

blurb!

The bi-monthly newsletter of the Brookvale Community Association

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www.brookvale.org.uk

Arthur Attwood MBE 1916-2002

Arthur Attwood, the town historian also known as 'Mr Basingstoke', passed away on Tuesday 19th February, aged 86. A well-known and much loved figure, he was a stalwart servant of Basingstoke for many years, and will be sorely missed by a very great number of people.

Arthur was born in Basingstoke on 13th January 1916. After living in Essex Road, Arthur moved to Lower Brook St. when he was 4 years old. He remained at that address for the rest of his life. He went to primary school in Brookvale and secondary school at Fairfields. He joined St Michael's Church Choir aged 12, where he remained as a chorister for over 73 years.

In 1934, at the age of 18, he became Badge Secretary for Basingstoke District Scouts. It was a post he was to hold for Basingstoke and later Basingstoke East District for 67 years, right up until his death. For his services he was awarded the Silver Acorn in 1977, with a bar added in 1998.

On leaving school, Arthur had a choice of three jobs to go to, but he finally settled for an apprenticeship at Thornycroft's truck manufacturers, where he became a turner on the centre lathe.

He met his wife Nellie as a teenager and they married on 23rd December 1939. They had a daughter, Betty, born in 1940 and a son, Robin, born in 1949.

During the Second World War, Arthur joined the Thornycroft Home Guard, where he became a Corporal and a Lewis gun instructor. Thornycroft's had an Operatic Soci-

ety, which was to become the Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society, which Arthur became keenly involved in, becoming secretary until his retirement in 1976.

In 1951, Arthur became a Governor of St John's Church of England Primary School, a post he held for 49 years.

Arthur was heavily involved in aspects of running the town by this time and his name features in studies conducted to lay out the New Town in order to accommodate the London Overspill. He was always interested in the development of communities such as Popley and Brighton Hill.

Arthur is probably best remembered for his journalistic talents, which began with reporting football matches for the Evening News. In the 1960's he took a calculated risk and left Thornycroft's to take up a full-time post at the Evening News. In 1970 he was offered a full time post at the Hants and Berks Gazette, where he produced a variety of articles, including 'Know your Neighbour', the Gazette Crossword, Flashbacks and of course his much-loved weekly history article which later went on to incorporate 'Ask Arthur'.

In 1980 Arthur published his first book: 'Basingstoke: Arthur Attwood's Look into the Past'. More books followed, and his last book 'The Illustrated History of Basingstoke' sold out on it's initial print run.

If he were any other person, Arthur would have retired at 65 in

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a round-up of
the local events

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BCA Contacts

*Distributed to
local households and
businesses*

JUBILEE FETE

Planning has begun for a Jubilee Fete for Sunday September 15th. So please start collecting items for the Tombola prizes etc. NOW. Offers of help, brilliant ideas etc. contact: Wendy Moore-320136

3 C's Coffee Morning

Every alternate
Saturday 10 am till Noon
Village Hall
Call in
for Coffee, Cake and Chat

*For further details
Contact Maggie Dee 414708*
EVERYONE WELCOME

continued on page two >

Arthur Attwood cont.

1981. His response, more work! He started teaching local history classes in the evenings, which became immensely popular.

In 1989 Arthur became Freeman of the Borough of Basingstoke and Deane, an award of which he was proud. In the 2000 New Year's Honours List he was awarded the MBE in recognition of his outstanding services to the local community. Never was an honour so richly deserved.

Life was tough for Arthur in his later years. He was diagnosed with diabetes. His daughter, Betty, died of cancer in 1982, deeply affecting him and Nellie. Then in 1993, after 53 years of marriage, Nellie died from cancer. Arthur adapted well, though in the last few years, his diabetes and old age meant that he could not always do what he used to do. He remained fiercely independent. It was Arthur's wish to remain in Lower Brook St. until the bitter end, and he got his wish, dying suddenly in his home, following a fall. He leaves behind a son, Robin and six grandchildren, plus an extended family of several thousand friends and residents of Basingstoke.
Andrew McCormick - Grandson

Victory Roundabout

The meeting on the 31st January 2002, was very informative. The discussion between the residents (15) and the Scrutiny Panel and Roger Archer-Reeves from the Planning Dept. resulted in a better understanding of the overall picture of the traffic plan, though pedestrians using Victory Roundabout came very low on priorities. Martin Biermann requested that reports and answers be sought to those questions that could not be answered, ready for the next meeting. Basingstoke County Councillors and a representative from Hampshire County Council Planning will be invited to join us at the next meeting, Thursday 7th March 2002, 6:30pm Brookvale Village Hall. Do join us.
Pam Mansfield -Scrutiny Panel

Brookvale

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To book the newly refurbished
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reasonable rates,
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80 Years Young

On Sunday 17th February with her family, Brookvale friends, past and present BCA committee members, trustees and supporters Margaret Aubrey celebrated her 80th birthday.

