

blurb!

The regular newsletter of



Brookvale
Community Association

ISSUE 26
December 2004

In this issue: Christmas Party • Car Thefts • Victory Roundabout • Parking • BCA awarded grant • and more...

Brookvale Christmas Party

Saturday 11th December, 3pm - 6pm
Brookvale Village Hall, Lower Brook Street

Christmas will soon be upon us, and what better way to kick off the celebrations than a friendly get-together with your friends, families and neighbours at our Village Hall?

There will be lots of fun activities for children including a magician, craft table and a Christmas story reading. Rumour has it that a VERY SPECIAL PERSON might be making an appearance at some point!

Pots 2 Paint (from Basingstoke Town Centre) will be joining us to give you an opportunity to paint various ceramics (charges apply) - they'd make great personalised Christmas presents!

A quiet area will also be set out for those who simply want to get together for a mince pie and mulled wine!

So we'll see you there?!...



For all the latest local news , events and information, visit our website:

www.brookvale.org.uk

Car Break-ins on the rise

You may have recently received a flyer from Hampshire Constabulary informing residents that car crime is on the increase in the Brookvale area. **Please take this warning seriously.**

We have received a number of calls over the last fortnight from Brookvale residents who have been unfortunate enough to have their cars broken into and possessions stolen.

You can reduce the likelihood of having your car broken into by simply removing any objects (especially money and valuable items) inside the car from view. Covering items with a blanket or sheet simply isn't enough - car thieves now take this as a sign that there is something worth breaking in for.

If your car is broken into, please contact Hampshire Constabulary immediately on 0845 045 4545 to report the incident - even if nothing has been stolen or damaged. The more cases that are reported, the more likely the police are to catch the thieves.

Victory Roundabout works

Renovations have begun on Victory Roundabout. The works are part of a bigger plan to completely overhaul the pedestrian and bicycle routes through this roundabout, making them safer for all. Brookvale Community Association has been involved throughout all stages of this project.

So far, some repointing work has been carried out and the stairs on the Essex Road exit have been re-laid. Planned works include:

- the installation of replacement railings (samples of the new railings will be on display at the Village Hall during the Christmas Party event on 11th December),
- works to the actual subways,
- landscaping,
- a review of the inclines on the various ramps and general improvements for people with mobility and access issues.

As the gradient of the slope on the Alençon Link exit is too steep for wheelchair and mobility vehicle users, Hampshire County Council is now looking at other options for disabled people, including the possibility of installing a lift exclusively for the use of RADAR key holders.

Considerate parking

Parking is a problem for us all in Brookvale. Our streets simply weren't designed to accommodate parking for one car per household, let alone two per household, which is more common these days.

We all hate having to park the car miles away from our front door, but there is little that can be done about this problem.

There has been some talk from the Council about the possibility of installing enforced residents parking on all of Brookvale's congested roads. This is a contentious topic that will need a full consultation with the public. Many residents in East Brookvale have now been living with such a scheme for a number of years and wish that it had never been installed. Even if such a scheme were to be rolled out across the ward, nobody will ever be guaranteed a parking space.

So, in the meantime, until the Council have come up with some creative ideas for managing parking better throughout the area, there are two things that residents could do to be more considerate to their neighbours when parking their cars.

Firstly, if you are lucky enough to have off-road parking such as a driveway or garage, make use of it! If you have a dedicated parking space but don't own a car, how about asking your neighbours if they would like to take advantage of it instead? You could even possibly come to some form of financial agreement - many people spend a lot of money on renting garages simply to have off-road parking. Parking your car off-road means you could be eligible for cheaper car insurance premiums.

And secondly, being conscious about how well you are parking your car can help to ease the problem. Leaving that extra space of three to four feet behind your car in the evening (to make your morning departure a little easier) is usually unnecessary on today's power-assisted steering vehicles.

If you can think of any creative ways that the Council could improve the parking situation in Brookvale, we'd love to hear from you. Please email info@brookvale.org.uk and we'll pass your messages onto our local Councillors.

BCA awarded grant

Brookvale Community Association has been awarded a grant of £8112 from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

The funds were made available for the benefit of a community group by the property developer of a housing development on Worting Road/Sarum Hill.

BCA will be spending the money on installing roller security shutters to our windows and doors - these will replace the current wooden shutters that have now seen better days.

We will also be carrying out some improvements to our toilet facilities to bring them in line with the high standard of decoration throughout the rest of our building.

Victory Hill Street Rep

We are still looking for a Street Rep at Victory Hill to volunteer 30 minutes of their time every other month.

If you would like to do something for your community, please contact Karin Joseph, our Street Rep Co-ordinator for more information (details on page 4).

