



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

S P R I N G 1975

'Again the daylight fills the sky ...'. And we can start looking forward to summer and lighter nights. It's then that we forget about stuffy rooms and electric lights boring into our eyes and pipe smoke and alarming news on bits of paper - all except your committee of course, who, like the vestals of old, keep constant watch and ward over your interests. At one Committee meeting 'reference was made to false rumours prevalent in the town as, to the objects of the Association which were in no way Bolshevistic or opposed to the Council ; the Chairman urged all members to convey the true facts and to obtain additional members'. We hasten to add that that committee sat on 3rd November 1927!

Structure

Your committee has six sub-committees : Amenities; Activities; Beaune link; Environment; Membership and Publicity; and Planning. In this way we hope to try 'to initiate and assist useful measures in the public service' as the Constitution states.

So what have we been up to ? Read on, gentle reader

Looking outward first : Beaune link.

Roger Ford has master-minded this project. A visit was paid by representatives of local schools to view the landscape o'er last year ; we've had a visit from Beaune folk, and 34 local schoolchildren are visiting Beaune this Easter. In July, French children will be coming to Berkhamsted.

This is an exploratory venture, not a formal 'linking' and we, as honest brokers to the project, wish it success.

And now, nearer home, something rotting

The new committee seeks guidance on the role of the Association in the matter of the Town Hall. Some disquiet at our 'fait-accompli' attitude towards demolition has been expressed, so what do you want? Your opportunity to tell us comes on Wednesday May 14th at a meeting in St. Peters Hall starting at 8 p.m. This meeting is for members only: it is up to you to let us know what action you wish the committee to pursue - in favour of demolition? refurbishment? rebuilding? Should the Association be more positive in taking a lead for the town? Or should we leave it to the planners and the Trustees?

The old made new

The Association, pledged to work for 'the preservation of objects of historical interest' warmly commends the Court House Appeal to its members. This little committee started with nothing in the bank, a decaying building, a projected cost of £16,000, and a public conscience. They've now re-roofed, rebuilt - and refreshed our jaded public spirit by raising £14,000 in six months. And inflation has pushed the bill up to £22,000. They still need £8,000. If you want to help them, their Treasurer is Cyril Langley, Hillcroft, Kingsdale Road, Berkhamsted.

By cool Siloam's shady rill

Berkhamsted folk still walk their canal banks ugly as they (the banks) are in places. Michael Day and the Environment sub-committee are setting out with plans and spades to make some little difference.

Transportation Studies

You have to read technical reports to realise significances. Formidable as these are, our Committee has been at work in the person of Michael Day, an indefatigable mole amongst technical data, and their summary is as follows: the East-West road plans for linking Maylands and the north end of Marlowes in Hemel Hempstead bring the side-effect of more traffic flow from the M1 and Hemel's Industrial Estate through Potten End and the northern approach roads of Berkhamsted. The increased flows are forecast to be in the region of 14% to 20%. Hemel's gain is Potten End and Berkhamsted's loss. The Association are taking the matter up with the County officials responsible for the Transportation Study and it may be that the Parish Councils of both Berkhamsted and Potten End will join with us. So now you know why Bridgwater Road is so full nowadays.

Watch where you walk

The Association need no longer represent the Chiltern Society's interests as far as foot-paths go ; but it is as well to be vigilant as an amenity group. The Decorum Council recently planned their Westbrook Hay Golf Course and delicately and privately moved the public footpath that runs through the middle of it. This particular path gives the best view of the Chiltern valley. The Association, with the Chiltern Society, have objected. So, if you value your locality, go and walk it and see whether you think we are right : on the other hand, you may be too late.

Tunnel Fields

Our Planning Committee have been watching these proposals - for the development of the land at the western end of the town into a sizeable estate - and make the following technical observations:

- (a) the County's 'Hertfordshire 1981' Plan is not now binding on the Dacorum District Council - a result of the 1974 local authority re-organisation. The County's strictures on traffic flow from the new estate to the Bridgwater Road may now be ignored by Dacorum who have effective control of local planning.
- (b) the developers are complaining of delays and have suggested a slip-road to join the diverted B4506 (in the development plan but not yet effected) with New Road.
- (c) if the Association wishes to object to this manipulation of the B4506, a public enquiry has to be held.

The Planning Committee's view is that only the eastern part of Tunnel Fields is suitable for development. The planning officials have to cope with a need for more housing, reasonable access, government pressure and the commercial processes of developers. We who live in this community can be a chopping block upon which they work. Go and walk across Tunnel Fields - whilst there is still time. And approach via Bridgwater Road.

A Helping Hand

'Participation' is the thing nowadays and the committee has welcomed offers from members with special skills to serve as co-opted members. And the valiant souls who have volunteered to walk the streets posting Newsletters are fine gold. Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby will welcome any further offers for this postage-saving assistance.

Rag bag

We are looking at a proposal from the Guardians of the Countryside for assistance from the Association. We are still trying to persuade British Rail that the 9.56 isn't the most convenient first shoppers train. We have joined the Council for the Preservation of Rural England at the request of the AGM speaker, Christopher Hall, who waived his fee to enable us to do so.

Activities

If this reaches you before Easter Monday, why not join us on an all day ramble to Cholesbury. Meet 10.30 a.m. at corner of Cross Oak Road/Shootersway. Bring your lunch. Drinks at the Full Moon.

Common Market

May 21st or 28th at St. Peters Hall. Watch for posters.

Meet your Councillors

We are trying to arrange another meeting with Dacorum District Councillors – no date fixed as yet.

Spring Bank Holiday Fete – 26th May

Volunteers needed for the Citizens stall. Contact the Chairman.

Take the Berkhamsted Review for regular Citizens' News.

List of Committee Members

Officers

Chairman	- Ken Sherwood	- 42 Gaveston Drive	5158
Vice-Chairman	- Mrs. Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby	- Edgeworth House, Northchurch	5882
Hon. Treasurer	- Stuart Rosser	- c/o Lloyds Bank, High Street	71271
Hon. Secretary	- Mrs Megan Peplow	- 20 Millfield	3089
Hon. Mem. Secretary	- Miss E. M. Slatter	- 27 Greenway	3245

Committee

Mr. Robert Allen	- The Grey House, Kitsbury Road	- 5212
Mr. George Cameron	- 34 Castle Hill Avenue	- 3774
Miss Valerie Clark	-329 Bridgwater Road	
Mr. Michael Day	- Snelston, Shrublands Road	- 2716
Mr. Henry Fisher	- Fairlight, Meadway	- 4527
Mr. Roger Ford	- Ardbraccan, Cross Oak Road	- 5027
Mr. Robin Houghton	- 1 Greenway	- 3627
Mr. Ray Miles	- 17 Ashridge Rise	
Mr, David Sherratt	- Dean Incents House, High Street	
Mr. Bill Snelson	- 49 Cedar Road	- 3857
Mr. Max Struthers	- 51 cedar Road	- 4345
Mr. Norman Williams	- Brecon, Castle Hill Avenue	- 5291