



**Berkhamsted  
Citizens  
Association**

# NEWSLETTER

September 1991

## Editor's musings

The year moves moves on. As the heavy dews of autumn begin to appear we look back on the summer now slipping away.

It has not been a bad summer on the whole, rather humid and sticky at times, but quite warm and sunny for most of July and August. Looking back over the same period at what has happened in the town, the short answer is "not a lot".

There are stirrings, however, and signs of big changes to come. Trees are coming down along the route of the by-pass, builders' caravans and machinery are appearing and fences have been erected. It is rather like the war again. The big build-up of materials and men. The time lull before the big "push". Work starts in earnest in September and while we hope for a successful outcome, no-one is quite sure what the total effect will be.

One immediate consequence is the commencement of work on "traffic calming" measures in the High Street. It is not clear to me why the curious protuberances in the pavement outside the Rex and Castle Street will calm the traffic. It was certainly getting pretty agitated the other day when I came in. I suppose we must wait and see what happens when the work is completed.

The Mayor took me to task recently for not defining which Council I was referring to in the Newsletter. Since there is a Berkhamsted Town Council, a Dacorum Borough Council and a Hertfordshire County Council, the term "council" can be a little imprecise. I can certainly understand why our elected representatives are concerned by the distinctions or lack of them. They may be in a situation where they oppose a development imposed on them by one of the other bodies as much as their constituents. They may be beavering away to remedy the situation but they could still be lumped together as the "council" in an unfavourable context. I think we should remember this. However, in general, we are trying to let the average reader know what is going on and what representation the Association is making to which ever body is the most appropriate, rather than going into detail. The latter in some cases might well include political nuances which it is certainly not the business of the Association to comment on. None-the-less, Mr. Mayor (of Berkhamsted) your point is taken and understood.

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Chairman	Giles Clark, The Bothy, Berkhamsted Place, HP4 1HG	874347
Newsletter Editor	Eric Hoey, Fleetwings, London Road, Bourne End, HP1 2RJ	866270
Membership Secretary	Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby, 38 Kitsbury Road, HP4 3EA	865882

Following the last Newsletter, a letter was received commenting (amongst other topics) on the lack of open space in the centre of Berkhamsted. It raises some interesting points. Where should it be (where could it be)? What would it be used for? One could argue that there is already a "lung" along the canal. Could that be improved and by doing what? I wonder what demand there is and what people actually want in this connection. There are already children's playgrounds. Perhaps it is just somewhere to sit quietly for a while.

It would be interesting to hear people's views on the above, and indeed, other matters. I can not undertake to reply as resources are strictly limited, but views and aspirations would be helpful in building up a picture of how people would like to see the town develop.

So why not kick around a few ideas. Over to you.

### Planning

Representations have been made on the proposed link to New Road, pointing out the undesirable affects until the Bridgewater Road and Castle Hill area has been protected against heavy traffic. Any link road would need to be justified by the benefits to present residents of Tunnel Fields.

### Conservation on Ashridge

If you came to the interesting talk last year by Graeme Cannon of the National Trust, you may remember he mentioned that a volunteer group had been set up to help with the massive task of storm clearance on the Ashridge estate. That group has been operating for over a year now and has made its mark in the woods around the Monument, but there is still plenty to do: not only repairing the ravages of the storm but routine maintenance work like coppicing and scrub clearance and new projects like the re-instatement of a pond at Little Gaddesden.

The group meets on alternate Sundays, usually working from about 9.00 to 1.00 and from September it is also planned to have a weekday session, on alternate Thursdays. New volunteers are always welcome and if you are interested in taking part in this very rewarding work, the points of contact are:

For the Thursday sessions, Stuart Downhill on 0442 865821

For the Sunday sessions, Eric Drake on 0442 872536.

### Transport for evening meetings

It has been suggested that more people might attend the various evening meetings if transport were available. If anyone has a transport problem, if they will contact one of the Association representatives, they will see what they can do.

### Litter

The Association's efforts to reduce litter have been helped by the gift of two litter pickers by Mr. Lamb, and are gratefully received.

### Future Programme

Sunday 13th October	Autumn Ramble
Wednesday 23rd October	Talk entitled: Berkhamsted after the by-pass. What will be the long term effects of the by-pass? Representatives from the Department of Transport, estate agents and local councillors will be there to answer your questions
Thursday 21st November	Talk by Nick Owen
Friday 20th December	Christmas Carols and wine
Wednesday 1st January	New Year's Day Ramble
Thursday 20th February	Talk by the Chiltern Society
Thursday 20th March	A.G.M.
Monday 20th April	Easter Monday Ramble
Sunday 17th May	Outing to Stoke Bruerne
Friday 19th June	Summer Wine