A happy afternoon was spent chatting and catching up with friends. The table was full of birthday presents, cards and flowers. A lovely buffet was provided and birthday cake. Margaret blew out the candles and everyone sang 'Happy Birthday'.

Entertainment was provided by Ted 'Jethro' Squires, who kept us chuckling all through.

We finished off the evening with everyone saying how much they had enjoyed themselves. The only sorrow was the absence of friends, due to illness or other commitments.

Margaret has been involved in all of Brookvale's events and activities, playing a major role in the fund raising to build the Village Hall and being a long serving committee member from the earliest days up until the present day. It's what keeps Margaret going and 80 years young!
- Ruth Buckingham

End of an Era

For the last 25 years (or more) on the second Saturday of each November Victory Green, near the Town Centre, has been full of people looking into the sky to see what became the largest free firework display in the Basingstoke area.

In the early days a guy competition preceded events. These were then put on the huge bonfire before it was lit, which in its turn warmed the occasion. The firework display was set in the middle of the green and onlookers watched behind a roped fence.

Then, in an effort to extend the audience area, because of growing popularity, the fireworks were displayed from the other side of the ring road. Families came in droves to Victory Green, giving generous donations to the collectors for the next year's show.

In spite of the support of the Council Leisure Services Dept., we just became too successful. The growing safety regulations and the fact that the site is no longer suitable has forced the BCA to make the decision to end the annual firework display.

There have been no accidents. Everyone has enjoyed the displays. So along with the Bonfire Boys, the BCA thought it best to finish on a high with a good record.

The Brookvale Community Association would like to thank all those who supported the displays and especially The Bonfire Boys who trained, at their own expense, and spent many hours of hard work designing and firing the displays. A big thank you to The Bonfire Boys, for without you the name Brookvale would not have been heard all over the Loddon Valley.

Pam Banks- Chair BCA

b!

LOTTERY WINNERS

Date	Lottery No.	Winner	Address
5/0102	140	Mrs Heddersley	9 George St.
12/01/02	200	Miss Jones	44 George St.
19/01/02	497	Harry Pullinger	23 Deep Lane
26/01/02	999	Nicky Freeth	34 Worting Rd.

WATERCOLOUR CHALLENGE by Julie Morris

Jill Smith, a watercolour artist, gave us a very interesting insight into her experience of being selected for Watercolour Challenge TV programme. After three rounds organised at Fawley Power Station, Marwell Zoological Park and an airfield in Gloucestershire Jill got through to the final at High Grove House, where as a runner-up she won a painting holiday.

Jill said it was a very nerve racking experience, coping with rain, being asked to freeze your position for the cameras, not knowing the subject or where you would be for the next round, plus the early starts to the day and the late finishes. Thank you Jill.

BROOKVALE WINE QUIZ by Les Carnell

You might think that the good people of Brookvale would have scant knowledge of such a dubious subject as WINE but under the stewardship of Wine Rack of Arlesford, teams fought tooth and nail to demonstrate their quaffing credentials. Simon and his colleagues tested our palates with three white and three red wines. All we had to do was, in 'Call My Bluff' fashion, identify the wine and for extra points guess the price.

At the end of six rounds two teams were neck and neck with 9 points each. In the end 'Never Mind the Bouquet' team just pipped 'Committed Outlaws' to the post shouting 'Red' to the question, 'What coloured grape is mostly used to make champagne?'

A great evening and special thanks to Wine Rack for their time and more importantly their wine!

REFLEXOLOGY by Gail Lodge

Ladies Night, 12th February, covered the subject of Reflexology. Our speaker and therapist was Clare Farley who practises at Health Works on Basing View.

In her quiet, gentle voice Clare told us some of the history of Reflexology and using a chart to demonstrated how the areas of the feet relate to areas of the body. Then it was time for hands on experience as Rosie volunteered to be the guinea-pig, while Clare answered our questions. After 10-15 minutes of Clare massaging her feet, Rosie's face had a look of total bliss.

SKITTLES EVENING by Janie King

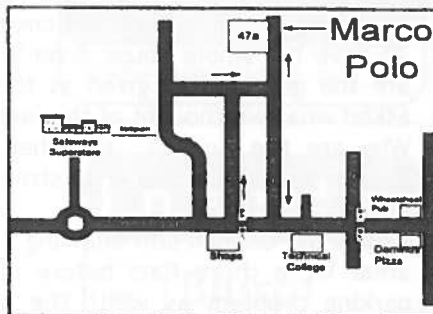
There was a very good turn out to this exciting and competitive Friday Skittles Evening. Brookvale folk came along to practise and, in some cases, to show off their bowling skills. Once split up into seven teams and amid much laughter, individuals developed their own techniques and interesting, sometimes dangerous, tactics. There were even some strikes!

