



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

March 1980

The first newsletter under a new Chairman is perhaps the place to take stock of the Association's activities.

Reading through the newsletters of the past four years reminds us of how many events there have been in which the Berkhamsted Citizens' Association has been actively involved. Individually, they are perhaps not significant but, cumulatively they can amount to a substantial battery of change which can seriously chip away at our civic and countryside environment. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance!

With this in mind your new Chairman Norman Binks, suggested a re-alignment of sub-committees. Over the past years the majority of our work has fallen on the Environment sub-committee and much credit must go to its Chairman Robert Allen who personally has coped with the writing, contacting and thinking through of problems, which is more time-consuming than is always appreciated. Our constitution is widely 'drawn' and requires us to attend to all aspects of Berkhamsted life in Town and Country. The Planning, Amenities and Environment sub-committees have therefore been realigned into two groups; Town Amenities and Country Amenities,

Town Amenities - This committee has inherited responsibility from the previous Planning sub-committee for aspects of planning affecting the town. Inspection of planning applications will continue each week and, when appropriate, objections will be submitted. Planning applications whose implementation would appreciably enhance the town will be actively supported and could, of course, once the development is completed, be considered for our recently announced 'Town Improvement Award' scheme.

The committee will also be concerning itself with the proposed amendments to the County Plan. From first sight of a brief summarised extract it appears that only a few of these amendments have any bearing on Berkhamsted, but after detailed study comment will be submitted, especially on omissions, as, for examples on leisure facilities, parking, Road and Home Safety, Crime Prevention.

Association members concerned about any aspect of the town's amenities are invited to get in touch with any of the committee to express their views and seek help in getting improvements. As a result of the Association's long standing, responsible and non-party approach to local problems we enjoy a good relationship with the officials of the Town Council and Dacorum District Council. This is of great help in achieving results, especially for improvements that do not involve major expenditure,

Country Amenities - Footpath Map and Book, Way marking, Footpath checking Planning as it affects the countryside, links with the Chiltern Society and the National Trust are the responsibility of this sub-committee.

List of Committee Members

Officers

Chairman:	Norman A. Binks - 123 High Street, Northchurch	6300
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. R. N. Williams - Brecon, Castle Hill Ave	5291
Hon. Treasurer:	Roy Doe - c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd. High Street	71271
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs Sheila Walton - 11 Murray Road	5988
Hon. Membership Secretary:	Mrs H. Talbot-Ponsonby - 38 Kitsbury Road	5882

Committee

Giles Clark	- The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place	2981
Valerie Clark	- 329 Bridgewater Road, Northchurch	01-240-2771
Dr Martin Crawford	- 14 Gilpins Ride	6209
Miranda Cummins	- 27 North Road	6075
Tony Hutchinson	- 5 Trevelyan Way	4440
Dr R. Charles Parker	- Pear Tree Cottage, Berkhamsted Place	5933
Guy Moores	- 44 Gaveston Drive	6783
Derrick Smith	- c/o Nucleus House, Lower Kings Road	6926/6655
		HH 832363
Mary Yates	- 10 Dellfield Close	4010

Sub-Committees

Country Amenities

Town Amenities

Tony Hutchinson	- Convenors	-	Guy Moores
Valerie Clark			Martin Crawford
Dr R. Charles Parker			Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby
Miranda Cummins			Giles Clark
Mary Yates			Derrick Smith
Robert Allen (Co-opted)			

Environment

Planning

Chairman R. Allen.		Chairman -
G. Clark		H. Fisher
V. Clark		H. Talbot-Ponsonby
N. Binks		H. Snelson
A. Hutchinson		G. Clark
R.C. Parker		

Activities

Representatives on other bodies

R. Charles Parker	Citizens Advice Bureau - Norman Williams
Tony Hutchinson	Road Safety - Martin Crawford
Sheila Walton	National Trust) Tony Hutchinson and
Miranda Cummins	Chiltern Society) Robert Allen
Norman Binks	Beaune Society - Martin Crawford and
R. Norman Williams	Mary Yates
	Crime Prevention - Norman Williams
	Library - Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby

In the Country - Following the decision to await the new Ordnance Survey 1: 25,000 Second Series of walkers' maps, rather than completely revising and reprinting our own field path map, work has started in earnest on a guidebook to walks in the area. (The October Newsletter included a section describing the reasons for this decision.)

The new book will describe some twenty-five walks in the district ranging from some entirely within the town to some which will appeal to those who enjoy a full day, in the fields and woods. It is planned to include notes relating to the history, natural history and other points of interest which the routes pass.

Giles Clark is acting as editor of the new publication and several volunteers are already tramping the district and compiling detailed notes. Those of our members who remember previous walks published by the Citizens' Association and Percy Birtchnell will be glad to know that these routes will, wherever possible, be incorporated in the new book together with revisions and extensions.

The project involves a lot of detailed work and we plan to involve quite a number of our members in the various stages. Anyone who is fond of walking and would like to help should contact Giles Clark (2981) or Tony Hutchinson.

