



**Berkhamsted
Citizens
Association**

NEWSLETTER

October 1987

The proposed "Bourne Centre"

July's Newsletter included an item on Erostin Group's planning application for "The Bourne Centre". This focuses on probably the town's most significant planning issue of this decade (if not this century), development of the town centre area. This association contributed to the establishment by Dacorum B.C. of a formal brief for the area in November 1983 and revisions to it earlier this year and it is more than interesting to see how a developer and his architect have transformed the brief into specific design proposals.

So much is at stake, particularly concerning traffic and the satisfactory operation of shops, existing and proposed, that Dacorum have decided to defer formal committee consideration until later in October.

The first step in any consideration is to seek information and following an invitation to Chris Wallace (Director of Erostin), he and his architect gave a presentation of their scheme to a special meeting of the main BCA Committee at 8.00 p.m. on September 1st. This led to a frank and fruitful discussion when compliments and concern were openly expressed. It was interesting to learn that Chris Wallace was schooled at Ashlyns, now lives in Tring and therefore has more than just a developer's knowledge of the town and its locality. We have recently received a copy of Erostin's traffic consultant's report and are due to receive a copy of their specialist advisor's retail impact study report when it is available.

We have been given a set of the planning application drawings, and a coloured set is still available for the public to view during normal hours at the Civic Centre in Berkhamsted.

We will be writing to Dacorum about the application before it is tabled at Dacorum's planning committee, so if you have views you would like to have considered, please contact a member of the BCA committee or alternatively, write direct to Dacorum Borough Council.

Berkhamsted Castle - Nine hundred years of English History

The new quick guide for visitors has already been given some publicity in local papers and is now available at a cost of 50p. It is a concise and well illustrated leaflet that has appeal for residents as well as visitors! How many times have we individually shown our guests around the castle without being able to give worthy historical coverage, ie. 1123 - Henry I held court at Berkhamsted, 1216 - Besieged and finally taken after two weeks by Prince Louis of France, 1356 - used to imprison King John of France after the Battle of Poitiers, to quote but a few of the many interesting facts given in the leaflet. One of our councillors was quite right when she recently stated that one of the town's richest, underutilised, and under appreciated assets is the castle ruin. This leaflet by Firefly Publications will hopefully go some way towards improved knowledge and use.

It's Rubbish

The waste material that we deposit at the County Council tip off St. John's Well Lane is what we have finished with and pleased to see that last of. For others this waste is a means of livelihood and most of you probably know that the company that operates the County Council tip pays a considerable

sum for the privilege. We are used to competitions for the best kept village in a county but if there were to be one for the best organised tip, one feels confident that our tip wouldn't be far from the top. It must be difficult to maintain a neat and tidy compound particularly at times of peak activity but the management of the tip is well organised and we have reason to be appreciative. The bottle banks are run separately by Dacorum B.C. and whilst the proceeds from them is distributed annually to deserving applicants in the Borough, the frequent 'overflow' deposit is either a sad reflection on the organisation of collections or the drinking habits of citizens!

Early in September your committee responded to the County Council's draft proposals on the control on permanent dumping of waste. You should be reassured by the very thorough approach that the County Council have adopted in proposing more stringent controls.

Arts' Trust - Jazz Praises

Berkhamsted's event in this year's Arts' Festival is JAZZ PRAISES, a work by our very own Michael Garrick. On 10th October come to St. Peter's Church at 8.00p.m. As well as Michael's Jazz Sextet, three choirs are taking part - one of Berkhamsted people; one from the American Church in London led by Scott Stroman, also placing the trombone; and a choir from Bridgewater Middle School who will be singing a work 'Mr. Smith's Apocalypse' with the jazz musicians and a jazz singer soloist, Norma Winstone.

A well-known citizen of Berkhamsted, namely Evelyn Talbot-Ponsonby, was instrumental in organising the first performance of Jazz Praises in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1958 and he is to be guest of honour at the performance.

The cost is £3, and £1 for younger and older and Jazz Society Members. There will be a licensed bar in the Court House and coffee in the Church. Proceeds from the refreshments will go to the St. Peter's Restoration Fund.

