

blurb!

the monthly newsletter of the BCA

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www.brookvale.org.uk

Official Opening of Games Wall

The Multi Games Wall in the King George V playing field was officially opened on the 3rd at the beginning of this month. Amongst those joining local Brookvale residents to mark the occasion were Mayor Marilyn Tucker, Andrew Hunter MP, Fred Kirkland of the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) and representatives of Basingstoke & Deane BC, Basingstoke Town Football Club and Grosvenor Holdings, the sponsors of the wall.

Fred Kirkland, of the NPFA, opened the proceedings. "The NPFA was founded 75 years ago to protect, acquire and develop playing fields and recreational areas for young people. The work we do today is just as important as the work we did in the days of King George V who bequeathed this field to the NPFA in order to protect it for eternity. This new games wall initiative is something that we are introducing to a selection of

our playing fields over the country - they allow children to play ball rebound games up against it."

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Every contact,
organisation and
local body you
could ever need!



Top: Local officials gather with Brookvale residents for opening
Left: Plaque unveiled Right: Children enjoy the new Games Wall

Wall Opens

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Bernard Ferris of Grosvenor Holdings said they were "absolutely delighted to help finance the building of the wall." Grosvenor are relatively new to the town and they "hope to be doing many more community projects such as these".

Mayor Tucker thanked everyone in attendance and expressed her gratitude to the BCA who had been involved in the consultation process of the building work. She also said that she hoped "all villages would have such facilities in the future". Andrew Hunter MP echoed the Mayor's wishes for the future.

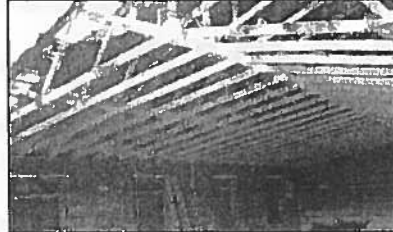
A plaque was then unveiled by Mr Hunter, Mayor Tucker and Jason Bristow, a representative from Basingstoke Town FC. Just before the rain set in washing away the beautiful weather we had been experiencing all afternoon, there was time for a photo shoot with the Basingstoke Observer and our own photographer for Blurb. Children from a Summer Fun Scheme organised by the Basingstoke YMCA then spent the next half an hour or so enjoying the new facility. A presentation was made later on that afternoon by the NPFA at The Anvil.



Village Hall UPDATE



Opening 9th December



Renovation work has now started on the Village Hall in Lower Brook Street. We're going to keep you up-to-date on what A&E, the builders, are doing...

So far this month:

- A container was delivered and the contents of the hall were moved into it for the duration of the renovations.
- The ashes and charred timbers were cleared into a skip - this was a dirty job!
- Next, the smoke blackened ceilings, melted lights and cabling were torn down.
- The remaining annex roof timbers and tiles have been removed and the walls have been demolished.
- Clearing of the remainder of the building has been started.

Highlights of Minutes - BCA Management Meeting - 19th July 2000

- Cllrs John Shaw and Lynden Jones were present.
- The Council and the Developers have at last realised that the information provided to them from the BCA regarding Victory Roundabout is true. The BCA advised the council that the water table in this area was too high and would cause flooding if the roundabout was developed. Hopefully they will now act.
- Parking restriction amendment along Lower Brook Street from May Street to Victory Green allows for parking bays - 2 in May Street for 4 hours and not returning within 2 hours.
- A survey was proposed to find out what the community expected of BCA plans to continue the parent and toddler group, revive 'Community Care', and provide a Youth Club, Holiday Events for youngsters and Coffee Mornings for older residents.

Traffic and Construction Sub Committee Meeting on 5/9/00 - for details ring Pam

Street Reps Update

Queens	Maggie (28)	414708
George	(Even) Andrea (48)	350222
	(Odd) Ruth (29)	325194
L Brook	(Odd) Agnes (219)	327329
Deep	Pam B (3)	325078
Highfield	Pam B (3 Deep)	325078
Worting	Pam M (20 Southend)	327329
Rayleigh	Margaret	328995
Rochford	Sean (8)	840754
Arthur	Jean	327329
Welton	Liz	327329
Southend	Liz	327329
Essex	Pam M (20 Southend)	327329
Brookvale	Betty (10)	327329
Roundmead	Eric (10 Downsland)	327329
Downsland	Eric (10)	327329

This list is not currently complete. We are still looking for reps to cover Alexandra Road, Lower Brook Street (a replacement for odd numbers is also required) and the new School Flats. We should be able to confirm the Solbys street rep next month.

If you would like to become involved in Brookvale by spending a few minutes once or twice a month delivering leaflets and being a point of contact for your street, please call Pam Mansfield (details on back page). We hope to bring you a full list of street reps in next month's edition.

