

May 1980

Sources of Information - We have all heard from time to time, criticism of the social life of the Town. There are, of course, several significant improvements required, particularly for younger people; and the swimming pool is a prime example.

But do the people who complain know what is available? The Library is a great fount of knowledge for activities of groups and societies throughout Berkhamsted and the surrounding areas.

A worthwhile ten minutes can be spent reading the notices on the inside wall and entrance of the Library, inside there are frequently small exhibitions and posters relating to local authority, and other, work and activity.

In the entrance hall of the Civic Centre can be found a great deal of information on social activities and entertainment; not only in Berkhamsted, but often Hemel Hempstead and even Watford. There can be no question that there is plenty going on.

Town Amenities Committee - It has been agreed that there should be a concerted effort, to improve the area adjoining the canal and St. John's Well Lane car park. This seems possible without need for a great deal of expenditure. The area immediately behind the High Street, backing on to the Lower King's Road car park will also be studied with a view to making it more functional and attractive. There has already been a highly unsuitable planning application in this area which the council turned down.

Comments on the County Plan have been sent to the County Planning Officer. In the last County Plan 'Hertfordshire 1981' which was produced in 1971, the projected population increase for Berkhamsted was 32% about half the average for all the towns in the County. In view of this we have suggested that no further housing should be envisaged for Berkhamsted apart from occasional infilling. Additional population would stretch local amenities beyond an acceptable level.

Further developments in the rural areas would in the Association's view, also be detrimental as it would inevitably mean building in agricultural priority areas or in areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Also stressed was the need for the development of recreational facilities in Berkhamsted, particularly a covered swimming pool.

Points of Interest - It is now understood that some sort of agreement has finally been made about the junction of Springfield Road and Bridgewater Road. A small roundabout is to be put at this junction and a small refuge is to be constructed in Bridgewater Road near the Chiltern Park Estate to help school children crossing the road.

There will not be a Town festival in Berkhamsted this Year after. This decision follows a meeting on 14 April, of the parties concerned, where it was felt, after discussions that there was a lack of funds and resources to enable the project to go ahead.

As you have no doubt noted in your local papers, we are in danger of losing our 'Civic Amenities Site' (the skips in St. John's Well Lane car park). There has still been no definite decision made however and we understand that the Dacorum Council are opposed to the removal of the skips. As in most things, finance appears to be the problem and they are still debating some way of leaving the Town with this service if at all possible. Meanwhile, no more news of the Bottle bank.

Did You Know? - Did you realise that there is a footpath from the Vet's end of Lower Kings Road car park, leading to the High Street, by the side of McDermotts? It has been brought to our notice that some people did not. Does this solve the puzzle as to why so many motorists seem to be reluctant to park at that end of the car park? Perhaps it might be useful if the Council would agree to put up a footpath sign in this area.

The Library now closes on Saturday afternoons. This seems strange to many people - surely this is a most popular time of the week for young and old alike to visit the Library. It is already closed all day on Wednesday and early on two other nights a week. Whilst appreciating the need for economic cuts (they appear to be everywhere) we wonder if this really is the best time to cut this service. If you have any comments to make on this, please get in touch with Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby, 38 Kitsbury Road. Tel. 5882 before 19 June - when there will be a Library committee meeting. She can then put forward the views of the Citizens' Association members.

Car Parking - Do you feel that it is unfair that we have to pay for the car parks in Berkhamsted when, they are mostly free in Hemel Hempstead? If we are all part of Dacorum, shouldn't we have consistent treatment and policies?

There is however a big difference between the two towns, which is the distance of the railway station from the shopping area. In about 1966, before car parking charges were introduced, the Citizens' Association did a survey and the then secretary, Barbara Parsons? took hourly photographs from a nearby roof-top, of the Water Lane car park from 8 am. onwards. The car park was full from 8 am. and remained so all day. Shoppers had no chance of parking there unless they were very lucky. It was full of cars belonging to commuters, shop assistants and office workers. Now, with limited time parking, a shopper has to be unlucky not to find a space.

Automatic barriers are not possible in this car park because it is a thoroughfare through to Berkley Court and the Boys' School buildings in Mill Street. Therefore an attendant is necessary, he must be paid, so there are charges and now, with wage increases, increased charges.

One answer would have been for free parking at the station, but British Rail were not prepared to forego the revenue in spite of requests from the old Berkhamsted Urban District Council. The price they demanded was prohibitive.

If anyone feels really strongly about paying for parking, the St. John's Well Lane car park is still free, because it is just too far from the station to be attractive to commuters.

Activities

Recent Events - Easter Ramble - Easter Monday saw approximately 70 members of the Citizens' assembled at the Railway Station. This time the route proceeded via the back of Bridgewater School to Northchurch Common and down to the Cow Roast and back along the other side of the valley. It was a most enjoyable ramble, helped by the very good weather.

May We Remind You?

Wednesday 21 May - Civic Centre 8 pm. 'The Town Hall Trust - The First Year' Open to all

Friday 20 June - Court House 6.45 pm. Wine and Cheese Party For members only

Wed 9th July - 'A stroll along the canal' led by Mike Foster of Bridgewater Boats. Meet at Castle Wharf, Bridge St at 8 pm.

We are pleased to announce our proposed events for the following year.

Wednesday 1 October - Northchurch S C 8 pm, 'My First Year in Parliament' - Mr N.W. Lyell M.P.

Tuesday 28th October - Civic Centre 8 pm. 'Promulgation of a Rare Species - The Woman Manager' - Miss Mary McLeannan

Thursday 20 November- Civic Centre 8 pm. 'Collectable Clocks of the Nineteenth Century'. - Mr T. Cartmell

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

Thursday 12 February - Civic Centre 8 pm. A.G.M.