After a break, where players enjoyed a good ploughman's supper, play was resumed and teams tried to gain the lead in the last two rounds. The 'Strikers' were the supreme champions with a score of 140. Les and Lin were top scorers and after a nail biting play off Les won through. A final exciting game of 'Killer' was played to cheers and cries of dismay, whilst players were knocked out. Joan, keeping her cool, refused to be beaten and won the prize to resounding applause.

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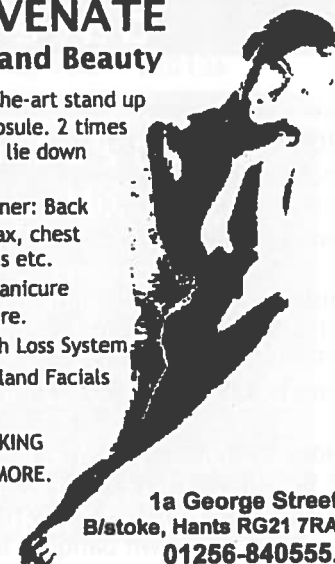
•Arasis Inch Loss System

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•And lots MORE.



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Give us the blurb! Your comments and views

Conservation Questions for Residents

How many people are still happy with the idea of a conservation area? The following are the reasons I ask the question:

1. Replacing standard windows costs approximately £11,000. To have the whole house done in UPVC costs £2,500. Why are the grants NOT given as these were promised when asked what we thought of the idea?
2. Why are the Council NOT helping in the changes like Church Square i.e. old style street lights? Is it because we are NOT on show?
3. Why is the Council still allowing flats to be planned for the area? Were there flats before in the old days and a car parking problem as well? The new flats at the end of George Street have plastic fascia boards for the gutters. Can we do this now?
4. Should we the residents of the area go back to the old normal way of things and reap the rewards of cheaper housing repairs, lower fuel bills etc.?
5. The Government keeps telling us to help with the greenhouse problem but we cannot as old windows/doors etc. let the warm air out. Don't we have to play our part in looking after the planet for the people to come?
6. The idea of a conservation area is good to get votes, but once it costs money no-one wants to know. Lets do something before it is too late.

If anyone else has NOT yet noticed can I point out that the area is looking very run down. The cost of repairs means that people are NOT doing anything. If you look around the area 95% of the old windows are in a poor state of repair. The question is WHY? We don't want people moving from the area—or do we?

Queen's Road Resident

(Name and address has been supplied)

EDITOR: This letter has been forwarded to the Council Department concerned. If you would like to comment on this matter please send letters to the editor- details above.

BCA Contacts

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26 George Street — 329475
Pam Mansfield (Lottery Agent)
20 Southend Road — 324313

Blurb Magazine

Pam Banks (Editor)
3 Deep Lane - 01256-352078
DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE
APRIL 17TH 2002

THE CHEESEMAN

The Ladies Tuesday Club have invited Jeff Webb of 'Harvest Delicatessen and Bakery' in Arlesford to come along on May 14th and give a talk and demonstration on English cheese.

He visits many tiny farms around the country tasting the locally produced cheese. There will be a chance to try the various cheeses and taste the difference between Supermarket cheese and the real McCoy! Partners and friends are welcome to join us for an interesting and tasty evening!

Diane Anderson

dates for your diary

• Every Wednesday 1:15 pm — 2:45 pm
BROOKVALE PARENT and TODDLER GROUP
This friendly group meets at the Village Hall.
Do come a long and join us. For details:
Mandy 0778-7158479

• Tuesday 12th March
LADIES NIGHT 8:00 pm
TUPPERWARE DEMONSTRATION
Contact: 329475 or 352078

• Friday 15th March
THE BROOKVALE TEAZER 7:30 pm
The quiz night under a new name!
Bring along your own banquet and drinks
Tickets £3-00 Contact: 329475 or 352078

Tuesday 9th April
LADIES NIGHT 8:00 pm
CAKE ART and DECORATION
Contact: 329475 or 352078

• Friday 12th April
FRIDAY NIGHT FEVER 8:00 pm
An 80's Disco—so dress the part!
Bring along your own banquet and drinks
Tickets £3-00 Contact: 329475 or 352078

• Tuesday 14th May
LADIES NIGHT—8:00 pm -partners welcome
CHEESEMAN FROM ARLESFORD
A demonstration/talk and tasting of Cheese
Contact: 329475 or 352078 (see article)