

blurb!

The monthly newsletter of
 **Brookvale**
Community Association

ISSUE 21
February 2004

In this issue: The future of the BCA, Victory Hill, wheelie bins, recycling, unsecured outbuildings, Colonel Cody review

What does the future hold for BCA?

Brookvale Community Association's AGM is coming up in May. It is always the most important event in the Association's diary, but this year it is actually more important to the larger Brookvale community.

The BCA is faced with a real problem at the 2004 AGM. Despite dwindling numbers of committee members at monthly meetings, and an all-time low attendance of BCA-organised events by the Brookvale public, the core group of volunteers, the usual faces, have continued to keep it all together for the last few years. These people know how important the BCA is as a voice for the Brookvale community, an organisation that has organised countless events which the local residents have always enjoyed taking part in. It is a simple fact that Brookvale Community Association is at the centre of the 'community spirit' Brookvale is renowned for.

The Village Hall is probably the biggest headache for the Association. The Hall really should have around 10-15 committed volunteers assigned to keeping it functioning effectively, volunteers that can concentrate purely on the Hall. Currently, the same small group of Committee Members who are running the Association are also having to look after the running of the Hall. It is a situation that cannot be sustained for much longer. It feels like the Association is purely in existence to support the running of the hall, both

financially and physically.

It will hardly come as a surprise to you to discover that all of the current Officers have indicated that they will be stepping down this year. It does appear to those on the Committee that the community now seems completely disinterested in the Association and its activities, and so it is no wonder the current officers feel they have no more energy or fresh ideas to keep the organisation going.

It is extremely important that you, the community, attend the AGM in May. The Association will be asking:

Does the community still need and want the Association?

We believe that the Association has done so much for Brookvale over the years, and continues to look after the best interests of Brookvale residents. We feel it would be a real shame if the BCA had to be dissolved.

Do we lose the hall and give it up to the council?

The BCA has done so much over the years to provide a central venue that belongs to and exists for the benefit of the community... Raising funds and grants for its original construction in 1983, raising funds for its extension in 1987, putting it all back together after the arson attack of December 1999 (which completely destroyed part of the building and wrecked the entire interior). We really do feel it would be terrible if the hall had to be surrendered to the council. The

community would no longer have its own venue in which to hold events. But what do you think? Are 10-15 people prepared to run the hall for the Association?

Should the Street Rep system be changed? The idea was that Street Reps would be that important link between the residents and the Association. They are the people who have in the past delivered Blurb and other leaflets, and spoken to residents bringing their issues to the Association and subsequently answered their concerns. The list of Street Reps is now virtually non-existent and the majority of those who remain on the list are either part of the core Committee, already giving up hours of their time, or are unhappy to give out their contact details to their neighbours. The core Committee Members simply don't have the time to do everything else. Should we change the way we interact with the community?

If you decide that the Association and Hall are to stay, it is up to the Brookvale community to turn the Association around. We would need to appoint new Officers, Committee Members, Street Reps and other volunteers across the board.

If the responsibilities were shared across a larger number of people, each person would only have to give up maybe two or three hours of their time each

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month. You don't even have to volunteer as much as an hour! Other ways in which you can help the Association include:

- Displaying an events poster
- Be an extra pair of hands at an event
- Offering to give an elderly or disabled neighbour a lift to an event
- Telling us of a good idea for an event

If you have any ideas, or would like to indicate that you would like to step forward as a volunteer, please get in touch with us! Our contact details are on the back page.

You can find more information on what BCA does for Brookvale residents on our new website:

www.brookvale.org.uk

Victory Hill

We have learned from our local councillors that the new Victory Hill development (north of Churchill Way) now officially comes under Brookvale ward, and that the first residents have moved in. We look forward to meeting our new neighbours!

If you live in Victory Hill and would like to become involved in your community or have an hour or two a month free in which to act as a Street Rep to your neighbours, please get in touch with us (contact details on the back page).

Wheelie bins

Please could you ensure that you take your grey and green wheelie bins in ON THE ACTUAL COLLECTION DAY after refuse has been collected. Abandoned bins not only cause obstructions to pedestrians and wheelchairs, but

have also been responsible for a recent incident in which three empty bins were used by vandals to cause extensive damage to a parked car in George Street.

Recycling

How is the fortnightly recycling scheme working for you? One of the main objections from most residents is that glass and other materials are not permitted in the green bins. Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council would like to hear your views about the current scheme.

Cllr John Shaw reported at our January committee meeting that glass recycling is already being run as a pilot scheme in the Hart district. Would you like a similar scheme to be rolled out throughout Basingstoke? Please address your comments to our local councillors (contact details on the back page).

If you are finding your recycling bin is getting too full too quickly, why not request a larger green bin? There are a number of ways to do this. Either call the Council's Customer Service Centre on (01256) 845474, email them with your enquiry on info@basingstoke.gov.uk or you can find a link on our website (www.brookvale.org.uk) to a form on B&DBC's website.

Unsecured outbuildings

There have recently been three separate incidents where vandals have discovered paint in sheds and other outbuildings in the service road between Lower Brook Street and George Street, and then used it to decorate the streets and pavements. PLEASE ensure that any paint left outside is kept in a secure, locked place. Thank you to the considerate George Street residents, who have kindly cleaned up the affected areas with

their own pressure washers on these occasions.

