

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN - M. Day, Snelston, Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted 2716

HON. TREASURER - L. H. Horton, Lloyds Bank House, Berkhamsted 2661

HON. SECRETARY - Miss B. M. Parson, 46 Castle Hill Avenue, Berkhamsted 6308

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1968

BERKHAMSTED'S GREATEST EYESORE - The response to this 'poll' was a little disappointing - perhaps as the Gazette seem to think it was too 'kinky'.

The result for those who missed it, was

1. The Town Hall (wish special reference to the fish smells)
2. The derelict shops on the corner of Prince Edward Street
3. Curry's shop.

These three got by far the most votes; other mentions include 'my Mum', 'pavements (especially the High Street and outside Kitsbury Post Office)', 'the approach to Berkhamsted', 'the Gas works'. Though mention was made of the 'Home & Colonial Stores' sign, it appears that eyesores are noticed mainly at eye level. This emerges in the emphasis on fish in relation to the Town Hall, and to a number of references to window sticker advertising in shops, implicit also by reference to No.s.2 and 3.

BUILDINGS OF INTEREST - This Town has not many buildings left of historic interest, but we feel the time has come to take stock of the situation. The Association is compiling a list of buildings and groups of buildings which they consider worthy of preservation and protection.

Would any member please send in details, if they know of any listed and scheduled buildings and also any unlisted buildings, which they would like to see added to the list, together with their reasons for preservation. With the growth of planning, and rate of development there is, we must be prepared with information.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967 - The new Civic Amenities Act greatly strengthens local government's powers in a number of key areas in which this Association has always been interested. It increases the penalties against those who pull down or damage listed (i.e. historic) buildings, to include heavier fines or imprisonment. But also it enables local councils to help preserve them by means of loans, repairs or compulsory acquisition.

Part II of the Act aims to link tree preservation and planting more closely with prospective development, making it a specific duty of the planning authority to ensure that growing trees remain and new ones are planted wherever possible. Further more, the Act requires that if a tree which is protected by a preservation order should die (for instance, by bad topping), or be removed, a substitute tree must be planted which will automatically be protected in its turn. The penalties for contravention are £250 or twice the value of the tree, whichever is greater.

The other main provision of the Act concerns the disposal of abandoned vehicles or other refuse. Any car or part of a car found abandoned in the open air or a 'highway' (i.e. public right of way) can now be removed and eventually, destroyed. The vehicle must first have fixed to it a notice of intention to remove. The cost of the operation can be recovered from the owner. The Council is also empowered to remove other rubbish found in the open air.

All of these provisions are good news to the Association. So if you see an abandoned car, pile of rubbish, or a man with a chopper near a protected tree, ring the Council; it is their duty to take action.

FLOWER FESTIVAL - We have been asked to tell our Members that a Flower Festival is being held on June 7th-9th from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Sunnyside, Berkhamsted in aid of the Church Restoration Fund. It was found necessary to completely re-roof the Church and for other structural repairs to be done at a cost of £7,600.

HONORARY CONSULTANTS - From time to time we need the services of people with specialist or professional skills. If anyone possessing any of the following qualifications or experience would be prepared to help on occasion with advice, would he or she please get in touch with Miss Parson, 46 Castle Hill Avenue, Berkhamsted 6308. It is unlikely that there will be many serious calls on time.

HONORARY CONSULTANT

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Accountant | Lawyer |
| Architect | Surveyor |
| Traffic Engineer | Forestry Expert |
| Cartographer | Printer/Designer |
| Management Consultant | Archaeologist |
| Town Planner | Sociologist |
| Economist | Education Administrator |
| Agronomist | Civil Engineer |

HOME SAFETY - Normally the Association has a representative on the Town's Home Safety Committee. However no member of the Committee is able to undertake this commitment. We would be grateful to know of anybody who is interested in this subject and who would be willing to represent us. The meetings are usually in the afternoon. If you would be willing to help, please let Miss Parson, our Hon. Secretary, know.

COMMONS REGISTRATION ACT 1955 - As many of you may know, any common must be registered under the Act otherwise all rights will be lost. The Association, therefore, decided to make application for all those commons in the area which appear on our Footpath Map. Although local authorities are the usual applicants, anybody or person may do so. We felt, therefore, that we must ensure that no local rights are LOST BY DEFAULT.

Those that have been registered by us are:-

- Part of Berkhamsted Common (part had already been registered)
- Little Heath
- Long Green (part)
- Sandpit Green (part)
- Brickhill Green (part)
- Hudnall Common
- Aldbury Common
- Sheethanger Cojnmon

Some clarification and further work is in progress.

FOOTPATHS - In our last Newsletter we mentioned the effort to walk all footpaths. By Autumn this had been done for all those shown on our Map within 3-5 miles of the Town. As a result of our effort, we were in a position to counter any claim to close a path. No objections were forthcoming except to a certain path not shown on our Map. Mr. Mayling was called as a witness but the case was lost because of a problem with an old map. Although the definitive map has not been finally issued, we have certainly achieved our objective.

However, we felt the next task is to keep them open. Many of the obstructions noted by last years walkers have been reported to the appropriate Rural Council. With the natural growth of bushes, trees, etc., we want to have the paths walked again this year to help keep them open. Would any further volunteers get in touch with Mr. Mayling (Berkhamsted 4377), who will provide them with a small piece of Map to walk. The new discoveries one makes about the countryside which one thought one knew, make the small disciplines very worthwhile.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

1st April - DIAL 999: We are all familiar with Z-cars, Regional Crime Squads and people with no hiding place, but what do our police do? Is their life as exciting? Chief Superintendent Vest has agreed to come and speak to us at 8 p.m. on Monday, 1st April in the Sessions Hall.

7th May - Berkhamsted U.D.C. Candidates Meeting at 8 p.m. at St. Peter's Hall.

19th November - A joint Meeting with the History Society and the Natural History Society on 'Berkhamsted Common'. Details are still to be arranged but this promises to be one of the most interesting meetings of the year. 8 p.m. at the Town Hall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - Have you paid yours yet? In case you have not, please take or send it to Mr L. H, Horton, at Lloyds Bank, Berkhamsted, together with this form.

Name.....Subscription.....

Address

The minimum subscription is still 1/- but if you can afford it we would ask for 5/- for individual membership or 10/- for a family.