

RBC

blurb!

the **NEW** monthly newsletter of the BCA

ISSUE 1
JULY 2000

www.brookvale.org.uk

Association finds renewed energy

Brookvale residents, who attended the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Brookvale Community Association on June 16th 2000, unanimously agreed that the Association should remain in existence and continue with the valuable work it has been doing for more than 20 years.

Pamela Mansfield, BCA Chair told the residents that things had to change and that it would require much more input and support from the community in order to continue.

As a result, another meeting was scheduled for June 30th to form a new management and separate hall committee. There was a good response and many people put themselves forward as potential committee members and prospective street representatives. Several people also volunteered to help Simon Brunger launch the new look newsletter.

The repair and reconstruction of the Village Hall, which had been badly

damaged by fire in December 1999, was given the go-ahead. The Hall was built in 1982 with help and finance of the local council and fund raising by Brookvale residents.

On July 5th the new management committee met. After Pam Mansfield and Derek Halstead had outlined the job descriptions of the chairperson, treasurer and secretary, the

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Every contact,
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local body you
could ever need!



Pam Mansfield: BCA Chair in the Himalayas on an 80 mile trek earlier this year

FACTFILE: Pam Mansfield

Profession:	Book Keeping
Lived here:	29 years
Family:	2 grown-up sons
Interests:	Theatre, reading, CEROC (French Jive)
Personal Achievements:	Completed a sponsored 80 mile trek in the Himalayas and raised over £2,000 for Arthritis Research. Reached 12,000ft.
BCA History:	First joined as Secretary in 1982. After a 10 year break, due to family commitments, returned as Secretary and then appointed as Chairperson.

Meeting success

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new management team was formed. Maggie Dee and Diane Anderson were elected into the roles of treasurer and secretary respectively. Pam Mansfield agreed to continue as chairperson and Derek Halstead has also agreed to assist the treasurer.

Pam Mansfield said she was to have a meeting with street representatives and those volunteering to complete the team. Everyone acknowledged that the Street Reps play a vital role in the communication between residents and the Association. Now every road and street will have its own representative. *(Details of your local street rep will be published in next month's edition of Blurb)*

The newly formed committee agreed on the production of a regular newsletter in a magazine format to keep all the residents in touch with events and local matters.

It was also announced that the work on the rebuilding of the Village Hall will be carried out by A&E Builders, a local firm, and will commence on July 24th and be completed by November 30th 2000.

The meeting was closed with the next meeting being scheduled for July 19th. 16^h.

Amongst some of the comments made at the EGM: "We can build the Community Association up again - we need new faces and new ideas to make them happen, though". "There are so many ideas between us we'd like to try. We must continue to take pride in our close community" and "Everyone should feel able to stand up in the future and have their say".

...All things that we hope you will help us with. Remember, we can't make these changes single-handedly - we need you!

To find out how you can help, take a look at page 3 and please feel free to use any of the BCA contacts on the back page. **b!**

New look newsletter and website

Welcome to the new look newsletter from the BCA. We hope you like the new layout and concept. We intend to bring it to you on a monthly basis.

We have already set up an editorial team but are always on the look-out for contributors. If you would like to write, research or photograph for blurb! please contact the Editor using the contact information on the back page. We will gladly welcome regular or one-off articles.

Each month will bring new features and updates on what is

going on in the community. If you have any ideas for or comments on blurb!, please get in touch.

We are also looking for someone that has either a scanner or digital camera that wouldn't mind giving up a few minutes each month to work on the photographs for blurb!

Also - good news if you have access to the internet - we will soon be launching a jam-packed internet site for all things 'Brookvale'. Why not bookmark www.brookvale.org.uk right now! **b!**

If you would like to advertise your local business in blurb! please contact blurbads@brookvale.org.uk or write to Advertising and Sponsorship, Blurb!, 31 George Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7RN for competitive rates

blurb! - keeping it local

New priorities

Please remember to take care at the lower end of Deep Lane where it meets Lower Brook Street - the road priorities have changed. You must now give way coming out of Lower Brook Street as Deep Lane continues on into the new development.

Whilst others get used to the new road layout, be prepared to make a prompt stop - and remember that unsupervised children may be crossing over into the King George V playing field -so take it easy with your speed!! **b!**

Sports Wall

The new Sports Wall in the King George V playing field is to be officially opened on 3rd August. A well-known footballer (details not confirmed at time of print) will be attending to mark the occasion

and to encourage youngsters to get out and involved in games and sports. The National Playing Fields Association will hand over the ball wall to Basingstoke's Mayoress.

Why not bring your children along to participate? The afternoon's events start at 2:00. All are welcome. **b!**

Parking changes

In case you hadn't noticed the signs all along the east end of Lower Brook Street, the council has announced parking will no longer be permitted in any place between Queen's Road and Victory Park. This could, however, encourage parking on other roads in the area.

Any objections to the new order must be at the council by July 28th. More details can be found on the notice boards. **b!**

Give us the blurb! - *your comments and views*

This month, Henry Winter from Lower Brook Street writes about how graffiti annoys him so much.

