

blurb!

the bi-monthly newsletter of the BCA

ISSUE 9

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www.brookvale.org.uk

BCA 2001 AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Brookvale Community Association was held at the Village Hall on Thursday 24th May 2001. Councillors, Street Representatives and residents attended along with Ruth Buckingham, Win Nash and Margaret Aubrey, stalwarts who have held the BCA together since its formation.

Pam Mansfield welcomed everyone present and announced that she would be standing down from her position as chairperson. The minutes from the EGMs held on 16th June and 30th June 2000 were read, agreed and signed. Pam then gave her report on BCA matters. Since the hall was opened 6 months ago, events such as the Quiz Nights, Beetle Drive and Sponsored Weight Loss have taken place successfully. Groups, such as the Parents and Toddlers Group on a Wednesday, Ladies Night every second Tuesday in the month and the 3C's Coffee Mornings every other Saturday had been set up.

Pam referred to the ongoing battle of the flooding of the Victory Roundabout subway and said that since October the BCA were in consultation with Roger Archer-Reeves from the Council. He would be attending the Management Committee Meeting in July and hopefully progress would be made in this problem's resolution.

Regarding the planning application for 47 Queens Road, Pam said the BCA had opposed its demolition and that it was now being converted into three houses, which must conform to them being in a Conservation

area. The council also agreed to meet with the BCA and concerned Mums over the renovation of King George the Fifth playground (report follows in this issue).

Jill Lucas and her husband stood down as promoters of the Lottery. Pam thanked them for all their hard work over the years and said she would be taking over. We have 90 members at present and need 100 for the Lottery to break even.

Maggie Dee then gave her treasurer's report. She said that it was encouraging to see that, despite the Hall being open only 6 months, the events takings were almost as high as for the whole of the previous year and thanked the hard work and enthusiasm of members. The

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organisations and local bodies

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700 local households
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Replacement needed urgently!

Our current Communications Editor, Simon Brunger, will unfortunately be moving on to pastures new with work some time in July/August. This means we will be without someone to look after the communications materials the BCA produces. This includes Blurb and Brookvale Online, both of which are edited and designed by him currently.

If there is anyone that would like to take over his role, please contact him (details on back cover). Adobe InDesign and Frontpage are used for these tasks at the moment, but templates can be converted into whatever package you are happier working with (Quark, even Word!) and Simon is happy to work with you for the first month if necessary.

This role would best suit a creative individual that is looking to build a portfolio of work or a professional designer that has a little time to spare and would like to help the community. You will be keeping alive two great initiatives that have helped the BCA change the way they communicate with the people of Brookvale.

Don't worry about the amount of time you can give, we will be grateful even if you can only give up a couple of hours every month. You will have full back-up and support from the Editorial Team and Management Committee.

BCA AGM Report

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greatest expense has obviously been the rebuilding of the hall, amounting to £57,162.00. The insurance costs have increased, reflecting the risk factor already experienced and the fact that we were previously under-insured. Though at one point she thought the BCA would end the year with a £2,000 deficit, that has been turned around and Maggie was happy to report outstanding bills had been paid and there is a bank balance of £301.00.

The committee resigned and a new committee elected. Maggie Dee was elected as Treasurer, Diane Anderson as Secretary, Linda Chandler as Hall Booking Agent and the Hall/Communications Teams agreed to stay on. Other former committee members agreed to continue. It was agreed to elect a chairperson at the next committee meeting on 20th June and anyone wishing to help was welcome to attend. Those who attended enjoyed cheese and wine afterwards.

Since that meeting, Pam Banks has been elected BCA Chair for the coming year. We wish her luck in her new position and would like to thank her for her continued support.

b!

Play areas

Various residents joined Stephen Bryer (Community Services, BDBC) on 25th June to discuss the council's plans to remove dangerous equipment and surfaces in the town's play areas. 188 play areas have been identified as 'not up to standard'. All of the high risk areas were removed or dealt with last year and a programme follows this year that will see to the medium risk areas.

Included in with those medium risk areas is the play area in King George V Playing Fields. The remaining swings and hard surfaces will be removed in August/September of this year. There are currently no plans to replace any of the equipment that will be removed - the council have made an initial estimate of £75-85,000 to provide a new area. However, due to local developers having to provide £32,000 for local facilities in the Brookvale area, there is the possibility of them providing a 'part facility'.

Those present stressed the need to site the new area away from the underpass and nearer to the houses. Mr Bryer said that the council

Brookvale Village Hall

To book the newly refurbished Village Hall at incredibly reasonable rates, call Lin Chandler on 329475.

were open minded about the siting of the area, but that they had to consider the positioning of the sub-surface power lines that run diagonally across the field from Lower Brook Street to the far corner of the old Thorneycroft factory. It was also suggested that we consult with the residents living opposite KGV-PF and found out their opinions on the proposed re-siting. It was decided that a further meeting with Mr Bryer will take place in August.