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

Tuesday 28 April - Civic Centre 8 pm. 'Gardens to Visit Around Berkhamsted' - Mrs Peggy Cunningham

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

Signed.....

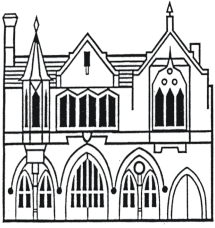
In addition to the events overleaf we would like to draw, your attention to an invitation from the Berkhamsted and District Local History Society to a lecture to be held at the Civic Centre on Thursday 23 October by Dr. Sheila Fletcher entitled 'The Fight to Establish Berkhamsted Girls' School'. Dr Sheila Fletcher is a history lecturer at the Hertfordshire College of Education. We will remind you of this event nearer the date.

Membership - Subscriptions are coming in well. Nearly two thirds have been paid so far. If you have not already done so please either pay directly into Lloyds Bank or to your newsletter deliverer. An application form is overleaf.

Restriction of waiting along the A41 - Members may have noticed some weeks ago various pieces of cardboard fastened to lamp posts along the A41. These were couched in 'official' terminology - the gist of which means that additional restrictions are about to descend on us. These will be east and west of Castle Street, east and west of Manor Street and along the north side of the A41 from the junction with Cowper Road and Park View Road. We have written objecting to this happening without consequent extra off-street parking being provided. This would require co-ordination between two bodies ie. the Department of Transport (A41) and the Dacorum Council for parking capacity. We received a reply from the Department of Transport on 9 April saying 'there are various alternative facilities for parking nearby'. Where are they in sufficient quantity? We don't know, but propose to follow up this issue.

Newsletter Editor

Mrs Theresa Rundle of 2 Princes Close Tel. 2207 has been co-opted to the Committee and will be the newsletter editor.



Berkhamsted Citizens Association

Note to New Members

Welcome, and many thanks for your support. We hope that you will continue for many years to help the aims of the Association by your membership, and possibly by direct involvement in some of our activities. The purpose of this note is to give you an outline of our general aims, some current projects and how we are organised.

Aims The Association exists (to quote from the Constitution) "to undertake wherever possible any work for the benefit of the community that can most easily be done by a voluntary association, and to develop the social and civic life of the town and district, and especially:

- a) to stimulate the interest of the inhabitants in local public affairs and to promote the sentiment of local patriotism
- b) to work for the preservation of objects of historical interest or of natural beauty
- c) to initiate and assist useful measures in the public service."

Organisation The day-to-day activities are organised by a Committee of up to 17, i.e. 5 officers and up to 12 members. Committee members, as well as contributing to the general running of the Association at regular monthly committee meetings, also operate as "specialist" subgroups.

- (i) Town Amenities - covering Town Planning, County and Dacorum forward plans, planning applications, facilities within the town and the maintenance/improvement of the urban environment. Current preoccupations - canal bank area, swimming pool, Canal Field development, improvement of certain areas of the town.
- (ii) Country Amenities - covering similar forward planning as it affects the countryside areas, footpaths maintenance and preservation, footpath maps and the maintenance/improvement of the countryside environment. Links with Chiltern Society, National Trust, etc. Current preoccupation - new Footpath and Walks Guide.
- (iii) Activities - the planning and arrangement of 6 - 8 meetings a year on subjects of interest to members and the general public. There is also one winter and one summer social gathering for members.

Annual General Meeting This is held in February when the business is followed by a Talk by a visiting speaker.

The Association obtains financial support from the subscriptions of members. The sale of footpath maps goes into a special map account which will subsidise the new Footpath Guide. The non-members' entrance charge to meetings and the social events raise a small addition to funds.

Much of our work is done by suggestion and persuasion to individuals, organisations and local authorities. The views and active support of members is always welcomed and indeed essential to the healthy and lively operation of the Association.

NORMAN BINKS - Chairman

Berkhamsted Citizens* Association - Committee

Chairman	Norman A. Binks, 123 High St. Northchurch	6300
Vice-Chairman	R. Norman Williams, Brecon, Castle Hill Av.	5291
Hon. Treasurer	Roy Doe, c/o Lloyds Bank Ltd.	71271
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. Sheila Walton, 11 Murray Road	5988
Hon. Membership Secretary	Mrs. Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby, 38 Kitsbury Rd	5882
Giles Clark	The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place	2981
Miss Valerie Clark	329 Bridgewater Rd. Northchurch	01-240-2771
Dr. Martin Crawford	14 Gilpins Ride	6209
Mrs. Miranda Cummins	27 North Road	6075
Tony Hutchinson (Chairman, Country Amenities)	5 Trevelyan Way	4440
Guy Moores (Chairman, Town Amenities)	44 Gaveston Drive	6783
Dr, R.Charles Parker (Chairman, Activities)	Pear Tree Cottage, Berkhamsted Place	5933
Mrs. Theresa Rundle (Editor of Newsletter, Press Officer)	2 Princes Close	2207
Derrick Smith	Nucleus House, Lower Kings Road	6926/6655
	Hemel Hempstead	832363
Mrs. Mary Yates	10 Dellfield Close	4010

Forthcoming Events

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Wednesday, 9th July : Castle Wharf, Bridge Street 8 p.m. Canal Walk

Wednesday, 1st October : Northchurch Social Centre 8 p.m. "My First Year in Parliament" Mr. N. W. Lyell, M.P.

Sunday, 19th October : Autumn Ramble Time & Starting Point to be announced

Tuesday, 28th October : Civic Centre 8 p.m. "Promulgation of a Rare Species - The Woman Manager" Miss Mary McLeannan

Thursday, 20th November : Civic Centre 8 p.m. "Collectable Clocks of the Nineteenth Century" Mr. T. Cartmell

Thursday 18th December : Victoria School 8pm Christmas Special.

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

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