



November 1980

Autumn Splendour

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, it may well be that the best of the Autumn will have passed. The trees have been particularly beautiful this year both during the summer (remember those three days?) and Autumn; this is probably due to the heavy rainfall this year. If, we do not have very strong winds then the golds, browns and yellows might last well into November. With this scenery a little time spent in Frithsden Beeches or Hockridge is to be recommended. In fact, much of the surrounding countryside is at its best at the moment and is well worth a visit - see our Autumn Ramble.

Autumn Program

We are well into our events programme now and our two speakers so far have proved both interesting and entertaining, Mr Nick Lyell M.P. gave an excellent insight into the workings of Parliament, naturally concentrating on the House of Commons. Judicious comments on all sorts of personalities gave a fantastic glimpse of the political hothouse. Listening to descriptions and anecdotes, one became rather more sympathetic to the various customs and practices, which sometimes appear to the uninitiated as no more than schoolboy whims. Those members who were not able to join us missed a very interesting evening.

Our second meeting was addressed by Miss Mary McLeannan, Assistant Director of Research at Ashridge. We were given another fascinating view of the developing role of women in industry and their penetration into the male dominated management faculty; from the more mundane and 'dead-end' type of job. Miss McLeannan informed us of the difficulty women face in persuading others of their dedication and commitment to a more responsible job. However it was made clear that it was not only the men's attitude that had to be overcome - some women had to overcome their own ingrained view of their own abilities. We were given statistics however that show there is a steady increase in the number of women who occupy a managerial position - in keeping with the statistic that almost half of the workforce is made up of women.

Civic Amenity Site

It appears that joint protestations have at least improved the appearance of the skips area. We are, however, still without a real solution to the problem; the specifying of hours when the area is 'open' is not adequate. The Association will continue to press for a more thorough and effective way of providing this service but, as the County Authorities pay for it we are often limited by what they will agree to. The Tring skip site is now under threat of closure and so may ours be. Please write or phone your Councillors on this matter

Twining with Neu Isenburg

Our Chairman telephoned three Dacorum' Councillors, in the week before the Council meeting, when the £20,000 grant to Neu Isenburg was on the Agenda in order to ensure they were aware of the considerable adverse reaction about spending such a sum in this way. This, particularly, when people are continually tripping up on the broken pavements of the town. Whilst sympathetic to the general concept of twinning, the rates money must be directed to maintaining facilities in Berkhamsted. It is no wonder townspeople get exasperated when they know how little has been done to the roads and pavements.

The Beaune Society activities on twinning have all been voluntary and self-supporting. The Councillors advise that the £20,000 is for costs of the fair and only the Chairman of the Dacorum District Council will have travelling expenses paid.

Bridgewater Road / Billet Lane

At last the road is being straightened, although this alone will not make it easier to cross with traffic approaching from four different ways. It is hoped a centre island will be included as a help to pedestrians - particularly the large number of school children who cross twice a day.

Autumn Ramble

Our Autumn Ramble on 19 October was to Aldbury and back - with a welcome break for lunch at the Valiant Trooper. It is a particularly attractive walk at this time of year and we thought those who were unable to come may be interested in the route.

From Berkhamsted Station, go along Bridgewater Road, turning up Castle Hill Avenue, taking the path between the trees to the top of Castle Hill. Take the private road past Castle Hill Farm, and head N.W. across the large field to the field gate. Then along the track for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile turning left on the far side of a field hedge. In about 200 yards turn right along the far side of the field and continue across a gate into a meadow descending to a dry valley. Half-way down is a stile on the left leading to the Alpine Meadow Nature Reserve. Go through the wood, across the reserve and over another stile to another meadow (usually containing horses and donkeys). On the far side of this are the woods of Berkhamsted Common where you turn left, keeping to the edge of the wood for $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile to Coldharbour Farm. Take the good farm track to the right. $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on is a left path prior to Woodyard Cottage.

Follow the avenue of hedgerow beeches for $\frac{2}{3}$ mile to the Northchurch/Ringshall Road. Follow the sign-posted path to Aldbury on the opposite side of the road, crossing the main track about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile later at one of the old lodge houses - to a small meadow (with a welcome bench) overlooking Aldbury. From here continue downhill to the main Aldbury track. The 'Valiant Trooper' is 200 yards along the road to 'Newground Farm and Wigginton' from the pond.