Victory Roundabout

Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are now in agreement that traffic lights will not go ahead on Victory Roundabout. A decision has yet to be reached on how the money will be spent.

King George V play area

The works on the construction of the new play area and installation of a goal post at King George V Playing Field have been completed, although concerns have been raised over the placing of the goal post as it would mean people using it would be firing balls at the play area.

Fletcher Close play area

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are currently looking into an improvement to the play area at Fletcher Close and are asking for people's views. Please address your views to our local councillors (contact details on the back page).

Kingfisher homes

Kingfisher Housing Association have contacted Cllr Doris Jones asking her for information regarding problems or concerns the public may have with Kingfisher properties. Please address any concerns to Cllr Jones who will pass them onto Kingfisher (contact details on the back page).

Did you know...?

The Village Hall is available to rent by the public at very reasonable rates. For more information, visit our website:

www.brookvale.org.uk

Lottery winners

Draw date	Number	Name
December Bonus Draw	719	Gill Broome
27th December 2003	186	Miss Bone
20th December 2003	863	Jane Griggs
13th December 2003	716	John Boyle
6th December 2003	125	Mrs Skuse
29th November 2003	533	Pam Banks
22nd November 2003	498	Mrs Elliott
15th November 2003	677	Mr Dillow
8th November 2003	457	Mrs Jesshope
1st November 2003	803	Kathy Lincoln
25th October 2003	705	Maureen Cree
18th October 2003	482	Mrs Lebownowski
11th October 2003	534	Mrs Day
4th October 2003	864	Frank

For older winners, please see our website: www.brookvale.org.uk

The Brookvale Lottery was set up in 1976 to help raise money for the building of our Village Hall. Today, the lottery raises funds for the day-to-day running of the hall. The Lottery is open to residents of Brookvale.

The membership fee is 10p per year, then the cost of playing is 10p per week. To save the time of our valued volunteers, we ask that membership is committed to on a yearly basis. So if you'd like to play the lottery, we ask that you pay a renewal of £5.30 for the entire year (including 52 weeks play and the yearly membership). The draw is made by residents at the regular 3C Coffee Mornings. There is a weekly prize of £10 and there are two bonus draws held in June (with a prize of £25) and December (with a prize of £30). Details of the winners are announced in Blurb, on the Brookvale website and in the window of the Post Office on the corner of George Street and Queens Road.

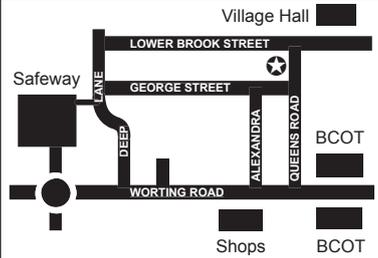
If you would like to support your local Community Association whilst having some fun in the process (and hopefully winning some money!), please contact our Lottery Agent (contact details on the back page).



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Practising at The Hackwood Partnership

Events review

The Extraordinary Tale of Colonel Cody

Performed by Proteus Theatre Company at Brookvale Village Hall, Sunday 25th January 2004

It is a tradition that Proteus - Basingstoke's professional theatre group, ends its winter tour in Brookvale. This year, on Sunday 25th January, it was a performance of "Colonel Cody", a musical play about Hampshire's own pioneer of flight.

As usual, we were entertained by a highly innovative production (I bet you didn't know you could get a plane into the hall). The energy and professionalism of the group provided a high class performance which was enjoyed by an audience from every age group.

Come again soon, Proteus!

- **Susanne Dean**

Note from the BCA

Proteus Theatre put on a wonderful performance of Colonel Cody on 25th January. However, out of all the tickets sold only 9 went to Brookvale Residents, 5 of which were purchased by committee members. That means only 4 were bought by the larger community! Are you not interested in the events we organise? Maybe you have some ideas for events the BCA could organise? Do you have the time to help organise such an event? We'd like to hear from you...

Upcoming events

Skittles Evening

Friday 5th March, 8pm at Brookvale Village Hall.

Tickets £6. Show off your bowling skills at our Skittles Evening. We've hired in the skittle alley and equipment, all you need to bring is drinks, nibbles and yourselves! Please call (01256) 329475 for tickets.

3Cs Coffe Mornings

Saturday 6th March, 10am-midday and

Saturday 3rd April, 10am-midday, both at Brookvale Village Hall.

Don't feel like you're really a part of the Brookvale community? Would you like to get to know your neighbours in an informal environment? Want to find out more about what is going on in your community? Join us for Coffee, Cakes and Chat at one of our 3C's Coffee Mornings!

Jumble Sale with Nearly New Sale

Saturday 3rd April at Brookvale Village Hall.

More information to follow.

Brookvale Community Association AGM 2004

May - (date to be finalised) at Brookvale Village Hall.

More information to follow.

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:

Linda Chandler

(01256) 329475

linda.chandler@brookvale.org.uk

For information on Blurb or Brookvale.org.uk, please contact:

Simon Brunger

(07092) 278649

simon.brunger@brookvale.org.uk

For information on the Brookvale Lottery, please contact:

Pam Mansfield

(01256) 324313

pam.mansfield@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.

Support BCA!

If you don't mind placing a poster in your window to promote BCA events, you can find a copy of our latest events poster available for download on our website:

www.brookvale.org.uk