



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1982.

SPRINGTIME - NEWTIME

The pen that writes in April seems lighter than that which scribbles in August. To many of us the Springtime is the best time of the year, to others the best is in the Fall. The truth probably is that the best is Now, whenever it may be, except at last December - of shuddering memory! As the Forsythia and crocus colour our byways, it is difficult not to feel brighter. The Spring provides a new start for a new Committee with a new Chairman, Guy Moores. Although "new" the Committee is largely composed of experienced people which is useful, but with a change round of responsibilities this gives a new eye on our range of activities. Details of the officers and Committee members is given on the end page of this Newsletter. The Constitution of the Association is so arranged that Chairman is appointed for 2 years with an out-going Chairman acting as Vice Chairman for 1 year; followed by a New Vice Chairman for the second year. The incoming Vice Chairman becomes Chairman in the 3rd year. So this provides for a slow turnover at the helm and a continuous level of experience. This is fine unless you wish to remove a Chairman - but we never have! So whilst a "new" Committee exists the aims remain the same and many existing projects are being worked through to completion. The timescale within which we have to plan and operate is such that it often needs 2 years to think through and implement desired aims.

PURPOSE AND ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The BCA was formed in 1924, and over the years has created an enviable list of achievements, many of which have of necessity to be unsung. Being a non-political body the culture of the Association means that activities and influence operate on a low key basis but with some occasions when we are well to the fore and on the front pages. With no specific reflection on the Town Council, District Council or other bodies, the existence of a lively, alert and vocal Citizens Association has regularly proved its worth in acting as catalyst, focal points and pressure group on behalf of the Townsfolk. In 1924 the BCA reviewed the Housing situation in Berkhamsted and produced a printed Report. In the 1960s the BCA was prominent in a Public Enquiry on Tunnel Field and other planning applications. The A41 Survey, planting of trees, clearing of footpaths and way-marking, are some examples of our work and influence. In 1980/81 the Open Air Pool and Leisure Services was a major project, and now we are proceeding with Town tree planting scheme. There are many advantages of having a vigorous voluntary Association with the improvement of the environment as its general aim.

MEMBERSHIP

It is for the above reason that we are aiming to build up our membership, which whilst stable could usefully be increased. We also seek to widen the membership throughout all ages and areas of the Town. In the age of the Telly, we need an active organisation both to guard against apathy and to stimulate our local authorities. We have been working on ways of welcoming new members but the best way of all is through the efforts of existing members. Each member should "make it two in 82". We will be enclosing an application form in the next Newsletter, but meanwhile you could phone in names and addresses of potential members and we will do the rest.

The Berkhamsted Public have often been accused of being lethargic, with the District Council considering that people in the town never agree on what they want and moan at what is suggested. There is a sliver of truth in this - particularly where there is no way of informing people of the facts, and factors. The Association has built up a good liaison with the Councillors over the last 2 years, and this close involvement and production of ideas has been welcomed, and been proved to be useful. Councillors are often very busy people so that the presentation of a good case by your Association is often a very welcome and useful aid to them. That's why it is essential to maintain in membership a good cross section of the Townspeople.

DACORUM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY WALK - SUNDAY 18 APRIL 1982

For the first time this annual event will take place in Berkhamsted and Tring as well as Hemel Hempstead. The Chairman's idea is to unite all the people in the Dacorum District, so part of the three routes will have common checkpoints where people can meet up with friends from other parts of the District.

The Berkhamsted leg will start at 09.00 a.m. from the Gable Hall in Prince Edward Street. The total distance is about 15 miles, although walkers need not complete the whole course as return cars will be available at five-mile checkpoints en route.

The walk is a Joint fund Raising event for Dacorum District; and this year will raise money for:-

- (a The Dacorum Scanner Appeal) One -
- (b Riding for the Disabled.-local groups) third
- (c Walkers' own or nominated Charity - two-thirds

Sponsor-forms can be obtained from Berkhamsted Civic Centre. If anyone would like to help some refreshments for a short time, perhaps half an hour or so, instead of walking, the Berkhamsted Association -

Tony Hutchinson - Tel. Berkhamsted 4440; Hilary Talbot Ponsonby - Tel Berkhamsted 5882 - would be glad to hear from you.

