



October 1977

The summer (sic) has come and gone and your editor promises not to mention it again in the future. Some of our readers will be thinking of autumn and winter activities and we hope that by the time you read this you will have already taken part in our Autumn Ramble.

Like so many Associations such as ours we have a problem of communication. So we shall try, again, to improve, but it must be two way and we need your ideas, comments and views. We shall try to get some by asking our long suffering 'deliverers' to call on some of you and ask. But why wait? Telephone the Chairman or Secretary - or any committee member NOW.

### Six-Day Trading

Last Spring Waitrose Ltd. asked Dacorum District Council to conduct a poll of grocery and provision merchants in Berkhamsted with a view to issuing an Exemption Order under Section 1 (4) of the Shops Act 1950. Such an Order would remove the requirement for this class of shop to close on one weekday afternoon a week from 1 pm.

The Citizens Association Committee wrote to the Council asking what the implications were, and whether the opinion of consumers would be sought, in which case we would be prepared to help.

The answer was that the Act provides that where a majority of shopkeepers in any particular class vote in favour of an Exemption Order the Council is obliged to make the Order. There would therefore be no advantage in gathering opinions from consumers.

Once an Order is made for a particular class of shop the shopkeepers can open their shops if they wish for six days a week and are not required to close on any particular day; on the other hand they are not compelled to open for six days a week.

Since the Spring, an Exemption Order has been in existence for grocery provision shops including the corresponding departments in multiple stores. But during September local members of the Dacorum Chamber of Trade and Commerce, on behalf of the Dacorum District Council conducted a poll of other classes of shop (other than those that are exempt from this part of the Act anyway). It is expected that the results will be made public soon.

Whether the shoppers of Berkhamsted like having staggered closing, or would prefer one half-day when they know the shops will be closed; whether they would be happy if all shops followed Waitrose's example and closed on Monday mornings is beside the point. The Act does not provide for the opinions of consumers to be taken into account. Should the Act be changed? Write to us about it - or your M.P.

### The Canal-Side Scene

The bushes planted in 1975 to form a screen at the lower end of the gas-works site survived with difficulty last year's drought but about half of them are now well established, though it will be some while yet before they top the beds of nettles and docks that surround them. They should, in time, conceal the long grey shed and the storage tanks which disfigure that stretch of the canal.

We have now turned our attention to the length above Billet Lane bridge, where trees fortunately conceal some of the unprepossessing backs of the factories in Northbridge Road, but others are too plainly visible. All factories produce waste and one of the problems here is that the local authority does not collect it; the occupiers have to make their own arrangements for its removal, entailing the use of unsightly skips which are apt to overflow when the factory is particularly busy or when the contractor is behind-hand in removing them. In some cases the only answer is to screen the site and we have been able to obtain the permission of the owners and occupiers of the two factories which most offend the eye to plant screens of low-growing trees, as we did at the gas-works. At the rear of another factory we have already cleared a large quantity of rubbish from the canal bank.

We also intend to have another litter sweep this autumn in another part of the town not yet decided upon (members' suggestions welcome). Anyone prepared to help in either of these projects (probably in late October) please get in touch with Robert Allen, Berkhamsted 5212 (planting) or Peter Ashford, Berkhamsted 2054 (litter).

### Guest Spot

From time to time we shall invite a well known Citizen or a Senior Member of a local organisation to write a piece for us. We are very pleased indeed to be able to start with a note on our local fire service by Mr A.L. Verney.

Q. Where do Berkhamsted Firemen come from?

A. Under a gooseberry bush in Castle Street!

Few people seem to bother, until they need to rotate the digit "9" three times in a clockwise direction and scream "FIRE" into a sympathetic ear at the control room; when a red and silver monster crewed by bodies with yellow legs and heads, is expected to appear in next to no time and deal with impending disaster. But what of the preparations required to provide such a service, "on call" 168 hours per week, 52 weeks a year? Berkhamsted is part of "A" Division of the Hertfordshire Fire Brigade. It is a retained unit or part-time, if you prefer, (168 hours per week part-time?) comprising 18 men and two appliances based at the Fire and Ambulance Station in Castle Street. This means that all the men at Berkhamsted have other jobs and respond to emergency calls as and when they occur by means pocket radio receivers. Attendance during the normal working day is guaranteed by the excellent, and sometimes sacrificial, co-operation of local employers. Training takes place on a continuous basis one evening each week and is supplemented by weekend courses, when required. Membership of the Brigade requires a high degree of physical fitness and an ability to cope with an inconvenience factor second to none, i.e. spoilt meals, disappointed children, interrupted visits to the cinema etc.; therefore, wives and families of firemen play an important role.

