



July 1981

Our Summer Newsletter is often the shortest of the year as committee members' activities are less easy to coordinate due to holiday commitments. Nevertheless our last committee meeting on 2 July proved that much effort is being put into developing projects and this will continue during the summer months. Examples of this are a) tree planting at Town sites, b) tree planting outside the immediate Town area, c) comments on the Dacorum District Plan.

Tree Planting

Our Town Amenities sub group is looking at several sites and appropriate bushes/trees. Much thought has to go into this to develop a sensible proposal which could be acceptable to the local Authority. In some cases we will propose trees which may mature to 30 feet high over many years, in other cases smaller or faster growing trees are more appropriate. We have these plans, with maps and costs, well developed and are committed to actual planting before late Autumn. It certainly is not a case of just going along with a sapling and shovel to stick something in where the fancy takes one! As we learned on the Queens Road / A41 site when we ended up with several lines of correspondence to County Hall, Divisional Surveyor, Department of the Environment and Dacorum District Council. The lines now seem to be much straighter - but have to be cleared. In many sites we have tested the quality and depth of soil as well. It will give us much satisfaction to start the action of digging rather than meeting and writing!

The Country Amenities sub group are concentrating on the Bridgewater School site and possibly the A41 Eastern Approaches. Councillor Holborn and the County Authorities have been helpful with this. The latter will be supplying saplings for the school site, trees for the urban sites will have to be paid for by the Association. For this reason we have started a tree fund for which we have had £25 from a member by generous donation, whilst a raffle at the Summer Wine evening grew £35 for us. Any further special donations would of course be extremely welcome as we wish not to use general funds on this project.

Summer Wine

Those members who gathered to take wine with the committee had an enjoyable evening at Victoria School which was decorated with flowers and gave us more room to circulate than the Court House. Whilst the latter has a different character, many members have commented on the difficulty of getting to the bar area. Clearly this has an impact on flow patterns in more ways than one, for we did not make the normal profit. However, the raffle as mentioned above contributed very usefully to the tree fund. We will probably have our Christmas Sherry and Carols evening at Victoria School and possibly return to the Court House if feasible next summer. That's looking too far ahead. Of more immediate relevance was the comment at the Summer Wine of the Chairman of Dacorum District Council, Councillor Derek Townsend who together with Mrs Townsend accepted our invitation. Other honoured guests were the Town Mayor

Councillor Jim Medcalf and Mrs Medcalf. Councillor Townsend welcomed the role and efforts of the Association encouraging us to continue to make our views known and to keep up the good work we are doing.

Local Activities and Meetings

One of our regular items in the Newsletter which we will seek to provide is advice on future meetings and social activities in Berkhamsted and Dacorum. Advance notice of many events is given in such sources as the Gazette, the Echo and in pamphlets available at the Civic Centre and Library. Not all of us have access to these so a selection of events will be mentioned. For example the programme of the Old Town Hall Arts Centre at Hemel Hempstead is worth keeping an eye on. Their July events included an Exhibition of Paintings, a professional company of actors giving a play and a Jazz concert. August provides an exhibition of paintings by a New Zealand artist and the September / October programme will be published soon.

Another but different programme of activities is that organised by the Dacorum Leisure Services ie. the Holiday Play Scheme, 27 July - 14 August. This covers Canoeing, Dry Skiing, Riding, Archery, Tennis and Squash and many others. Details given in the pamphlet available at Civic Centre local schools and Leisure Services, Park Road, Hemel Hempstead. Last day of application is 17 July which, may be before this Newsletter is published but, remember it for next year! They are excellent value and a superb range of activities.

The Berkhamsted Arts Trust is sponsoring the Spectrum Theatre Group's production of 'Oh, Coward' on Saturday 14 November at 8pm in the Civic Centre, Berkhamsted, tickets £1.50 all one price.

The Berkhamsted Music Society's new season starts on 3 October with a piano recital by Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich in Ashlyns School Hall at 8pm. Further details from Robert Allen, The Grey House, Kitsbury Road, Berkhamsted.

The Berkhamsted Town Hall Trust is holding a family evening in Butts Meadow from 7-10 pm on the Royal Wedding Day, 29 July. There will be a drag football match, children's races, grown-ups games, a Country and Western Band, beer and wine on sale and they hope to roast a lamb - or two! Tickets £1 available in local shops, see posters for details.

The Berkhamsted Film Society opens its new season on Monday and Tuesday 21 and 22 September. There are fourteen films in the season's programme covering a balanced variety of interests. Films are shown in the Civic Centre in Berkhamsted starting at 8 pm. More details from the Membership Secretary 21 Hall Park, Berkhamsted. Tel. 5194.

The Wayfarers Choral Society hold their AGM and resume rehearsals on Tuesday 15 September in the Music Room at Berkhamsted School at 8 pm. New members would be welcomed and details can be obtained from W. Woodman Secretary, 6 Coombe Gardens, Berkhamsted. Tel. 71634.