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

b! FACT FILE



Diane Anderson
BCA Secretary

- Profession:** Retail Assistant and mother
- Lived here:** 15 years - lived in Basingstoke all her life
- Family:** Two grown-up daughters
- Interests:** Dressmaking, keep-fit and gardening
- Personal Achievements:** Grandmother to her two beautiful grandchildren
- BCA History:** No previous involvement due to family commitments. Diane now finds she has more time to get involved in the community.

Give us the blurb! - your comments and views

Conservation order too strict?

In the early 80s the company I worked for relocated to Camberley. I couldn't afford a house in Camberley so instead, we cast our net further afield - further along the M3. We looked at a number of properties in Basingstoke but settled on Brookvale because we liked the character of the street, proximity of the railway station and a small park was close by in which to walk the dog.

The house was a little run down and in need of some investment. We decided that we couldn't afford a house in better condition - we would plump for this one and do the maintenance repair work at our leisure.

Recently, the streets of Brookvale have become a Protected Area. We supported this change to the area. Some of the houses in original condition are very attractive. Unfortunately, many like ours have suffered down the years from so-called improvements. Our windows, like many others on the street, were probably replaced in the 1970s. Very cheap, single glazed aluminium units.

After much saving, we're finally in a position to replace the windows at the front of the house. We did the rear windows some time ago. I knew that in order to do this, I had to contact the council and submit a planning application. I contacted the council for both information and the appropriate application forms. I was immediately advised that I would have to replace the windows with those reflecting the original specifications. In other words, I would have to put back in wooden sash windows. This has not come as a great surprise, and this was my intention. In my view, if you look at the houses on the street that have retained the sash, they are generally more attractive than those with aluminium or replacement PVC windows. I was then provided with a list of suppliers that the council had used in the past. The lady was careful to point out that these were not recommended or endorsed by the council in any way. I guess I had no idea of the cost of such windows. I was later to find, after speaking to a number of suppliers, that I could expect to pay upwards of £7000 just for one bay window and three units upstairs. That was a shock. We didn't have that kind of money available and hadn't ear-marked sufficient funds.

In view of this, I would very much like to consider UPVC sash windows which, from what I have seen so far, are equally attractive and maintenance free. The council, however, insist that only wooden single glazed sash units are acceptable. When I asked about grants, I was advised that they exist, up to a maximum of 20% but in actual fact, there was no money in the pot. Consequently, I am left with a rather unattractive front elevation and despite the fact that even the most basic UPVC windows would be a dramatic improvement and improve the overall look of the house, there's absolutely nothing I can do until I'm able to find twice the amount I had originally

intended to spend.

Whereas I would agree that it would be very nice to have many of the houses looking like they originally did, if you take a look around Brookvale, it's clear to see that significant damage has already been done. I would like to bring back some original features to our home but the cost relative to the overall price of the house is prohibitive. I'm quite sure there are many other people in Brookvale who would not and could not afford to spend this money on replacement windows.

Via e-mail

Brookvale's future and past

It's good to know at long last there are people ready to show interest in Brookvale and the running of it - well done! Before everything of the past changes, I, as an older resident would like it known that a few loyal members who carried on trying and trying against all odds have worked so very hard on keeping Brookvale alive.

Looking out my bedroom window at night, I've spied Ruth Buckingham delivering newsletters etc., and that's after a full day travelling and nursing (that's dedication for you!!). I do think that without Ruth, Pam, Margaret, Agnes and a few others that Brookvale would have died - Brookvale owes them a big thank you for struggling on when they could have easily given up.

Now with new and younger residents on board, I hope they can sit back and enjoy future events instead of being tired out. It must have been a long slog for them.

Before I finish, could I please ask car drivers to think about where they park. In Lower Brook Street there are dropped pavements to help people in wheel chairs, trolley-pushers etc. and we often find a car parked across them.

Name and address supplied

**This is your page...
make sure you use it!**

b!

Each month we offer you an opportunity to write in with your views and comments. Please feel free to write in about literally anything.

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

Editor's decision for inclusion and any amendments are final.

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** Councillng, 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

BCA Contacts

Brookvale Community Association
 bca@brookvale.org.uk

Pamela Mansfield
Chairperson
 20 Southend Road 327329

Ruth Buckingham
Vice Chairperson
 29 George Street 325194

Diane Anderson
BCA Secretary
 20 Solbys Road 421452

Maggie Dee
BCA Treasurer
 28 Queens Road 414708

Blurb Magazine

Simon Brunger
Editor, Blurb Magazine
 31 George Street 475508
 Fax 0870 127 3645
 blurbeditor@brookvale.org.uk

Editorial Team:
 John Banks, Pam Banks, Tricia Fry

Website

www.brookvale.org.uk

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