October Walk

Do join us in our Autumn Ramble - All the way to Wigginton - on Sunday 18th October. Meet at Berkhamsted Station at 10.30 a.m., or at the junction of Cross Oak Road and Shootersway at 10.45 a.m. Lunch at the Greyhound, Wigginton.

Cancer Research Campaign

The response to the recent Cancer Research Campaign's appeal for people to save postcards has been tremendous. 2,000 were received in only three weeks. Therefore, we have decided to set a definite target of 10,000 by the end of the year. The P.C.s can be from home or abroad and cover any subject - there is always somebody, somewhere, collecting something. This sounds extraordinary but is true. One gentleman has 160 p.c.s of Lands End! The Campaign gets a penny for each card so please help us to reach (and maybe pass?!) our target. There are card collecting boxes at the Village Hall, Potten End and at Eastwood's butcher's shop in Gravel Path; also phone Berkhamsted 2864 or 4948 for further advice or help with collections.

Membership Drive - Look Out

The Committee has agreed to arrange the distribution through a free paper, of a leaflet publicising the Association's activities. We're very grateful to Dennis Hallam for the inspired work. We hope that the leaflet will reveal the Association's existence to many more Berkhamsted people. We look forward to receiving comments on the leaflet from our existing members'.

The National Trust

The BCA has representatives on a number of other bodies, including the National Trust Ashridge Local Committee of Management. As our members who are also N.T. members will know, on Saturday 19th September the Trust organised a 'Members' Open Day at the Ashridge Estate. These Open Days, which are held in a different part of the Region each year, give members the opportunity both to see how a particular estate is managed and to meet the Regional and Local Committee. A great variety of manned exhibitions and demonstrations were organised, such as tree surgery, forestry thinning, park restoration and the work of the archaeological survey. The British Trust for Ornithology and the British Deer Society also had exhibitions. Sadly, our representative reports, the weather was foul and a great deal of the effort could not be fully appreciated. Even so, about 1,000 members turned up, some from as far away as Reading. Anyone who was present must now be well aware that the National Trust does far more than just collect the cash from visitors to country houses. The Trust are to be congratulated on an excellent effort.

The Friends of Ashridge

This local support group, formerly known as the Ashridge Associates, helps by subscription and voluntary work the work of the National Trust in ensuring that the Ashridge Estate is preserved and cared for permanently. Members of the BCA may like to know that the Friends of Ashridge will hold a meeting on Monday 23rd, November (7.30 for 8.00 p.m.) at Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Entitled "Woodlands in Trust" it is expected that speakers will include Richard Mabey, Chris Mead of the British Trust for Ornithology, and Richard Wheeler, Land Agent for the National Trust at Ashridge. Members of the Friends of Ashridge will have priority booking until 16th October. The cost will be £1.50 to include refreshments. Further details from the Friends Hon. Sec., Leslie Thompson, Tel. Aldbury Common 256.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING : Wednesday 25th November. 8.00 p.m. Sessions Hall

Membership Amendment Proposal

The BCA Committee proposes an amendment to Clause 3 of the Constitution to enable the introduction of 5-year subscriptions in addition to existing classes of annual subscription.

The amendment is as follows:

"There shall be a minimum subscription for individual membership and one for family membership. Such subscriptions shall be payable either annually or in respect of a five year period, and any change in the amount shall be determined by the body administering the affairs of the Association at a meeting held before the end of October and shall be payable as from the first day of the following year or at the time of joining during that year. The subscriptions for a five year period may be determined without regard to their relationship to the amounts of the annual subscriptions, and any variation shall be without prejudice to those members who have paid a five year subscription which has not expired.'

Please come to the meeting and support your committee's proposal.

ALSO on Wednesday 25th November at 8.00 p.m. in the Sessions Hall there will be a presentation of:

The Proposed BOURNE CENTRE, BERKHAMSTED

by the project architect, Mr. Keith Sleeman, and the representative of Erostin Holdings, Mr. Chris Wallace.

Don't miss this opportunity to find out more and to express your comments.