

# blurb!

the monthly newsletter of the BCA

ISSUE 6

JAN/FEB 2001

[www.brookvale.org.uk](http://www.brookvale.org.uk)

## Celebrations for new Brookvale Hall

Despite the uncertainty of the weather, the reopening of the Brookvale Village hall took place on Saturday December 9th at 2:00 pm. Father Christmas arrived at the hall in a magnificent two-horse wagonette provided by Voice Products and driven by Simon Baker. He had toured the streets of Brookvale in style and joined Arthur Attwood who cut the ribbon to officially open the Hall.

Unfortunately at that point it rained and everyone went into the hall for the speeches. The hall was full. Arthur Attwood gave a brief resume of the Association in relation to the Brookvale area and wished everyone continued success for the future. Pam Mansfield responded with thanks to all concerned, both past and present. She then asked Councillor Lynden Jones to step forward to see the unveiling of a plaque by the committee room. When he realized it was called The Lynden Jones Room he was very surprised and moved by

the honour. Lynden Jones has been and is a strong champion of Brookvale. He was lost for words and acknowledged that this was not usually a problem!

Ruth Buckingham, a former chairperson of the BCA for many years, whose determination along with Pam Mansfield and others kept the BCA alive, offered a vote of thanks to everyone. She thanked Pam Mansfield for her hard work as present chairman especially dealing with the heavy load brought about by the fire and its aftermath and Ted Blackmore-Squires for his valuable professional help and advice in getting the hall up ready to run again.

Then the programme of events got underway. Sue Skelton entertained a large lively group of younger children and Father Christmas delighted them with presents. Though the disco was poorly attended, those who did come enjoyed themselves.

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a whole double page spread of photos taken from the opening

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organisations and local bodies

*Distributed to over 700 local households and businesses*

# Hall Opening - The Pictures

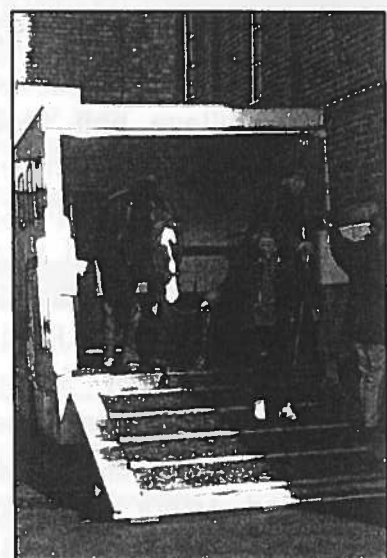


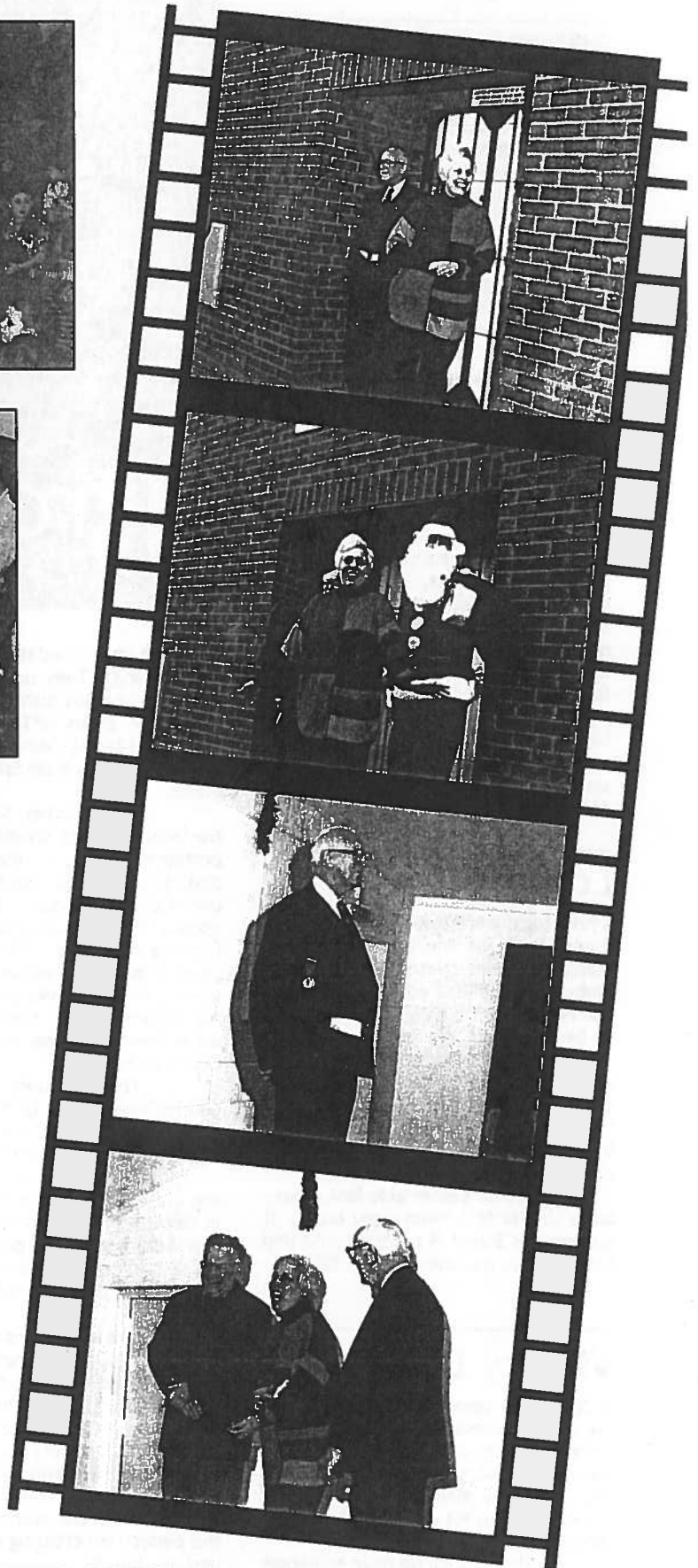
### This page:

