

blurb!

the monthly newsletter of the BCA

ISSUE 5

DECEMBER 2000

www.brookvale.org.uk

Fireworks, Father Christmas, Salsa and Songs

To mark the reopening of Brookvale Village Hall on Saturday December 9th 2000, a programme of events has been organised. Come along and join in the celebrations - there is something for everyone and it's free!

Father Christmas will begin his official tour of Brookvale at about 1.00 pm. He will be travelling by horse drawn carriage, driven by Simon Baker. They will travel from Rochford Road to the Hall via Solby's Road, Southend Road, and Essex Road, along Worthing Road, down Alexandra Road into George Street and then into Lower Brook Street, by way of Deep Lane. Children keep a look out and don't miss him!

Arthur Attwood has kindly agreed to officially open the Village Hall at 2.00pm. Sue Skelton will also be there with a myriad of activities for younger residents up to the age of 8 years. Father Christmas will join them at the hall. Come along children, join in the

activities and meet Father Christmas and tell him your seasonal requests! If anyone would like to write letters to Father Christmas to make sure he does not forget, Pam Mansfield has promised to take them to his home in Lapland (yes, she is going to see him!). We do ask that parents remain, thus enabling everyone to enjoy the event.

Between 4:00pm and 5:00pm there will be a Disco for those who are 'too old' for Father Christmas and then at 5.30pm until 6.30pm Arthur Lister, a member of Basingstoke Male Voice Choir, will entertain our more adult residents accompanied by the accordion. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served. If any of our elderly residents have difficulty getting to the hall for this event please contact Pam Mansfield on 327329 and transport can be arranged.

Ruth Buckingham and her ladies will open the

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new feature focusing on Brookvale's talented individuals

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Distributed to over 700 local households and businesses

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kitchen for 'light refreshments' during these events. If anyone can help with the provision of mince pies, fairy cakes etc. please contact Ruth Buckingham on 325194.

The 'Brookvale Bonfire Boys' start their exhibition of Pyrotechnics at 7.00 pm at Victory Green. It will be an aerial display. So for your safety and enjoyment, part of the green will be roped off and we ask you to keep behind the ropes. This promises to be as good as past firework events so bring along your family, friends and neighbours. If anyone would like to help out as a marshal and 'bucket collector' contact Pam Mansfield.

Quickly change into your dancing gear for Salsa Dancing with Brando at 8:30pm. Brando will give an hour of salsa dance tuition in the hall - a good opportunity for you to learn something different or brush up your steps. Then from 9.30pm until 11.30pm it will be free and easy time in the hall. You'll be able to carry on with the Salsa moves learnt, shuffle round the floor, disco dance or just sit with friends enjoying a drink and nibbles and appreciating our new Hall. We are unable to provide a bar so please bring your own tittle and nibbles.

There is something for everyone so make a date in your diary for Saturday December 9th and come along and join in. Meet old friends and make new ones. Remind your neighbours. **DON'T FORGET OR YOU'LL MISS THE FUN.**

b!

BCOT meeting

The BCA periodically have liaison meetings with BCOT. We felt you may benefit from the following information:

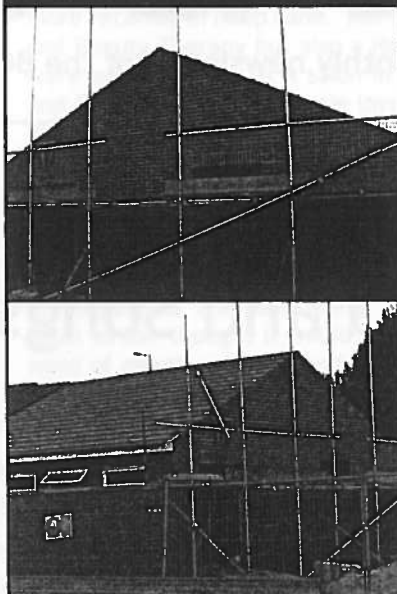
BCOT's car park is going to be used by the council during the Christmas period. All traffic and pedestrians are being directed along Worting Road.

Thomas Cook have an office in the north building of BCOT offering all the facilities of a travel shop (not sure about currency). It is open to the public during the week, Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 7pm and on Fridays between 9.30am and 5.30pm. Their telephone number is 721750 - it could save you a walk into town and avoids the crowds!

Workshops were suggested which may be useful to residents: 'Lime Plaster Work', 'Scarf Joints'

Village Hall UPDATE

b!



Opens 9th December - Opens 9th December - Opens 9th December

- New doors and windows are fixed and glazed (except the front door which will be fixed and painted last).
- Plastering and screeding is complete as is the annex loft and all the ceilings.
- The 5 new heaters have been installed, electrical fittings are being fitted and power is on.
- The kitchen installation, works to the disabled toilets, external works (kerbs, paths, soakaways and road crossover) and internal decoration has commenced.
- The new vinyl flooring has been ordered and will be fitted after decoration.
- All the finishing touches are being made ready for the opening in a few days time!

to repair windows and door frames, 'Wiring Safely' and 'Restoring Victorian Handrails'. If anyone is interested or has alternative ideas please contact Pam Mansfield on 327329.

b!

Victory Flooding

The roundabout continues to be a problem for pedestrians walking to and from Town. It has also been exacerbated by the current heavy rain.

A meeting with BDBC was arranged. Unfortunately, owing to illness, Tony Curtis (Planning and Transportation) was unable to attend. However, Roger Archer-Reeves (Head of Traffic and Construction) was on hand to answer our questions.

