



**Berkhamsted  
Citizens  
Association**

# NEWSLETTER

April 1991

## Citizens AGM

Many members attended the 67<sup>th</sup> AGM in the Sessions Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> March foregoing Inspector Morse. Members approved the proposal that from 1992 the annual subscriptions should be raised from £1.00 to £1.50 a year for a single member and from £1.50 to £2.50 for family membership. The five years subscriptions will rise similarly to £7.50 and £10.00 respectively. Such modest increases take account of inflation since 1982, the last time subscriptions were increased.

George Cameron (Chairman 1962/63) recalled the time when subscriptions were just seven shillings. So please renew this year's subscription if you have not already done so.

Retiring committee members Lovell Feil and Keith Jenkins were warmly thanked for their great contributions, and replacements Gill Feil and Eric Hoey (who will take over this Newsletter) were welcomed. We are still short of two committee members - volunteers please contact Giles Clark. You can help make Berkhamsted a better place.

With the AGM business completed quickly, more interesting features followed. David Brunt gave his expert views on slides taken of the buildings nominated for the Environment Award. For the first time in ten years, our award was won by a house-holder, Mark White. He not only designed but built himself his house at 14 Torrington Road. His work shows that an 'infill site' can be developed sensitively to fit in with the character of neighbouring properties while preserving an important walnut tree. His neighbours attended to witness his achievements (Property developers should take note.)

A Certificate of Commendation was accepted by Bill Atkinson on behalf of the Berkhamsted Town Hall Trustees. Their architect Derek Rogers has designed a magnificent new staircase in Victorian style and a foyer on the first floor, which we used for our coffee break. Many in this town are unaware of just how splendid the Town Hall will be when restored. Do go in to see it. So far Dacorum Borough Council has contributed no money to this much needed public facility. In May, half the council is due for election. Your committee believes that the restoration of the Town Hall is one of the most pressing local issues and I urge all members to canvass their local councillors. During the 1980s some councillors wanted demolition - the Trustees have now shown (convincingly) the bad error of their views.

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After the coffee break, Keith Hunt, recently appointed Chief Executive of Dacorum Borough Council, was our guest speaker. He told us of the wide range of the borough's activities and highlighted its mission statement which addressed environmental concerns. His talk was well received. Nevertheless members' questions put him on the spot over the Town Hall's needs (he replied that decisions were the responsibility of councillors); and on the removal of a hedge round the former open air swimming pool site. The following morning his Landscape Manager contacted me to explain that the site was subject to new landscaping. The Town Council have the idea that this would be a good place to provide a secure dog-free play area for under sixes. We shall be supporting them.

Giles Clark, Chairman

### **Diary Events**

#### **Sunday 19th May - Benington Lordship**

We have arranged a coach outing to Benington Lordship, a listed castle with a 19th century folly, about five miles from Stevenage. There are seven acres of gardens with herbaceous borders, a water garden, a rockery and lake, and a small nursery selling some of the plants on display in the gardens. An application form is attached to this Newsletter.

#### **Friday 21st June — citizens' Members Summer Garden-party**

It is not too early to give advance warning of our garden party, 21<sup>st</sup> June, at the Bothy, Berkhamsted Place (top of Castle Hill) from 7.30 p.m. The Bothy is the former under-gardeners cottage of the once adjoining Elizabethan mansion (demolished in 1967) and is hidden away behind high and ancient walls. Drinks will be served in the large Victorian vinehouse containing the original Brownlow vines. More details in the next Newsletter.

#### **Barnardo's Appeal**

In the third week of June, Dr Barnardo's are launching a nationwide appeal, though money raised will be spent locally. Dan Maclean is organising a house-to-house collection and needs volunteers. Please telephone him on 0582-834228, preferably between 5.00 and 7.00 p.m.