Top half of page - Last-minute touches are made to the hall and BCA organisers get organising! Right - the horses are let out of their lorry ready for Santa. Below - Santa and his horse-drawn carriage take to the streets for a tour of Brookvale. Bottom left and above - the adult residents enjoy themselves and the new hall.

### Next page:

Right-hand film strip - Pam Mansfield and Santa join Arthur Attwood for the official opening of the hall. Cllr. Lynden Jones is brought up on to the stage for the opening of the Lynden Jones Room (bottom frame). Left hand column - Sue Skelton entertains her captive audience and Santa Claus is on hand taking all the Christmas requests from those who haven't misbehaved over the last year!





## Hall Opens

*continued from page 1*

Arthur Lester entertained an appreciative group of the older residents with songs and banter. They enjoyed a glass of mulled wine and mince pies and, encouraged by Arthur, joined in the singing. Afterwards the skies over Victory Green were lit up by the pyrotechnics of the Brookvale Bonfire Boys.

Luckily the weather was cooperative and everyone was thrilled by a fine firework display.

The Salsa lesson went with a swing. Some folk could be heard counting eight beats under their breath trying to put the steps together. Brando was very impressive and the ladies found their steps improved when guided by him! Those who came along thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

It was a successful day with so many residents, new and old, coming along supporting and joining in events. This has given committee members encouragement to plan more events for the residents of Brookvale.

So WATCH THIS SPACE! If you have any ideas on this matter please contact Blurb or your street representative. HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

**b!**

## Lost Property

A few items were lost during the Children's Party at the hall opening: 1 Plastic Cavalier Sword, 1 pink stain embroidered pillow edged in lace and 1 silver sequin Dorothy bag containing 18 bangles.

These were party props and were not meant to be taken away. If you or your child took them by mistake, please contact Sue Skelton on 01256 418978 or drop them round to her at 11 Alexandra Road.

Arthur Lester also lost a pen-knife similar to a swiss army knife. If anyone has found it please could you contact Pam Mansfield on 327329.

**b!**

## Victory Update

In December some of the worst flooding on the roundabout occurred. Following a conversation with Lynden Jones, Roger Arthur-Reeves attended the December Management Committee meeting to let us know the Council's current plans on this area.

The Council do have someone

## rent our new hall

Whatever your occasion be it a wedding, family party or bar-mitzvah, we believe the brand new Hall is the best, cleanest, newest, most central Basingstoke location for it!

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

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Brookvale  
Village Hall



checking the roundabout twice a day for flooding. They have had two separate companies survey the area and correction plans will be ready to be submitted to the 'New Cabinet' in January. Hopefully a decision will then be made.

Exactly when the problem will be tackled is not known. The biggest problem is that all the service companies have their equipment running under the roundabout. Simply it would appear that the substrata in that area forms a mini lake. The natural water level is only one metre below ground level, and the drainage system is only for surface water; this results in constant flooding of the subways (as if we didn't know!).

The tributary of the River Lodden now actually runs from Essex Road under Victory Roundabout towards Alencon Link then turns east.

The pumps at the roundabout are only 2-inch. To clear the flooding in December they added 4-inch pumps then 6-inch once they could be obtained. These had not been immediately available due to the national flooding problem.

The water runs into an old land drainage system created in 1904 which later facilitated a foul drainage system for the town. From here the 6-inch pipes pump it into the River Lodden (at a higher level) to Eastrop Park. Since then the pump at the Essex Road subway has been changed to a 3-inch. The Council were prepared to reinstall the pedestrian crossing if it had continued any longer.

Many of you will remember a meeting in the Village Hall in 1998 with Laing Construction and Grosvenor Properties, the Management Committee also held a further meeting. We all stressed the problems of the area, pointing out its history. It was not called Noah's Island for nothing. They assured us that it was all under control!!!

In effect we were totally ignored. We await the 'solution', but don't hold your breath!

**b!**

## Sincere Thanks

The BCA would like to thank a few people and companies for donating prizes in our raffle draw at the hall opening: Horizon in Essex Road for a BT EasiCom and Fosters Electrical also in Essex Road for their cash donation which went towards purchasing other prizes.