The B.C.A strongly expressed their disgust at the length of time it is taking to resolve the problem of the Victory Roundabout subway, its gradient and the lack of consultation with local parties.

It was pointed out to Mr Archer-Reeves that the existing gradient was far too steep and the subway was often flooded. Several previous meetings had been held and the B.C.A. had been assured that the problem would be put right.

He outlined the problems associated with the water table. He said that the present pumps could only deal with surface water, there is no system to deal with the ground water and this problem is going to be very expensive to rectify. To level the gradients would

cost in the region of half a million pounds. Services such as gas and BT would have to be moved.

Pam Mansfield said that she'd actually seen a lady fall out of her wheelchair because of the steepness of the subway. Jane Griggs pointed out that there had been no alternative way allowed to cross the road.

Mr Archer-Reeves said that the money for road works did not come from public money but from the developers.

Roger Blackmore-Squires of the BCA reminded Mr Archer-Reeves that similar complaints had been made back in 1977 and it had been agreed that it would be dealt with.

Mr Archer-Reeves said that an engineer had been commissioned and that when he got the Cabinet report and a decision had been made, he would consult the BCA. He added that new council Cabinet had already assured that all meeting would be public.

The BCA reiterated the point that we want to be involved and that we need this problem solved in months, not years. Mr Archer-Reeves invited the BCA to write to him about our concerns. He said that he would act as a liaison between the BCA and the council.

PLEASE REMEMBER to call the Council on 845334 when you find the subway impossible to use thus proving to the council that this is a real problem. Timberlake Road is not safe to cross and we do not want this situation to drag on any longer than necessary.

b!

Give us the blurb! - your comments and views

Christmas Message

Do you walk into town for Christmas late night shopping? The town itself is full of bustle, people trying to find presents and gifts for family and friends. Some find this an enjoyable experience, listening to the bands playing festive music and the old carols and passing seasons greetings with those they meet. The shops themselves are warm and brightly decorated, which help with the buying and paying.

On the way home the houses with Christmas lights and trees in their windows look inviting and welcoming. They shine out and fill the darkness with expectancy, hope and goodwill.

It is a special time, a time for families and friends. Some folk do not have families and friends near at this time or the rest of the year and may feel left out and lonely. Let's share our Christmas and make the season of goodwill last all year.

A little brown bird from the window flew down.
He perched on the manger stall.
He sang the song he'd learned from the angel throng,
Of peace, love and goodwill to all.

So may this song of old Christmas past
Fill you with happiness and good cheer
And it's message of peace, hope and love
Stay with you through the New Year.

A happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

Brookvale Community Association

Maybe we can help each other?

Are you a lone parent, a long way from home? I'm no longer a 'spring chicken' but I still have a lot to offer the community and every now and then I like to go out in the evening, sometimes the daytime.

My problem, like so many others in similar circumstances, is that I don't have a 'bank of babysitters' to call upon. This means that even my attendance at BCA committee meetings is never certain.

- So:
- if you are trapped in a similar situation and would like to get together with others to find a mutual solution, then call on me on the number below.
 - if you are of a responsible babysitting age and would like to earn a little extra cash without going beyond your neighbourhood then please call me on 01256 414708.

Maggie Dee

A message from your local councillor

Concern has been expressed about the new road layout at the junction of Deep Lane and Lower Brook Street at the entrance to Millennium Court.

If residents have any views, either for or against, could you kindly write to me at:

Councillor Lynden Jones
c/o The Civic Offices
London Road
Basingstoke
RG21 4AH

or call me on 01256 325474. Thank you.

Councillor Lynden Jones



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47a Queens Road, Basingstoke

**** BOOK NOW FOR CHRISTMAS ****
Gift vouchers available

local:talent

Rosie Banks



At the Marco Polo Salon you will find a young Brookvale entrepreneur following the fine example set by Karen herself. Rosie Banks of The Beauty Studio is just 21 but has already got four years in training and two years of salon experience behind her. Rosie was born in Basingstoke and lived firstly in Solbys Road but more recently in Deep Lane. Her training at BCOT covered not only Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy but also a Nail Technician course. The following two years were spent working at a salon in Farnham and yet more training with Decleor and OPI Nail Company. Rosie loves the world of Nail Art and trained with Gina Wallis, three time UK National Nail Art Champion.

It was while pulling pints as a part-time barmaid at the Red Lion that her boyfriend Chris saw an advert in the local paper. The "Beauty Therapist Wanted" ad was the start of the relationship with Karen at Marco Polo and after a number of meetings the pair agreed to open The Beauty Studio. Rosie had to put together a business plan to take to the bank manager but with the help of her parents, and some advice from an accountant, she found it wasn't as difficult as she thought it would be. A combination of a leaflet drop in the area, word of mouth referrals and regulars from the hair salon, the young business-woman was on her way.

Rosie enjoys providing her clients with the treatments they want and loves pampering them. The range of treatments is extensive and whether you fancy a massage or a manicure, facial or French polish, sun bed or skin diagnosis, there's no need to travel miles from home. I am pretty tempted to try out Rosie's nail art skills myself and she enjoys this most of all. Rosie's advice to other would-be entrepreneurs is to think carefully before jumping in feet first. "Have a brain storming session and make a plan before you start. Stick to it and hold on to the dream, with lots of work hard hopefully you'll get to your goal". It sounds like this young lady is well on her way.

TF

Do you know someone who is worthy of a mention in our local:talent column? If you would like to nominate somebody to be in local:talent, please contact the editor (details below).

blurb! is available on CD or cassette for the visually impaired. If you know somebody that would benefit from receiving blurb! in either format, please contact the editor.

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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