One of the important jobs the Citizens' Association does is to keep a detailed check on the state of all local footpaths. We are always interested to hear from any members who have encountered problems in the district with rights of way. A recent example of action we initiated was the signing and marking of the entrance points of the Brickhill Green paths which had been obscured as a result of the various problems there.

Recent Activities - Since the last newsletter in November 1979, several of our events have taken place, in all cases with considerable success and support. This is thanks to the work of our Activities sub-committee.

Wild Life on the Ashridge Estate, both flora and fauna, was brought into the Gable Hall by John Wilson on 15 November. The hall was full, the slides were beautiful, the talk was humorous, the audience was impressed. Great!

The Social / Sherry evening on 13 December was also in the Gable Hall with piano from Victoria School, and choir from Potten End. Ten minutes before opening time we thought no-one was coming and ten minutes before the end we thought the audience would not allow the choir to stop singing!

Richard Haigh built on our knowledge of Ashridge by telling us on 17 January more about Trees and the Landscape and, after the AGM on 14 February, we know how opinion polls operate. This was another fascinating subject by an interesting speaker Mr Norman Webb, head of Gallup Poll in Britain.

On 12 March we held a joint meeting with the History Society when a full Civic Centre was addressed by Mr B.H. Garnons Williams, the former Headmaster of Berkhamsted School. The History of the School proved to be full of ups and downs, political motives, absentee Trustees. It even proved to be a victim of inflation in the 16th century - quite a consoling thought in some ways.

'The Period Home' - We have received notice of a new periodical 'The Period Home' (to be issued bi-monthly)- Britain's first magazine specifically created to serve the needs and interests of Listed Building owners and of wide appeal to many people who closely identify with this all-important aspect of the national heritage.

The first issue is due in May/June 1980 and any members who are interested can ask for a leaflet from their newsletter deliverers or from the secretary.

Fire Protection - Most members will know the situation on the Town's Fire Service from reading the Gazette. It remains to be seen whether or not the resources are satisfactory or even compatible with an acceptable response time. The reliance on appliances being sent by Fire Control at Hertford is touching. The calculation of the time of response between midnight and 05.00 hours when traffic is non-existent along the A41 makes one question the viability of the present plans. The owners of industrial concerns as well, as private householder's and shopkeepers should write voicing their concern the Chief Fire Officer, Fire Brigade, Old London Road, Hertford, as well as the Chairman of the Road and Home Safety Committee of Berkhamsted Town Council, viz. County Councillor Mrs Hilary Rost, c/o Clerk of the Council, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted. Your committee will of course be keeping the matter under review.

You shouldn't miss -----

Monday 7 April	10.30 am	Railway Station	Easter Ramble
Wednesday 23 April	8.00 pm	Gable Hall	Weather Patterns & Gardening
Friday 20 June		Court House	Wine & Cheese Party

The above events are arranged by the Association. Another series of talks, organised by the Herts. and Middlesex Trust, which will be of interest to members is by Richard Mabey on 'Berkhamsted Woodlands: The Parish's Most Ancient Monuments'. These will be held on 26 March, 2 April, 9 April, 23 April at the Civic Centre at 8 pm. Tickets are £1.50 for the 4 lectures or 50p at entrance if not all sold. Contact Col. P. E. Gerahty, Cherry Hill, Cross Oak Road.

Membership - The membership is now 365 families, of which 44 have joined in the last 6 months. Subscriptions were due on 1 January and so far 173 (nearly half) have been paid. Your deliverer can tell you if you have paid or not. Those members who are supportive rather than active can be directly involved in the Association by persuading at least one of their friends, neighbours or family to become members. All you have to do is to think of those living within 200 yards of you, and how many of those you can easily speak to and persuade to join.

The need for new members is (a) financial and (b) representational. Whilst we are not a fund-raising or high cost organisation we do need income to support our activities. Secondly, and probably more important, the Association's, long-standing claim to represent non-political views on matters affecting the town must be shown to be valid. With the shift of decision making to Hemel Hempstead this is even more critical. Whilst our councillor representatives have their role and voice, you all know of the many aspects of life in Berkhamsted which need a non-political (or cross political) viewpoint. As an ex-chairman of the Association has said 'New ideas and enthusiasms (and action) are needed to keep the Association 'alive and kicking' and in a sense 'kicking' is what our function is'. Don't read this and put it away - get a new member now. An application form is attached and more are available in the Civic Centre-Entrance Hall; the Library or from the committee.

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 To: The Treasurer Berkhamsted Citizens' Association
 c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd APPLICATION FORM
 High Street, Berkhamsted

I/We wish to apply for membership of the Berkhamsted Citizens' Association as a single/family member. (50p per person or £1 per family)

Name.....I..... Mr. Mrs. Miss*
 (*delete as appropriate)
 Address.....
Amount enclosed.....
 signed.....

STOP PRESS - Wednesday 21 May - The Town Hall Trust - The First Year
 Civic Centre 8 pm.