I would like to talk about something that has been bothering me for a while now. Every time I walk my dog around the park and through to where the old stables were, all I see is graffiti and vandalism wherever I turn. The subways are a disgrace. I noticed it only took a couple of hours after the new Victory Roundabout opened for it to be covered in obscenities.

What was the point of putting the wall in the King George V playing fields? Was it to give the children a canvas to display their work on?

I blame these problems on two things - firstly, the shortage of facilities for young children in the area. There really should be more to occupy them in the evenings when they come home from school. The second is that I believe that parents have a large part to play in this. I know parents can say that it's difficult to keep an eye on their children all the time but I do feel that if a child has been brought up properly, it should instinctively know what's wrong and right. A child should know that it's wrong to scrawl all over a subway wall. It's then up to their conscience to tell them not to succumb to pressure from their peers when they are in that situation - and children DO have a conscience.

It is up to the parents to make sure they know what their children are up to. Support them; give them your encouragement in finding interests and hobbies that they can enjoy. I enjoyed

bringing up my children and I feel that they are decent well-rounded young adults now because of their upbringing. If I had taught them that it was OK to scribble on walls, I can imagine they would be getting into trouble with the police to this day.

Nobody wants to see graffiti and rubbish in the subways. Something should be done and can be done. We pay a community tax to our local council to deal with issues such as these. We should be working together as the community we are and reporting vandalism. At the end of the day, that is what graffiti is - mindless vandalism. I don't want to be living in an area where it's accepted that people can vandalise the community and get away with it.

Each month we offer you an opportunity to write in with your views and comments. We will feature a main article like this one where we ask you to write up to 600 words on your chosen subject. We will also, as from next month be featuring smaller items - either your feedback to a particular article or, again, anything on your chosen subject.

To contribute to 'Give us the blurb!':

- email your copy to: blurbeditor@brookvale.org.uk
- or post or drop in your copy to: 'My Blurb', 31 George Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 7RN
- or fax your copy to: 0870 127 3645



We are very keen to hear from anyone that has any ideas or suggestions. Maybe you have an idea for an event or you would like to help with something the Association already does. Your ideas will always be welcome.

As far as we are concerned, the more the merrier. We'd like to see younger faces helping at meetings and events. It wouldn't hurt to have a few more street reps - even if it's just as a back-up measure.

We have already had some new ideas from attendees to the EGM - a Summer BBQ, better lottery promotion, better communication to the community. This newsletter is an example of one of those ideas.

The Community Association is not a group of busy-bodies. It was formed and continues to run to look after the welfare of the area and the community within it. If you have any suggestions on how we can bring the community closer, **LET US KNOW!!**

Email bca@brookvale.org.uk or alternative methods of communication can be found on the back page.

National Helplines

- Age Concern** Telephone service for older people, their families and people working with them. 020 8679 8000
- Childline** Helpline for children and young people in danger, distress or with any problem. 0800 1111
- Cruse** Bereavement helpline for bereaved people and those caring for bereaved people. 020 8332 7227
- Disability Dial** UK network of disability information and advice services run by people with direct experience of disability. 01302 310123
- Drink Line** Offers advice, information and support for anyone concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. 0345 320202
- Drugs Helpline** Helpline for drug users, their families, friends and carers. 0800 776600
- Legal Line** For people who have suffered an injury in an accident. Will refer onto local solicitors if appropriate. 0500 192939
- Lesbian & Gay Switchboard** For anyone who needs support or information about homosexuality. 020 7837 7324
- Missing People Helpline** Counselling, listening and practical support for anyone missing immediate family members. 0500 700700
- NHS Helpline** Provides information on NHS services and coping with illnesses and treatments. Also provides information about support groups and helplines. 0800 665544
- NSPCC** For anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse. Staffed by social work councillors. 0800 800500
- Parent Line** Helpline for the parents and carers of children. 01702 559900
- RSPCA** Animal welfare helpline. 0870 555 5999
- Samaritans** Confidential, emotional support for anyone in a crisis. 0345 909090
- Senior Line** Information service for senior citizens, their relatives, carers and friends. 0800 650065
- Shelter** Helpline for anyone facing a housing emergency. 0800 446441

Travel

- National Rail Enquiries** 0345 484950
- Stagecoach** 01256 464501

Local Helplines, Establishments & Amenities

- North Hampshire Hospital** 01256 473202
- Samaritans (5 Essex Road, Basingstoke)** 01256 462333
- Basingstoke Police Station** 01256 473111
- Basingstoke Library** 01256 473901
- Queens Road Post Office** 01256 322668

Emergency Hotlines

- Electricity Emergencies (Southern Electric)** 0345 708090
- Gas Emergencies** 0800 111999

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

- Main Switchboard** 01256 844844
- Community Services** 01256 845474 • **Conservation Areas** 845235
- Community Charge** 819599 • **Environmental Health** 845303
- Parks and Open Spaces** 845712 • **Stage 2000** 845583

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blurb! is available free on CD and audio cassette for the visually impaired.

If you know somebody that would benefit from receiving blurb! in either format, please contact the editor.

It will also soon be available in either streaming or downloadable format from the Brookvale website.