

blurb!

the bi-monthly newsletter of the BCA

ISSUE 8

MAY 2001

www.brookvale.org.uk

What do you think of the BCA? Come to the 2001 AGM...

Its that time of year again, and for the first time in quite a few years, we have a positive view and report for the Community.

This time last year, the only possible future for the BCA was closure. We had virtually lost the Village Hall and feedback and involvement from residents was zero. This resulted in an Extraordinary General Meeting last June.

Well, you already know the outcome; the Hall was rebuilt and opened its doors again last December. Since February there has been a social event each month. The Quiz nights have already caught the attention of enthusiasts around the town. Most importantly, we have a new and dedicated Management Committee.

The only problem is that they are in dire need of support; everything that is happening is being organised by a handful of people (history repeating itself!). Take a look at what has happened over the past year, and imagine what could be achieved in the future with a more active approach from YOU. It is not difficult, no previous experience is required, and you govern the time given.

The whole reason the Brookvale Community Association exists is for the welfare of the residents and the area. It has helped in more ways than you can imagine to keep Brookvale 'special'.

If you are new to the area, feel as though you have more time to spare, would like to hear exactly what has been happening, or have some comments to make, please come along on the 24th May and join us in celebrating the first year of the new BCA. Wine and cheese will be served during the evening. Everyone is welcome and if you have not visited the Hall since the re-opening, this is the ideal opportunity to do so.

There is a warm welcome waiting, and we genuinely do look forward to seeing you.

Pam Mansfield
BCA Chairperson

The BCA's Annual General Meeting for 2001

Starts at 7:30pm at the Village Hall on Thursday 24th May.

The Village Hall is on Lower Brook Street (turn right at the bottom of Queens Road or Deep Lane)

Communications Update

Please note that 'Blurb!' has now become a bi-monthly publication. The reason for this is purely the ongoing costs. Don't worry, 'Blurb!' will stay! We just have to reduce the frequency until more money can be found to cover it.

Good news - our website is now officially open and features the latest news and events as well as chat and BCA information areas. Local information and a 'History of Brookvale' area will be added soon. Visit: www.brookvale.org.uk

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Distributed to over 700 local households and businesses

Parent & Toddler

Are you looking to attend a regular social event thats as much fun for you as it is your kids? The Parent & Toddler Group reopened on Wednesday 28th February and is meeting every Wednesday afternoon during the school term between 1.15 - 2.45pm at Brookvale Village Hall in Lower Brook Street.

The Group is also currently looking for donations of toys. If you have any that your children no longer use (some good examples are push-along toys, sit-in toys, stickle bricks, Duplo, jigsaw puzzles, books) and you would like to help the Group, please contact Pam Mansfield on 327329 or Mandy Pratchett on 413738. Alternatively, please bring them along any Wednesday afternoon to the Village Hall. Thank you.

b!

Farewell, Ruth

It is not often that we single out individuals within the BCA, but Ruth Buckingham is a very special person. Ruth was one of the first stalwarts of the Association, and I am sure everyone will agree that, over the years, Ruth's enthusiasm became the fuel that was required to sustain it.

Ruth has now retired, and has moved away recently to be closer to her daughter and grandchildren. No longer will we hear the doorbell ringing or the letterbox rattling at eleven at night - sometimes it was later - as leaflets or information was delivered.

Her gentle nagging, which always ensured that duties were carried out, the time she always found to call and listen to friends and neighbours, all this will be missed.

I am sure that everyone who knew Ruth will join us in wishing her a happy and long retirement.

- Pam Mansfield, BCA Chairperson

b!

Beech Lodge

Many Brookvale residents living in the Deep Lane, Highfield Chase and Worthing Road area are familiar with the large white, detached house hidden behind a tall hedge bordering on to Worthing Road and the alleyway between Highfield Chase and the Wilton Close maisonettes. This is Brook Lodge, the former home of Miss Daphne Wren.

Some local people were concerned that the house would be bought for speculative development and wondered as to its future. The good news

rent our
new hall

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Brookvale 
Village Hall

is that Les and Joan Carnell have bought the property and have long term plans to turn it into a family home. They wish to restore the house to its former external glory, while modernising the interior in line with today's housing standards.

