



**Berkhamsted  
Citizens  
Association**

# NEWSLETTER

May 1987

You may already have noticed that this issue of the Newsletter differs from previous ones. Our scribe, who has regularly informed and entertained us with his epistles, has at last, not unreasonably, decided to put down his pen. It is only fitting, therefore, that this edition should start by expressing our appreciation for all the work that Norman Binks has put into writing the Newsletters for the Association for a number of years. He has kept us fully informed and his writing has always been a pleasure to read, not least when his opinions have been somewhat controversial. On behalf of the Association, thank you very much, Norman, for all you have done for our Association and for our town. Norman has always had great support from his wife, Audrey, and we would like to express our appreciation to her as well. Fortunately, Norman and Audrey will still be around in Berkhamsted and Norman plans to continue his support for the Association.

In the meantime, bear with us till we find, not another Norman Binks, but at least another author for our news sheet. If you could help the Association by being the Newsletter editor, please contact Hazel Ward on Berkhamsted 5604. Meanwhile, what follows are a few brief items of news for your interest and information:

First of all, have you noticed that at long last the daffodils contributed and planted by our members in the Castle Grounds are now in bloom? We were also pleased to see the town's gasometer's have been removed. Dacorum has recently landscaped the area immediately to the north of Broadwater Lock. Similarly, we were glad to see the towpath improvements on the north side of the canal close to the Crystal Palace public house carried out by the British Waterways Board. Congratulations to all concerned.

#### Community Adviser Scheme

The County Emergency Plans Officer has written with regard to the County Community Adviser Scheme. This is concerned with Civil Protection and "planning for the care of those caught up in a major disaster, whether natural or man-made". Volunteers are required and anyone interested is invited to an open meeting to be held at 7.30 p.m. on 13th May at the Berkhamsted Civic Centre.

#### Give as you Earn

Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service has drawn our attention to the above scheme whereby employers will be able to give regularly to their chosen charity by means of payroll deductions. The Government has now made it possible for anyone who is employed to give up to £120 a year tax-free by regular payroll deductions. Further information from June Street, Executive Secretary, Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service, 48 High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP1 3AF.

### Post Office

Kittsbury Post Office closed on March 26th in spite of all pleas for its retention. One particular objection of people who now have to go to the Main Post Office was the length of queues. We were assured by the Area Counters Manager that more counters would be opened and that services would be improved.

So far this seems, by and large, to be the case but a check is to be maintained over the next few months. If you would be willing to assist with the survey, please contact Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby (Berk. 5882) from whom queue survey forms are available.

### Countryside Policy

The Council for the Protection of Rural England invites our support with regard to its concern over the Government's new policy document on the future of the countryside. The Council fears that the proposed changes in planning policy could well lead to a great deal more speculative development or "greenfield sites". If you want further information, or wish to support the C.P.R.E. financially, write to Robin Grove-White, Director, CPRE, 4 Hobart Place, London SW1W OHY.

### "What's Happening in your Neighbourhood?"

This excellent new pamphlet, produced by Dacorum Leisure Services in conjunction with the Community Programme, is a monthly guide which publicises community events free of charge. You will find the guide in "libraries, community centres and other local outlets". If you wish to advertise fund raising events, entertainments or any local public occasion, then contact the Community Leisure Programme Office, Apsley Community Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. Be sure to give full details of your forthcoming events no later than the first day of the month preceding the date of the event.

Look out for details in this new guide of activities of our Association and other local societies. We wholeheartedly welcome this new publication and hope it receives the support it deserves.

### Meeting with Dacorum Councillors and Officers

This annual meeting took place on 13th March at the Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead. We appreciated the interest shown by the fact that our four representatives were outnumbered two to one by Councillors and senior officers from Dacorum. Although the meeting was informal we had an agenda covering the major items. These were:

- i) The M25 Motorway and the proposed A41 bypass.
- ii) Berkhamsted Town Centre redevelopment revised planning brief.
- iii) Leisure facilities in the town.
- iv) The Association's long standing views on the need to review the conservation area in the town centre.

It was clear from the meeting that while the majority would like to see the current plans for the bypass put into operation without delay, there is a forceful minority who feel that the proposed route across Boxmoor Common is not the best alternative.

Regarding the proposed redevelopment of Berkhamsted town centre, our representatives were pleased with the positive attitude of Dacorum. In our discussions we made clear that the interests of individual shop keepers should be cared for in any proposed development.

We were given an update on the overall plans for the new Sports Hall at Ashlyns and were pleased to hear that the next twelve months should see building work commence and that completion should follow in early 1989.

It must, however, be frankly admitted that on the question of the possible extension of our conservation area in Berkhamsted town centre our representatives met with little sympathy. It was apparent that Dacorum has neither the resources nor the spirit to implement this task in the foreseeable future.

