



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

May 1985

Wait for it

The darling buds of May this year really are in May, because the weather is so foul. One week of warm weather only has delayed Man and Nature. Shakespeare's weather was perhaps worse than ours because the trees are normally in full leaf by the end of April. This year must be one of the latest for Spring to burst forth. Perhaps somebody knows two Bank Holidays are due, and May will repay the debt. Last year if we remember correctly was wet and windy in May then the Summer made up for it.

All there if you can find it

The BCA is represented on Berkhamsted Arts Trust which does not have Trustees as in a charity but which comprises those groups and Societies involved with the Arts. Examples are the Music Society, Amateur Operatic & Dramatic Society, Park Players. The Arts Trust co-ordinated in March an "Arts in Berkhamsted" week and helped to publicise events held during that week. Surely you saw those vicious green posters! Whatever the quality of the colour - it was designed to and did attract attention. So many people did notice that a frequent response has been "Didn't know so much was going on in Berkhamsted". Well it is surprising how difficult it is to reach people's attention (never mind interest) when we are all caught up in our own routines. So the art of publicising events will have to be practised more expertly. One of the more practical problems is how and where and when to advertise. We are looking into this in some depth to try to help societies advertise themselves more effectively. The library in Kings Road is always a mine of information - perhaps too much that it dulls the senses. There are no realistically sized notice boards central to the town. So fences and corner rails get littered with cardboard and boards. Not everyone is as keen to remove their notices as they are to put them up. The Civic Centre eventually will have a better publicity foyer, we understand. But then Berkhamsted eventually will have a by-pass - tell that to your grandchildren!

Some interesting events coming

14th May - An evening with David Shepherd. Films and Talks on Wildlife and Steam Railways. This seems an odd combination but as Mr. Shepherd is so well known for his paintings of wildlife, particularly elephants, and supports the World Wildlife Fund - it promises to be interesting. You will find out about the Railway when you get to the Civic Centre.

21st May - An evening with Tony Haygarth - who is Wilmot in the TV police comedy 'Rosie'. Tony Haygarth is a National Theatre Player and is currently appearing in 'She Stoops to Conquer' at the National Theatre, giving an "outstanding performance"...(Sunday Telegraph) as Tony Lumpkin. For film lovers, he can also be seen at the moment in Michael Palin's award-winning film 'A Private Function'. Tony Haygarth will give a brief introduction on his life as an actor, and also perform an extract from his one-man show 'Into a Mad Man's Rags, which was broadcast on LBC last Easter Monday. He will also answer questions

The Art Society Spring Exhibition is being held in the Civic Centre from 7th to 11th May.

12th May - Michael Garrick at the Court House. 12.30 - 2.30. Jazz music from the piano and a talk by this superb local pianist who is Hon. President of the Berkhamsted Jazz Club. He is also very well known and respected outside Berkhamsted!

18th May. - Adelaide Hall and friends with M. Garrick! Not to be missed by anyone who knows anything about jazz singers and musical entertainment.

County Elections

All the various leaflets through our letter boxes indicate again what influences the County Authorities have on our lives - particularly roads and education. More the pity that after the election so many people feel that County Hall at Hertford is on another planet. If anyone was really serious about representation there should be a statute which requires all Councillors to give an annual report to the electorate. At least in Berkhamsted and Tring there is an Annual Town Meeting at which Councillors do give their End of Year Report, and people can ask questions.

Annual Town Meeting

Every year in April the Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting is held with the following Agenda:-

1. To receive and confirm the Minutes of the previous Annual Assembly of the Town Meeting.
2. Apologies for absence.
3. To receive Committee Chairmen's reports.
4. To receive Town Mayor's report.
5. To receive copies of Berkhamsted Ecclesiastical & Parochial Charities statements of accounts for year ending. . .
6. To discuss affairs affecting the town which may be raised by electors present at the meeting.

This year more people attended but still (20) for the size of Berkhamsted. Again whilst greater efforts were made to get people to attend - by inviting representatives of various societies and clubs, no really effective advertising was completed. So put the date in your diary now - early April - to make enquiries from the Town Clerk on Berk. 2441. Reports were given on Planning, Leisure, Road and Home Safety, and Allotments. The Leisure, Recreation and Arts Committee Report contains some interesting facts and extracts are reproduced below:-

"The swimming pool was open for ten weeks last Summer, the weather was good and many people took advantage of the facility. The pool will open this year on June 10th until 3rd September.