Les and Joan are interested in the house's history and it's former owners. Beech Lodge was built around 1850 as a lodge for Highfield House. It has been extended over the years and used as a doctor's surgery for a time and also as a bed and breakfast

place. Joan has been told that Madame Pallas, a recluse, lived there. She has also been told about a chapel in one of the rooms and of a Sunday school associated with the house.

If any of you remember or have any information about Beech Lodge's past, it's new owners would be interested to hear from you.

You can contact the Carnells by getting in touch with the editor of Blurb - please see details on back page.



Beech Lodge, as it used to be

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Deep Chasers chase to victory!

Enthusiastic teams met the Quiz Night challenge on Friday March 30th. 'The Gang of Four plus Three', 'The Badgers', 'Five Star', 'The Deep Chasers', 'Jamie Oliver's Cardboard Cook Book', 'The Dodgy Half Dozen' and 'Crawley and Miles Crew' bit on the cerebral bullet with determination. They amazed themselves with the nuggets of knowledge they could recall!

After being refreshed midway with fish and chip suppers, the teams battled on to the end. Jokers were played optimistically on what individual teams thought would be their high scoring round.

In the end the Deep Chasers, a team composed of residents from Highfield Chase and Deep Lane, won through and claimed their prizes of bottles of wine. Well done!

The next Quiz will be on FRIDAY JUNE 8th. You can make your own team of up to six members or come along and join a team - it is fun! Note the date and please remember to book early.

Beetle Drive

Everyone that came to the Beetle Drive on Friday March 16th found it great fun. Some participants had not played this game for years but they didn't take long to remember. Newcomers to the game soon found they got to grips with the scoring and the drawing of various parts of the Beetle's anatomy. In fact some of the beetles drawn were works of art in their own right but would have confounded the likes of David Bellamy!

Dice were shaken and rolled at a fantastic rate. Sixes for heads, fives for bodies before anyone could start collecting eyes, feelers, legs and tail. On the shout of 'Beetle', everyone added up their score, the winner from each table moving to the next table.

After refreshments, a few more games were played. Then the final scores were added and the winner was declared as Cheryl Billington, who collected a large box of chocolates. As it was a Beetle Drive there was also a prize for the lowest score and this went to Shirley Alexander, who was given a large Easter Egg. Well done everybody!

Brookvale Ladies Club

The Ladies met for the first time on March 13th. Unfortunately, Rosie was ill so the advertised Beauty Evening had to be cancelled. This was replaced by the Three P's - Pam, Paper and Paste!

Exciting colourful objects appeared in the hall - a blue and gold lamp base, a large cat, even a parrot on a perch to mention just a few. Pam demonstrated the art of model making, producing a wonderful crow. Then it was on with the aprons and our turn to have a go. A tortoise and a kitten appeared to join the paper and paste menagerie. The whole experience proved very therapeutic and evoked childhood memories of black gluey hands and weird and wonderful papier mache shapes.

The second meeting was on April 10th and artistic flair was inspired by Victoria. Many residents will remember she owned the florist shop on the corner of George Street and Queens Road. With scissors poised and flowers and greenery on the tables in front of us, we watched and listened to Victoria as she persuaded us that we too could produce a passable arrangement. Quiet concentration interspersed with merriment as the arrangement took shape. Again, a very enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday May 8th at 8pm at the Village Hall. Club members will be treated to an introduction to Pilates. We look forward to welcoming new members.



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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

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

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dates for your diary

- **Tuesday 8th May** **LADIES NIGHT - 8:00pm**
 At the Village Hall. This meeting's event is 'An Introduction to Pilates'. Suitable for all ages and fitness levels. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a mat or a towel for the floor. For more information contact Lin (329475). Future meetings on Tuesday June 12th and Tuesday July 10th, all at 8pm at the Village Hall.
- **Thursday 24th May** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 7:30pm**
 At the Village Hall. Full details on the front page.
- **Friday 8th June** **QUIZ NIGHT - 7:30pm start**
 Form a team of up to six players. Tickets £5.00 including fish/chicken and chip supper. Book early to avoid disappointment. A special invitation to The Northern Stars, Southern Belles and Deep Chasers! Bring your own drinks and glasses. For further information and tickets contact John & Pam (352078) or Lin (329475).
- **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).