1954 and 1955, she was vice-chairman to Hugh Gardner and in 1954 she married a second time, to a fellow member of the committee and became Mrs Rhind. They moved to Hudnall but it was only the Suez crisis in 1966, with the consequent rationing of petrol, that forced her to give up the committee at the end of that year, after 11½ years of deep commitment, for which we must all be grateful."

Mr George Cameron, second most senior living Chairman, seconded the proposal.

ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT AWARD : THE FIRST TEN YEARS

In September 1980, your Committee decided that, in order to stimulate interest in the local environment, an annual award should be made for the work which was considered to have contributed most to the enhancement of Berkhamsted or Northchurch. 'Work' can mean a new building, extension, renovation or landscaping, large or small; anything from a building complex to a garden.

The following is a list of those awards presented. The year refers to the AGM but applies to works completed during the previous year:

- 1981 Monks Cottage (Flambards) (now Pennyfarthing)
- 1982 Rosehill, Montague Road
- 1983 Court House, Church Lane
- 1984 Thomas Court, Westfield Road
- 1985 Sunnyside Church Hall, Ivy House Lane
- 1986 Compass Point, Northchurch
- 1988 National Film Archive, Kingshill Way
- 1989 Gossoms End Elderly Care Unit
- 1990 Berkhamsted Station

No award was presented in 1987, but Haresfoot School was highly recommended. We are fortunate in having two local architectural practices who have consistently produced excellent winners: Melvin, Lansley & Mark, and Edmund Tory Associates.

DAVID BRUNT

The Citizens have much to thank David Brunt for in chairing our Town Amenities Committee for four years in using his knowledge of the planning system and the people in it, he has been sure to bring the individual and general concerns of Berkhamsted citizens to the right door at the right time. Whilst we can never know 'What Berkhamsted Might Have Been' but for his vigorous efforts, we should record the esteem in which he is held both by us and by 'them'.

His good humour has enlightened many a meeting when the onslaught of planning applications became near overwhelming; the Citizens annual Environment Award allowed David to bring this more positive tone to a wider audience.

We are glad that the depth of his experience will still be available to us and we thank him for accepting the post of Vice-Chairman of the T.A.S.C.

Nicholas Nisbet, Chairman, Town Amenities Sub Committee

BY-PASS NEWS

We are at least pleased to note that in the A. A. Members Handbook, 1990/91, the road is shown 'under construction'!

EASTER MONDAY RAMBLE

The weather was again kind to us on our walk to the Greyhound at Aldbury, enjoyed by some 45 members and the usual supporting dogs. Sadly much storm damage was evident on the ridge above Aldbury. The Chiltern Woodland Project has warned walkers to stay well clear of leaning trees and to watch out for hung up branches which may fall at any time. The effects on woodland have been much more severe than the gale in 1987, so much clearance and tree restoration needs doing - please give generously to local appeals.

Keith Jenkins