Return to Berkhamsted, continue along the same road for about 100 yards until you reach a stile and footpath to 'Tom's Hill'. Follow the footpath diagonally across to the field, over another stile and up through the trees to Tom's Hill. Follow the road to the farm until you reach a pair of cottages. Just past them is a gate leading to a meadow where a path leads through a field gate to a wood. Continue along the track, through the wood, through another field gate until you reach a track from the road. Turn left, continue for approx. 200 yards until it is possible to descend through the hedge to a large field. Continue to the left and go across the short open field to another field gate. Through the gate - turning right along the edge of the field to Norcott Court Farm.

From the farm take the road until it reaches the Dudswell to Norcott Hill road then turn right and continue to the canal. An easy walk along the tow path is then all that is left.

In case of doubt the Tring 1:25,000 Ordnance Map is well worth buying if you do not already have one. The walk is about 9 miles long and takes between 3½-4½ hours. This is one of the best times of year to see the woods – so do get the boots out and explore a few new areas before the winter really sets in. Good walking!

Your Councillors

Earlier in this issue we asked you to contact your local councillors about our threatened skips. Below we have their names, addresses and telephone numbers for your information and possible assistance.

M.P. Mr N. Lyell House of Commons, London, SW1
Berkhamsted

Berkhamsted East

Mr P. Adams	12 Upper Hall Park	3295
Mr A. Medcalf	Cedar Heights, Brown Springs, Potten End	2005
Mr R. Peake	Lismere House, Bank Mill Lane	4328

Berkhamsted West

Mr V. Milrath	7 Shootersway Park, Shootersway	73647
Mr E. Warrington	Meadow Ways Cross Oak Road	5848

Berkhamsted Central

Mr A. Thomas	6 Brownlow Road	3875
Mr K Coleman	Kenslea House, Frithsden Copse, Potten End	6344

Northchurch

Mr G. Scott	25 Tring Road, Northchurch	2787
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Civic Award Scheme

In the September issue of the newsletter we informed you of the Association's intention to present an annual award to encourage and stimulate interest in the local environment. Hopefully you have been keeping a sharp lookout for suitable nominations. With that in mind we have provided a form below which we ask you to complete.

The type of work eligible must be in Berkhamsted or Northchurch, it may be a new building, extension, renovation or landscaping, large or small, anything from a building complex to a garden. The main

Berkhamsted Citizens Association

Civic Award Nomination

Address of
Property.....

Description of work.....

Nominated by.....

Address.....Tel. No.....

criteria however, is that it must in some way contribute an enhancement to the area. Please send the slip to our Secretary Sheila Walton, 11 Murray Road, Berkhamsted or if you do not have time to complete it before 1 December, telephone her on Berkhamsted 5988. and she will take the details.

We have arranged with a local Artist to make the Award which will probably be in the form of a plate to be fastened to a wall and visible to passers-by. The Award will be presented at the AGM on 12 February.

Notes for your Diary

Thurs. 18 December 8pm. Victoria School - Christmas Social Evening
Carols and Sherry

1981

Thurs. 1 January 10.30am. New Year's Day Ramble
Meet at Berkhamsted Station

Thurs. 22 January 8pm. Civic Centre - 'The Work of the Fire Service'
Divisional Officer D.E. Kent,

Thurs. 12 February 8pm. Civic Centre - AGM and Presentation of Award

Wed. 18 March 8pm. Civic Centre - 'Trekking in the Himalayas' -
Mr D.E. Lockhart

Mon. 20 April 10.30am. Easter Monday Ramble
Meet at Berkhamsted Station

Tues. 28 April 8pm. Civic Centre - 'Gardens to visit around Berkhamsted'-
Mrs P. Cunningham.

Hospital

The North-West Thames Regional Health Authority are planning to dispose of land adjoining West Herts Hospital which for 32 years has been set aside for a new hospital. We have been notified that the Dacorum Hospital Action Group are holding a rally on Monday 1 December at 5.30pm in Bridge Street Car Park (Water Gardens) to protest about this. If there is no land then there will be no new hospital!.