TREES

Detailed plans for planting trees in the Town, which have been drawn up with the kind help of Dacorum's Woodlands Officer and Janet Crowhurst, were generally welcomed by the Town Council's Planning Committee at their meeting in February. It is hoped that planting will commence in the Autumn if sufficient funds can be found.

The removal of trees on the site adjacent to Berkhamsted Place which has alarmed many members has been taken up with Dacorum's Planning Department and Woodlands Officer. It seems that permission was given for some of the trees to be removed but that felling went much further than expected.

The area concerned is in fact inside the new proposed green belt line and the recent planning application for houses was outside this area.

ACTIVITIES

1. Easter Monday Ramble - 12 April 1982 - will start at 10.30 a.m. from Berkhamsted Railway station and return at about 3.30 p.m. The route is a surprise, bring your own lunch, but drinks will be available at a hostelry on the way.
2. Trekking in the Himalayas - an illustrated talk by Donald Lockhart 27 April at 8.00 p.m. Civic Centre, Berkhamsted.

PROJECTS FOR IMPROVING THE TOWN AREA

Apart from our Tree planting scheme, which may take 2 years to complete, there are several other 'projects' about which we have contacted the Town & District Councillors. Some of these items may cost a large amount of money, and others cost little, being largely a tidying up operation - something about a "stitch in time"? The main projects are:

- (a) Lower Kings Road : extension of car parking area and link up with St Johns Well Lane. We envisage the retention of most of the existing trees and Shrubs.
- (b) St Johns Well Lane: Resurfacing of car park and tidying up of the land between Bulbourne and Canal.
- (c) Water Lane Car Park planting of shrubs and straightening of kerb along Exit Road (Green Field Lane).
- (d) Civic Centre Site : improvement of derelict shop adjacent Civic Centre.

If you consider there are other sites around the Town Centre which need attention, please let the Secretary know.

SWIMMING POOL

This will be open from 17 June for 12 weeks. Significant improvements are planned, and hopefully all schools previously using the pool will do so again this year. We hope the Swimming Carnival will also be held in Berkhamsted this year.

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL MEMBERS AND WOULD BE MEMBERS!

Committee Members 1982-3

Officers

Chairman	Guy Moores - 44 Gaveston Drive	6783
Vice-Chairman	Norman Binks - 123 High Street, Northchurch	6300
Treasurer	Peter Braybrooke - 16 Castle Hill Avenue	4955
Secretary	Sheila Walton - 11 Murray Road	5988
Memb. Secretary	Hazel Ward - Red Lodge, Graemesdyke Road	5604

Committee

Giles Clark	The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place	2981
Valerie Clark	329 Bridgewater Road, Northchurch	01-240-2771
Miranda Cummins	27 North Road	6075
Tony Hutchinson	5 Trevelyan Way	4440
Bruce Nixon	2 Castle Hill Avenue	4856
Charles Parker	Pear Tree Cottage, Berkhamsted Place	5933
Teresa Rundle	2 Princes Close	2207
Derek Smith	c/o Nucleus House, Lower Kings Road	6926
	Home - HH	832363
Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby	38 Kitsbury Road	5882
Norman Williams	Brecon, Castle Hill Avenue	5291
Mary Yates	10 Dellfield Close	4010

Sub-Committees

Country Amenities

Tony Hutchinson - Convenors -
Miranda Cummins (Trees)
Mary Yates (Trees)
Valerie Clark
Robert Allen (co-opted) (co-opted)-Janet Crowhurst (Trees)
(co-opted)-Brian Rance

Town Amenities

Bruce Nixon
Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby (Planning)
Derek Smith (Planning)
Giles Clark (Conservation)

Activities

Charles Parker Leisure
Tony Hutchinson Norman Binks
Miranda Cummins
Sheila Walton
Mary Yates

Publicity and Membership

Norman Binks
Hazel Ward (Membership)
Teresa Rundle (Newsletter)

Representatives on other bodies

Citizens' Advice Bureau)
Crime Prevention) Norman Williams
Road and 'Home' Safety)

Berkhamsted & Northchurch Community Council) Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby
Town Hall Trust)

Library)
Arts Trust) Mary Yates
Beaune Society))

National Trust Robert Allen
Chiltern Society Tony Hutchinson and Guy Moores
Ladacan Valerie Clark