Berkhamsted Arts Society's first meeting of the new season will be a criticism of members' work by Bruce Glasser on Wednesday 23 September in the Civic Centre at 8 pm. The Autumn Exhibition of members' work will be held in the Civic Centre from 13-17 October. Further information from Margaret Woods, 23 Boxwell Road, Berkhamsted. Tel. 2853.

Berkhamsted and District Local History Society begins its Autumn session on 8 October with an illustrated talk by Mr Gordon Osborn on William Cowper at 8 pm in the Civic Centre. The Society is flourishing but welcomes new members and further details can be obtained from P.C. Birtchnell Esq. 195 High Street, Berkhamsted.

The Cowper Society are arranging a concert by the Berkhamsted and Boxmoor Silver Band in the Castle Grounds on Sunday 27 September at 2.30pm. The Society sponsor events having a cultural flavour and these are often held in St. Peter's Church. Events to come unto the 250th anniversary of the birth of William Cowper will be held in November. Details can be obtained from Mr John Cook, The Gardener's Arms, Castle Street.

Swimming Pool

This seems to be having good support but more would do no harm. If you have not been to swim you really are missing something. The water is very warm (73F) and the surroundings very pleasant. The best buy now is the 14 tickets for equivalent of 10 entrances ie. for £5. At the normal separate entrance of 50p for Adults this is worth having for the remainder of July and August.

Swimming tuition is available at the pool and details of the courses are advertised there. In addition James Spooner, 77 George Street (Tel. 75351) is organising meetings of Juniors on Friday evening at the pool.

The Swimming Association will be holding a Barbecue at the pool on Saturday 8 August during the late afternoon and early evening until close at 7.30pm.

Keep It and Help Us

A sale (combining Rummage/Bric-a-brac/Good as New) will be held by the Citizens' Association on
Saturday 17 October at
Gable Hall at 10 am.

Please look for and keep until then, all your gear, clothes, ornaments, plants, books, which may provide saleable material. If you have such material around late September and early October please contact any member Of the committee or our Secretary Sheila Walton, 11 Murray Road Tel. 5988.

Activities Programme

Please make a note of the following events' in your diary.

1981	Tuesday	29 th	September	'Collecting Wedgewood Ware'- a talk by Mr P. Latham
	Sunday	18 th	October	Autumn Ramble - meet at Station at 10.30 am.
	Thursday	22 nd	October	'Britain and the European Community'- a talk by our Euro-M.P. Mr P. Beazley
	Wednesday	25 th	November	'The Amazon Basin'- a talk by Mr P.J. Leigh
	Thursday	17 th	December	Christmas Social evening with Carols - to be held at Victoria School
1982	Friday	1 st	January	New Year's Day Ramble - meet at station at 10.30am
	Tuesday	26 th	January	'A Pot-pourri of Theatrical Anecdotes' by Mr Robert Goldman
	Thursday	11 th	February	Annual General Meeting - followed by a talk by Mr Michael Tollit and presentation of the Environmental Award

Tuesday	16 th	March	'How Dacorum Operates - a talk by Mr P. H. Davis - Chief Executive
Tuesday	27 th	April	'Trekking in the Himalayas' a talk by Mr D.E. Lockhart Mr Lockhart was not well enough to join us earlier this year and it is hoped we will be able to learn of his experiences on this date.

Meetings with speakers will be held at the Civic Centre commencing at 8 pm.

Leisure Services

Following the consultative meeting in April between Dacorum Councillors, Leisure Services Officers and representatives of some groups in Berkhamsted, it was indicated that the various views expressed would be considered and where possible built into a revised strategy document covering Leisure Services in Berkhamsted. As we have not at the time of writings had indication of any follow-up meeting we have contacted the Chairman of the Leisure Committee to ascertain the situation. This cannot be any easier financially but to establish a viable plan is a basic requirement. The Ashlyns proposal has much merit as against any of the currently stated alternatives. From the viewpoint of resource utilisation then a dual-use concept must score high marks. However, it appears that neither County Hall nor the Ashlyns 'Authorities' have committed themselves to an agreed course of action as yet. The Gordian Knot must be broken somehow otherwise Berkhamsted will have neither Pool nor Sports Hall in 1991!

Dacorum District Plan - Public Local Enquiry

This started on 14 July and is programmed to last until 24 July. We shall be making representations generally in support of the Plan in the context of how Amenity Corridor boundary has been drawn and in stating other useful planning principles, to protect the Green Belt around Berkhamsted and Northchurch.

London Train Service

Our commuting members will be only too familiar with the continuing train troubles. While some of the problems are due to temporary tunnel closure near Euston, not all can be blamed on this source. We shall be keeping an eye on the service, particularly when the full timetable is restored. In the meanwhile we have asked British Rail if, because of the unreliability of the 9.26, cheap day returns can be used on the 9.07.