



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

September 1990

As I write this introduction to my first newsletter as your new editor, the long hot summer still persists, at least in the South East, and hopefully will last to bless the Lions' Fete on Bank Holiday Monday. The rain which spoilt two of the three test matches against New Zealand and some of the days of Wimbledon seems a distant memory. Thanks to there being no hose pipe ban until a few days ago, many of us have no doubt enjoyed bumper crops in our gardens.

We can look back with satisfaction on our own two events of the summer. On 23rd May, Mr. Frank Glasspool, a BCA member and Wimbledon Umpire filled the Court House for a most interesting talk on that tournament and some of the problems of the hot seat of umpiring. During the interval we enjoyed glasses of wine and bowls of strawberries and cream, but not at Wimbledon prices!

On a very warm evening on 15th June, some 120 people, more than expected, attended the Summer Wine at the Frithsden Vineyard owned by the Latchford family. After a guided tour of the vineyard itself, the ground of which seemed dry and rock hard, although the vines appeared in good health, we were treated to tastings of some of its wines. To those whose cellars are running low, let me recommend them.

Forthcoming events

Autumn Ramble: Sunday 14th October

Our first event of the autumn is our usual ramble, this year to the Greyhound at Wigginton. We meet at 10.30 a.m. at the junction of Cross Oak Road and Shootersway; a bar meal will be available at the Greyhound. Do not be put off, this ramble is not only for the young and fit, but for the family of all ages

Thursday 25th October

Graham Cannon of the National Trust will give an illustrated talk in the Court House at 6.00 p.m. about the Ashridge Estate, in particular, the storm damage in January which, as elsewhere, was tragic. Please note the paragraph below about the Ashridge Appeal.

Thursday 22nd November

Mr. Norman Webb of Gallup Polls will give a talk in the Court House at 8.00 p.m. entitled "Market Research in 1990's". Statisticians may query their accuracy but this should prove an interesting and fascinating subject.

Saturday 8th December

In particular, may I recommend to you our charity stall to be held in the market on Saturday 8th December for the sale of cakes, plants, old books and bric-a-brac in aid of the Youth Club. Please bring your contributions to the stall itself or take them in advance to your nearest committee member.

Wednesday 19th December

Christmas Carols and Wine Evening at the Old Hall, Berkhamsted School.

National Trust Appeal

Reference was made in the May Newsletter - the Easter Ramble - to the terrible devastation in Ashridge caused by the storms earlier this year. More than five thousand trees were uprooted or smashed and the work of clearance will be expensive and take many months.

The Local Committee, the Friends of Ashridge, have appealed for funds and those BCA members who have not already responded to this appeal are asked to send a contribution to:

Leslie Thompson,
Old Copse Lodge,
Toms Hill,
Aldbury,
Tring, Herts

Ken Davies

Our Mayors

We congratulate both David Sherratt (Sunnyside Ward) and Ken Coleman (Castle Ward) on their elections as Town and Dacorum Borough Mayors respectively. We wish them both successful terms of office. Readers of the Gazette can hardly have failed to notice our Town Mayor, but I am sure that Ken Coleman has been just as active if not so often in front of a camera.

The Sports Centre

May we remind you that the new Sports Centre, which includes an indoor swimming pool, is to be formally opened on Saturday 15th September.

The Town Hall

Work on the restoration of the Town Hall continues, in particular the grand staircase leading up from the High Street to the Sessions Hall and other areas. The Town Mayor, David Sherratt, will formally open this stage of the restoration towards the end of November.

The Mayor has called a meeting of townspeople on 3rd October in Room 10 at the Civic Centre to explore the possibilities of forming a "Friends of the Town Hall". He is very keen to rekindle enthusiasms in order to pursue the proposed Appeal to restore the main hall. On a re-vamped plan, the hall could be brought into use for some £80,000. If you are willing to be a "friend" and willing to support and, maybe, organise events, please come to this meeting, RSVP to the Town Clerk, tel: 862441, if possible.

The Dacorum Borough Plan

Some of you may have visited the exhibition on the Borough's local plan which has been issued for public consultation. Our Town Amenities Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Nicholas Nisbet, has carefully considered this plan and submitted its observations in writing to the Borough Council. It is hoped to include a summary of our submissions and the Council's reply thereto in our next newsletter.

Meetings with Borough and Town Council's

On 20th June seven members of the Committee, headed by our Chairman Giles Clark, had our annual meeting with Senior Officers and Heads of Departments of the Borough Council. The main areas of discussion were the draft District Plan, the extension of the Conservation Area, which is too limited to the central core of the town, and the County Plan. With respect to the latter, we pressed that Berkhamsted / Northchurch should be considered separately from Hemel Hempstead so that development would be limited to that which is considered compatible with its historic character and the Green Belt boundary.

On 16th August, most of Berkhamsted and Northchurch Town Councillors, headed by David Sherratt and Alan Fantham, crowded into Giles Clark's vinery for the annual meeting with the BCA Committee. There was a lively discussion about current planning applications, particularly the Kingsgate Centre which, at present, is subject to further review with respect to car parking and access, and the seemingly absurd idea to move the Post Office to Bernards toy shop, a move which neither the Town or Borough Councils has the power to stop. When this move is complete, one can only hope that there will be pressures to reopen our former sub-post offices : hope?

Citizen's Committee List

Since producing the list of Committee Members, attached to our last Newsletter, Eric Drake has moved. He now lives at 19 Queens Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HU. Tel: 872536.

Reporter of the Year

Many of you will remember the most interesting talk by one of our members, David Henke of The Guardian, last February, entitled "I am a Journalist". We congratulate him on being awarded "UK Press Reporter of the Year".

Citizen's Comments

Your comments on the items in this newsletter, and any contributions on matters of general interest, would be gratefully received by The Editor, Peter Holt, at Hawkhill, 10 Headway, Berkhamsted, HP4 2PN.