Lottery changes

Just to remind you that, as outlined in October's issue of Blurb, everything is changing with the Brookvale Lottery - the prizes, the rules of play, how winners are selected... For more information, visit the Latest News section on our website, www.brookvale.org.uk

Wheelie bin problems?

Are the bin men leaving your wheelie bins strewn across the pavement after collection, making it difficult for pedestrians to pass? If so, we'd like to hear from you. The more complaints we receive, the more likelihood we'll have of getting this problem resolved. Please contact our Disability & Mobility Co-ordinator, Chris Hall (details on page 4).

Park renovations

The Council are looking to make a large number of improvements to Victory Park (at the end of Lower Brook Street/Essex Road) and King George V Playing Field (on Deep Lane).

If you have any suggestions or comments, please address them to Simon Brunger, our Communications Officer (details on page 4).

Don't forget, you can rent Brookvale Village Hall at very reasonable hourly rates.

Ideal for parties, small scale theatre productions, presentations and social groups.

For more information, contact our Hall Bookings Agent, Cathy, on (01256) 413993 or email cathy.elford@brookvale.org.uk

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For further details call Jo on
01256 841005 or email jo@joyoga.co.uk

Haymarket Restaurant & Coffee Shop



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meeting friends?

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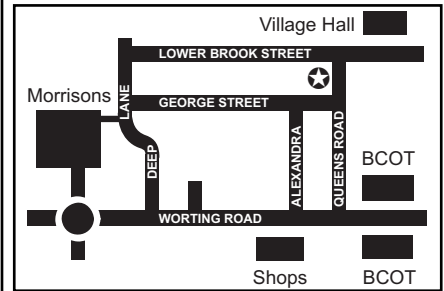
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07981 250573 or email
chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk

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Practicing at The Hackwood Partnership

Event Review

Brookvale Teazer (Quiz Night)

*Brookvale Village Hall,
Friday 22nd October 2004*

Review by Ann McSteen

A miserable wet Friday evening in October, but all was brightness and light in the Village Hall - the Brookvale Teazer was back, and the various teams were ready to do battle.

As ever John Banks, the quizmaster, wrote and presented a wide assortment of questions, some of which were: naming photographs of TV reporters, listening and naming popular music from different decades, and a 'Gold' category whereby the question or answer was associated with the word 'gold'. There were also general knowledge questions. Thanks must be extended to John and his two lovely assistants, Pam and Lin, for their hard work and for making the evening so enjoyable.

The Fit Fifties came out on top and were presented with their certificates, wine and chocolates by the Ian Bennett, Co-Chair of Brookvale Community Association. The team holding up all the others was Halcyon Days.

If you have never been to a Teazer night before, you do not know what you are missing, so do give it a try; you will get a very warm welcome. To the next time - see you there!



BCA Information

More up-to-date information can always be found on our website:
www.brookvale.org.uk

For information on the Village Hall or BCA event bookings, please contact our Hall Bookings Agent:

Cathy Elford
(01256) 413993
cathy.elford@brookvale.org.uk

For information on Blurb or Brookvale.org.uk, or to report local problems, please contact our Communications Officer:

Simon Brunger
(01256) 331962
simon.brunger@brookvale.org.uk

For information on the Brookvale Lottery, please contact our Lottery Agent:

Pam Mansfield
(01256) 324313
pam.mansfield@brookvale.org.uk

For any information on local disability/mobility related issues, please contact our Disability & Mobility Co-ordinator:

Chris Hall
(07981) 250573
chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk

To get in touch with your Street Rep, please call our Street Rep Co-ordinator:

Karin Joseph
(01256) 356116
karin.joseph@brookvale.org.uk

For any other information, please email:

info@brookvale.org.uk

Your local councillors are:

Cllr John Shaw
(01256) 461776
cllr.john.shaw@basingstoke.gov.uk
Cllr Doris Jones
(01256) 415062
cllr.doris.jones@basingstoke.gov.uk

Brookvale Community Association (BCA) is a registered charity. Reg. charity no. 269386.

Coming soon in 2005...

**Murder Mystery Night
Spring Fever Jumble Sale**

Upcoming Events

Brookvale Baby & Toddler Group

*Every Wednesday during term time,
1:15pm - 2:45pm, Village Hall*
See our website for more details.

Christmas Party

Saturday 11th December, 3pm, Village Hall
See the front page for more details.

Four Dames in Search of a Panto

Sunday 23rd January, 3pm, Village Hall
Proteus Theatre presents, for one season only, an unashamed homage to that great theatrical tradition... the panto! Suitable for adults and children from 7 years upwards. Tickets £6, please contact Cathy Elford (details in the box to the right).