The summer of 1976 will long be remembered especially by fire brigades throughout the country. Perhaps you would be interested to recap just two days of that summer as it affected the firemen of Berkhamsted:-

Wednesday 7 July

- 03.02 Berkhamsted Common, returned 04.00.  
16.26 Appliance and crew to stand-by at Hemel Hempstead, returned 19.06  
18.17 Second appliance to Home Field, Potten End, returned 18.41.  
19.07 Berkhamsted New Road, returned 19.40.  
19.58 Gardens at Woodlands Ave., returned 20.30.  
22.01 Seymour Rd., Northchurch, returned 22.56.

Thursday 8 July

- 12.53 Appliance and crew to stand-by at Hernel Hempstead.  
12.58 Whilst on route ordered by radio to a farm, Bovington, returned  
14.50.  
15.05 Garden at Edlyn Close, returned 15.30.  
16.41 Bennetts End playing fields, Hemel Hempstead, returned 17.30.  
21.25 Water End Rd., Potten End, returned 21.51.  
22.25 Northchurch Common, returned 23.05.

Phew!

Street Lighting

We have been asked by the Dacorum Council to get you to help them - in everyone's interest. Because of the cut-back in public expenditure there has to be a reduction in street lighting maintenance. This is normally carried out by the District Council as agents of the County Council, in urban areas, and one aspect of this reduced maintenance is that the frequency of inspecting lamps at night, will not be done so often. You may therefore find that some lamps are not working. We are all therefore being asked to report lamp failures as follows;-

Berkhamsted Urban Area - Telephone Dacorum Council - Hemel Hempstead  
42831  
or call at the Civic Centre in the High St.

Outside the Urban Area - Telephone the Divisional Surveyor -  
Kings Langley 64147

If you are unable to do this get a reply paid postcard from the Civic Centre or the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Activities

Thursday 27 October - Court House 8 pm.

Talk by Roger Ford on "Computer - In The Home"

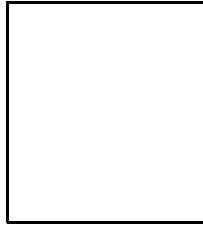
Tuesday 29 November - Gable Hall 8 pm.

Illustrated talk by Mr D. Aston of the British Waterways Board on "Waterways of England".

You may like to be reminded that all our meetings are advertised on posters in the Library among other venues and in the What's On column in the Berkhamsted Gazette.

## Subscriptions

We hate to mention this subject but quite a number of you have not let us have your subscription for 1977. Regrettably we need money to survive and the main source of our income is derived from your subscriptions. It is very easy to forget so we hope that you will not mind being reminded. If there is a cross in the box below it means that we have no record of your payment.



Our Treasurer, Roy Doe, would be pleased to receive your subscription. Please send or take it to him at Lloyds Bank, in the High Street.

### To Remind You

Chairman	Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby, Edgeworth House	5882
Vice-Chairman	Norman Williams, Brecon, Castle Hill Ave.	5291
Hon. Treasurer	Roy Doe, c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd., High St.	71271
Hon. Secretary	Sheila Walton, 11 Murray Rd.	5988
Hon. Mem. Secretary	Bill Snelson, 49 Cedar Rd.	3857
Committee:		
	Robert Allen, The Grey House, Kitsbury Rd.	5212
	Jenny Brown, High Garth, North Rd.	6434
	Maurice Brown, 2 Grove Rd., Boxmoor, H.H.	53705
	Valerie Clark, 329 Bridgewater Rd.	01 836 2741
	Henry Fisher, Fairlight, Headway	4527
	Roger Ford, Ardbraccan, Cross Oak Rd.	5027
	Alan Havelock 7 Barncroft Rd.	2140
	Dennis Hart, 15 Whitewood Rd.	2110
	Mrs E.L. Loxley, Boswick House, Dudswell	4223
	Ken Sherwood, Rhenigidale, Ivy House Lane	5158
	Max Struthers, 51 Cedar Rd.	4345
	Chris Wilson, 16 Oakwood	6921