Please contact us with any comments you have on this matter (editor's details on back page) or Mr Bryer can be reached directly on 845616.

b!

Graffiti

The amount of graffiti present throughout the Brookvale area has increased in the past few weeks. The most recent attack was on the Village Hall.

If you are responsible for this vandalism, be aware that the BCA is keeping a photographic record of all incidents, particularly attacks on our own property, and we will be liaising with Hampshire Constabulary and follow through to prosecution should this continue.

If residents can keep an eye out for these incidents when they are in progress, we would be extremely grateful. Do not apprehend anyone, but if you can collect evidence on camera or video you will be helping enormously.

For pictures and more details on this story, visit the news section of Brookvale Online.

WEBLINK www.brookvale.org.uk

Wanted!

Strong volunteers to help lay some paving slabs outside the Village Hall on Saturday 21st July at 10am. Volunteers will be rewarded with Beer and a Ploughman's Lunch. Please contact Lin Chandler (329475) of Pam Banks (352078) for further details.

Lottery results available at our website:

www.brookvale.org.uk

Other news...

Membership

If you have not yet completed your BCA membership application, and would like to take advantage of the benefits of doing so, please contact Maggie Dee (details on back page). Membership is £2.00 per household through to April 2002.

Brookvale Local Trade Directory

We are now compiling a directory of people who have a trade they would like to advertise (free of charge) to residents of Brookvale. Please post a copy of your headed paper/business card with a brief description of the service your company offers to 28 Queens Road, or contact your local Street Representative.

3C Mornings at the Village Hall

If you are a member of the BCA (see above for details on membership), for just 50 pence you can come along and enjoy the 3C's Mornings (Coffee, Cakes and Chat) and catch up on the latest local happenings. The next 3C's Morning will be held at the Village Hall between 10am and 12 noon on 14th July and then every other Saturday thereafter. Contact Maggie Dee for further information

Your Homes and Health are in Danger

Whenever you see a car parked on the double-yellow lines of Brookvale - report it to the police! The chance of you requiring the life-saving assistance of the Emergency Services is probably 1 in 5000 over the next year. When cars are parked selfishly in the path of emergency vehicle access they are putting that one person or household at serious risk. Are you, or your child, prepared to be that person? Don't park on Brookvale's yellow lines and don't allow others to get away with it.

Feedback to Street Reps

The Street Reps have been working through the streets of Brookvale offering BCA Membership. On their journeys, they have received a number of comments that we are now following up including:

- Dangerous parking by employees of the Experanto Sandwich Shop. This has been passed on to our Councillor.
- The suggestion that Quiz Nights be held on other nights. We are looking into the possibility of moving Quiz Nights to Saturdays evenings.
- Group outings to the Theatre. We hope to be able to do something for the autumn season. Any help in organising this would be greatly appreciated.

Car Boot Sale

The BCA will be holding a Car Boot and Table Top Sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 14th July from 10 'til 2. Sellers £4 per boot/table. Book your space early as this will be open to the general public. Call 352078 or 329475 for details.

e**Quiz Buzz** report from Maggie Dee

There was a distinct buzz in the warm, evening air as I walked down Queens Road on Friday 8th June. Clusters of excited people hung about doorways and on the street corner. Something was going on!

Of course, it was the third BCA Quiz Night, which was just where I was headed myself. The Hall was full of more friendly and expectant chatter. Every chair in the place was in use.

I joined my team, one of twenty, and the fun began. Just over three hours later "Death Bye Chocolate" were declared the winners. This team was made up on the night by Dave and Suzanne Dean of East Brookvale and three of the D'Orsi family from West Brookvale. Their greatest gain of the evening, however, is the friendships they have now established. It was a great evening, and I note the next event is Race Night on Friday 20th July. See you there, if not in the street!

Ladies Club report from Julie Morris

On Tuesday May 8th, the group arrived at the hall with mats and comfortable clothing and welcomed Elaine and Kat from Basingstoke Sports Centre. They were treating us to a 'Pilates' exercise work-out class. Twenty ladies of varying ages were in attendance.

Elaine gave us a short history of Pilates. Joseph Piliates, born in Germany in 1880, developed breathing and muscle control exercises for himself. He was a sickly child and teenager and was determined to overcome his illnesses. Joseph then went on to teach others, including War Veterans Rehabilitation. Pilates has now become a very popular form of exercise.

An hour after we started the exercises, we all felt very relaxed and calm. We have arranged for Elaine to visit us again in the autumn for an evening of Yoga. Watch this space for a date.