The coffee perculator was donated by a resident (the editorial team apologises the name of this resident was not known at the time of going to press, but thank you anyway - you know who you are!).

A HUGE big thank you to Simon, the manager at Voice Products, who donated the horse-drawn cart for Santa. It really made his arrival truly memorable. If you would like to rent something similar for your special occasion, he can be reached on 01256 772299.

Lastly, thanks to Sue Skelton and Arthur Lester who provided entertainment. If we've missed you out, THANK YOU!

**b!**



**Important Information**



**Brookvale Lottery**

The BCA runs a weekly lottery. The whole purpose of the lottery is to build a fund for maintaining the Village Hall. Over the years it has been running, we have gradually lost Agents and residents wanting to join the lottery. The fund remained static, but we have recently had to draw on these funds to help pay for the rebuild of the hall and they are now somewhat depleted.

While the hall is now 100%, in a couple of years it will start to need minor repairs and re-decorating. So a drive is now on to refill the coffers. The lottery draw really is quite simple and easy to join. The balls are drawn on a weekly basis by Gill Lucas, the lottery promoter. The lottery is only open to members (a legal requirement) which means you have to pay 10 pence to join for a year. Each draw then costs a further 10 pence. There's a weekly prize of £10 up for grabs.

We are also asking for Agents. It is not difficult, and only takes a few hours every two to three months. There is full back-up and support.

For more information, please call Gill (467836) or Pam Mansfield (327329). This really is the easiest way you can get involved and make a financial donation to the BCA without really having to think about it! If a Lottery Agent doesn't come and knock on your door to ask if you're interested, please let Gill know and she can arrange for an Agent to come round to you.

**BCA Membership**

It has been some time since there was a membership fee for the Brookvale Community Association, the original purpose for it was to build funds for the construction of our own Village Hall. As we were then able to obtain funds through letting the hall it was decided that to reside within our boundaries was sufficient. We are now in the position where we have not been able to use the hall for over a year and funds are therefore very low. Running costs have started to occur. Electric, Gas and Water being the main draws.

To help kick-start our running cost fund we are re-introducing a Membership Fee. The benefits initially will be discounts on hiring the hall, and priority in bookings for forthcoming social trips. We also hope it will give you a sense of actual commitment to your Community Association. The cost is £2 per house.

We now have our Hall fully operational, so funds have to be found to run it. Back in June 2000 there was a call for the Brookvale Community Association to continue. It is recognised that lifestyles are very demanding, and your time is precious; this is one way you can help and support us. Please do so.

Do remember that when we call, we will be carrying identification cards, so please ask to see them. For more information, contact Pam Mansfield (327329) or Diane Anderson (421452).

**STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS !! STOP PRESS**

There is a Coffee Morning on 31st January at 10:00am at the Village Hall. Anyone interested in restarting the parent and toddler group, please come along and discuss the options, timings and your ideas. If you want further information before the day, please contact Pam Mansfield. The parent and toddler group will be running under the umbrella of the BCA as a community project.

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47a Queens Road, Basingstoke

**Gift vouchers available**

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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

**Want to lose...**

those Christmas inches/cms or maybe get in shape for a holiday? Need a little encouragement?! Why not join your fellow Brookvalers and put your efforts to community benefit.

Come along to the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd February between 10am and midday. Have a chat, a coffee (no cakes!) and WEIGH-IN. Pick up a sponsorship form, declare what you hope to achieve and you're all set to reduce and rejuvenate!

The money you gain in sponsorship will go to supporting the needs of the fabulous, newly refurbished Village Hall.

Find out what you have achieved on Saturday 17th March when you return to the hall for the WEIGH-OUT. Stay and chat over coffee and find out how well you all did.

Bring your friends and create some competition among yourselves or come on your own and pick up some tips on how to keep those inches at bay! See you there...

**Are you interested in forming a Ladies Evening Club?**

If you are aged between 19 and 99 (!) please come along to Brookvale Village Hall on Tuesday 6th February at 7.30pm.

Come along with your ideas:  
*talks, trips, theatre, craft etc.*

For more information telephone:  
 Lin Chandler 01256 329475 or Pam Banks 01256 352078

**BCA Contacts**

Brookvale Community Association  
 bca@brookvale.org.uk

Pamela Mansfield (Chairperson)  
 20 Southend Road - 327329

Ruth Buckingham (Vice Chair)  
 29 George Street - 325194

Diane Anderson (Secretary)  
 20 Solbys Road - 421452

Maggie Dee (Treasurer)  
 28 Queens Road - 414708

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**Website**

[www.brookvale.org.uk](http://www.brookvale.org.uk)

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**Community Events**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

Friday 2nd February at 7:30 pm

Brookvale Village Hall  
 Lower Brook Street

You are invited to take part in the first FUN QUIZ NIGHT to be held in the newly refurbished Village Hall.

All you need to do is to get together with your family and friends and form a team of six.

For further information contact:-  
 John and Pam Banks - 352078  
 Lin and Brian Chandler - 329475

TICKET PRICE £5-00 includes Fish/Chicken and Chip supper. Bring your own drinks.