#### The Annual General Meeting

It was good to see so many members at the recent AGM on 24th March. Details of our Officers and Committee for the next year are given on a separate sheet, together with the names of our representatives on other organisations.

We were delighted on this occasion to award Life Membership to Norman Binks for his outstanding contribution to the Association.

After the formal business of the AGM an appreciation was made of the five entries for the Environmental Award and, as usual, a selection of slides gave members an opportunity to form their own views on the various entries. Although no award was given this year, Haresfoot School received a Special Commendation for their excellent conversion and new hall. Favourable comments were made on several of the other entries, especially the "Occasions" shopfront in the High Street.

Following a break for coffee there was a talk by Chief Superintendent Buttle and Inspector Gurney of the local police. There has recently been some concern at reports of certain changes in the local administration of the police force (especially the fact that Berkhamsted Police Station would cease to be open twenty-four hours a day) and it was timely that these two senior officers were able to reassure us that the service we will receive in future will be in no way inferior to that we have previously enjoyed. We were glad our two friends from the police were prepared to give up their time to talk to us. We appreciated what they had to say, and we thank them for their efforts.

The Open Forum, which concluded the meeting, saw some lively discussion on town issues, particularly the disgraceful condition of the two Edwardian houses in Manor Street, which are owned by the County Council. The County Council have at various times put forward plans for this site but so far nothing has been done. The strong feelings voiced at the meeting have already been passed on to the Chief Executive at County Hall.

#### Litter

It was clear from concern expressed at the AGM that litter continues to be a major local problem. We are in touch with the local Councils as to how best we can assist them with this problem, but we would welcome your views. Can you help us? Do bear in mind that this is our problem if we live in the town.

We hope that you have noticed an improvement to the canal towpath between the Lower Kings Road and Park Street bridges. An Association litter party has been busy on three occasions along that stretch.

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\* NEXT MEETING \*  
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Thursday 21st May

Public Forum on Health Services led by two  
Area Health Authority Representatives.  
8.00 p.m. Sessions Hall

Friday 12th June

"Summer Wine"  
7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Court House.

Sunday 18th October

Autumn Ramble.  
10.30 a.m. Berkhamsted Station.

Friday 18th December

Christmas Social with carols led by the choir  
8 p.m. Old Hall, Berkhamsted School.

BERKHAMSTED CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

Committee Members 1987/8

Tel

Chairman	Hazel Ward, Red Lodge, Graemesdyke Rd.	5607
Vice-Chairman	Giles Clark, The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place	74347/ 2981
Treasurer	Peter Braybrooke, 16 Castle Hill Ave.	4955
Secretary	Pamela Quin, 25 Castle Hill Ave,	4565
Membership Secretary	Margaret Phillips, 133 Cross Oak Rd.	73713

Committee

Gerry Atkinson (Newsletter Distributor)	47 Lombardy Drive	4372
Jackie Boulter	11 Berkley Court	5592
David Brunt	50 Castle Hill	73198
Valerie Clark	329 Bridgewater Road, Northchurch	2613
Miranda Cummins	27 North Road	6075
Eric Drake	18 Holliday Street	73122
Lovell Feil	13 Upper Hall Park	5752
Rosemary Glasspool	Linden House, Shootersway Lane	73873
Keith Jenkins	6 Castle Hill Close	2750
Joan Palmer	Handsworth, Cross Oak Road	3700
Norman Williams	23 Castle Hill Ave	5291

Sub-Committees

Activities

Valerie Clark - Convenor	Miranda Cummins
Peter Braybrooke	Eric Drake
	Margaret Phillips

Country Amenities

Lovell Feil - Convenor	Rosemary Glasspool
Miranda Cummins	Keith Jenkins
Eric Drake	

Town Amenities

David Brunt - Convenor	Margaret Phillips
Gerry Atkinson	Mike Prentice
Janet Crowhurst	Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby
Lovell Feil	Ben Tewson
Norman Williams	Robert Walden

Publicity & Newsletter

Gerry Atkinson	Rosemary Glasspool
Eric Drake	Margaret Phillips

Representatives on other Bodies

Citizens' Advice Bureau	Norman Williams
Crime Prevention Panels	Norman Williams
Berkhamsted & Northchurch Community Council	Hilary Talbot-Ponsonby
Town Hall Trust	Mike Prentice
Library	Margaret Phillips
Arts Trust	Hazel Ward
Youth Club	Jackie Bolter
Road & Home Safety	Valerie Clark
Ladacan	Peter Braybrooke
National Trust	Lovell Feil
Chiltern Society	Keith Jenkins
Hertfordshire Rights of Way Association	Keith Jenkins