A late night opening of shops just before Christmas with transport on request was arranged for disabled or infirm but was not well patronised.

The large hall in the Civic Centre was extended and refurbished together with the foyer and Room 10. The hall has increased its capacity by fifty per cent and will now seat 252 patrons. It was officially opened on New Year's Eve with an Old Time Music Hall presented by B.O.A.D.S. and was attended by members of this Council and other invited guests from the District.

The Town Guide is being compiled and printed and should be ready later this year. (This was published April 1985) The proposals for the development of the town centre and Canal Fields have been discussed with Dacorum and so far thirty-five extra parking spaces have been made adjoining Lower King's Road car park. The bridge over the river and canal joining the St. Johns Well Lane car park and Canal Fields is nearly complete. The Childrens adventure playground on Canal Fields has been completed to the satisfaction of nearby residents and is well used. Plans are going ahead for a permanent Youth Club in this area.

A footbridge over the river at Park Street has been constructed and a new footbridge put over the river at St. Johns Well Lane.

The play area at Falcon Ridge has been repaired and equipment added.

The façade of the Civic Centre is to be repaired and painted and it is hoped to have window boxes put up.

A new bus shelter is to be erected outside Waitrose.

Members of the Committee have attended meetings in Dacorum concerning footpaths in the area (the map is now available for scrutiny on request) and the Urban Edge development. Mr. Peake, Mr. Warden and Mr. Jones attended a meeting with the Committee and discussed plans Dacorum had for Berkhamsted Leisure Strategy. They gave assurance that Ashlyns School site would remain a priority for development as a dual use sports centre as soon as finance was available.

Liaison has been maintained with the Citizens Association,

Dacorum intend to put on two special entertainments each month at the Civic Centre from September onwards.

The Committee will continue to keep an eye on all leisure facilities and events and press for further provisions." (End of Report)

Our representative at the Meeting requested that overall development of the town and its car parking facilities for shopping and use of the town centre facilities should be progressed with more vigour. There is a Town Plan to clear the area between St. Johns Well Lane and Lower Kings Road. If this was actioned it would improve car parking, provide facilities for a Youth Club and take pressure off the High Street. This Plan has now been in existence for over two years, with no particular commitment to any action in the foreseeable future.

Other events

12th May - The Children's. Society Berkhamsted Walk. Starting from
10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon from the Court House. An eighteen
mile walk through Ivinghoe and Ashridge to raise money for camping
holidays for disabled children. Sponsorship forms from David Arnold,
Marlins, Kitsbury Terrace, Berkhamsted.

22nd June - Summer Wine at Sunnyside Church Hall, 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.
Copies of the Jubilee History will be available there priced
£1.50 to members of the Association (£1.95 to non-members). It is hoped
that copies will also be available from Birtchnell's shop.



Berkhamsted Citizens Association

Survey of Association Membership

- 1 . Name
- 2 . Address.....
- 3 . Telephone number
- 4 . Principal areas of interest. Please tick:-

Planning matters : density, green belt, building design

Conservation : historic and notable buildings

Architecture

Trees - planting and preservation

Canal and contiguous areas

Road safety

Youth

Leisure

Countryside:- The Book of Walks (writing, illustrating,
editing, map drawing or walking the walks)

Preservation of Rights of Way

Guardians of the Countryside

5. Would you be willing
 - a) to serve on a sub-committee?
 - b) to assist in any of the subject areas of interest?
 - c) to help with the Newsletter :-
 - i) writing
 - ii) production
 - iii) distribution
 - d) to help with:-
 - i) publicity
 - ii) preparation of exhibitions
 - iii) organisation of local meetings
 - iv) press relations?

6. Secretaryship

Are you interested in the secretarial side of the Association's work?

Would you like to be a) the Secretary of the Association

b) the Assistant Secretary of the Association?

7. Are there any other ways in which you feel that you could assist the work of the Association?

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Signed

It would be most helpful to the Association if you would complete this form and return it by 31st May to:-

Hazel Ward, Red Lodge, Graemesdyke Road, Berkhamsted. Tel: 5604