We met again on Tuesday June 12th. Meg Green, a consultant of Ericksonian Hypnotherapy, Master Practitioner of MLP, Indian Head Masseuse and Reiki Master who practices at the Hackwood Partnership and Basingstoke Sports Centre, joined over 20 ladies at the Hall.

She gave us an insight into all the mentioned complimentary remedies including 'how to overcome problems and fears using your subconscious'. The treatments can apparently help you overcome fear of dentists, help you give up smoking and even aid you in attaining your ideal weight!

We'd like to thank Meg, Elaine and Kat for two very interesting evenings.


Our next meeting will be at 8:00pm on 10th July when Maria Sewell will be introducing us to Virgin Vie cosmetics. There will not be a meeting in August, but we will shortly confirm the theme of the 11th September meeting. Again, watch this space. Please, do come along and join our growing group!

Letter write to: blurbeditor@brookvale.org.uk


We received a lovely long letter from Ruth Buckingham, founder member of the BCA, in response to our farewell to her in the last issue of Blurb. Unfortunately, we don't have enough space here to publish the whole letter. It is, however, available in its entirety on our website.

Ruth would like to thank everyone that has helped keep the BCA alive over the years, particularly Margaret Aubrey, Agnes Wetherby, Win Nash, Phyllis Reed, Miriam Wilde, Pam Mansfield and Ted Blackmore-Squires. Without them, she says, "We would not have been able to fight the 'battles' which have included over the years: the School, Essex Road traffic lights, Victory Roundabout, play areas, the allotments, the proposed stadium and hotel complex, the College redevelopment, the opening of Safeways and the ongoing problem of parking in Brookvale. We have not always won our battles, several times it was touch and go, but I am so pleased that we carried on and the BCA still exists to this day."

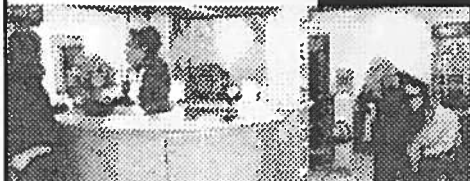
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Travel

National Rail Enquiries 0345 484950
 Stagecoach Information 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 462901
 Queens Road Post Office 01256 322668
 Lost or wayward supermarket trolleys 0500 122221

Emergency Hotlines

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

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council

Main Switchboard 01256 844844
 Community Services 01256 845474
 Conservation Areas 01256 845235
 Community Charge 01256 819599
 Environmental Health 01256 845303
 Parks and Open Spaces 01256 845712
 Town Centre Redevelopment (Stage 2000) 01256 845583

BCA Contacts

Brookvale Community Association
 bca@brookvale.org.uk
 Pam Banks (Chairperson)
 3 Deep Lane - 352078
 Diane Anderson (Secretary)
 2 Chester Place - 351459
 Maggie Dee (Treasurer)
 28 Queens Road - 414708
 Lin Chandler (Hall Booking Agent)
 26 George Street - 329475
 Pamela Mansfield (Lottery Agent)
 20 Southend Road - 327329

Blurb Magazine

Simon Brunger (Editor)
 31 George Street - 07092 278649
 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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dates for your diary

• Tuesday 10th July
 LADIES NIGHT - 8:00pm
 Virgin Vie cosmetics. £2 contribution.

• Saturday 14th July
 CAR BOOT & TABLE TOP SALE
 and 3C's COFFEE MORNING - 10am - 2pm
 At the Village Hall. Full details on page 2.

• Friday 20th July
 RACE NIGHT - 7:30pm
 Suitable for adults and children aged 12 and over. If you've never attended a race night before, come along and join in - its great fun! Call Lin (329475) or John & Pam (352078).

• Sunday 19th August
 TREASURE HUNT WALK
 An afternoon walk with a difference. Work out the answers to the clues and children up to the age of 99 can collect treasure along the way! Details to follow from John & Pam Banks and Lin Chandler.

• Sunday 26th August
 CHILDRENS SPORTS AFTERNOON and PICNIC
 Details to follow.

• Friday 7th September
 WINE QUIZ - 8:00pm
 A 'Call my Bluff' style quiz, brought to us by WINE RACK who are supplying the wine and repartee. This promises to be a fun evening by all accounts, so get ready to test your taste buds. Tickets £6 each. Bring your own nibbles. For further details contact Lin or John & Pam.

• Friday 21st September
 QUIZ NIGHT - 7:30pm start
 Teams of six players please or come along and make up a team and make new friends. Tickets £5 including fish/chicken and chip supper or £2.50 without supper. For further details contact Lin or John & Pam

All events held at the Village Hall, Lower Brook Street, unless otherwise stated.