

blurb!

The monthly newsletter of



Brookvale
Community Association

ISSUE 22

April 2004

In this issue: What does the BCA do for you? - Clean up our streets - Back of Safeways - Adult Education - Health Walks

What does the BCA do for you?

Following on from last month's issue in which we highlighted some of the problems the Brookvale Community Association will be facing come the 2004 AGM (you can download last month's issue of Blurb from our website), we thought it might be a good time to tell you of some of the good things the BCA has done over the years to benefit the residents of Brookvale.

The Brookvale Community Association was set up in 1973 by local residents eager to protect the area, after a large part of Brookvale (all of Brook Street, most of May Street and the east end of Lower Brook Street) was torn down by eager town centre developers. The first meeting was held at the King George V Playing Fields on Deep Lane, and most of the concerned community attended. The Association was successful in its mission and the historic area, with its beautiful Victorian homes, was saved.

Since that time, the Association has ensured that the views of Brookvale residents haven't gone unheard, and works closely with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council. We have been involved in countless consultation and development programmes over the years. More recently, we have had our say on: the redevelopment of the old Thornycroft site (which is now Safeways), the Basingstoke

College of Technology (BCOT) building project, traffic calming on Worting Road, the redevelopment of the town centre, Victory Roundabout, the allotments, Victory Hill (which is now part of the Brookvale ward)... We also routinely check through Planning Applications to ensure Brookvale residents are alerted to potentially problematic building projects in the area.

We have always had a good, proactive relationship with our local councillors. They attend our committee meetings whenever possible, updating us on issues affecting the Brookvale ward.

We communicate all of these concerns and issues to you through this publication and through our comprehensive website, www.brookvale.org.uk.

In May 1983, after years of fund raising and the provision of grants from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and Hampshire County Council, Brookvale Village Hall was completed and has been a central focal and meeting point for the community ever since. A much needed extension was added in 1987 with money raised entirely by the residents of Brookvale.

A large part of the Hall was destroyed in a fire in December 1999 and the Association was pushed to crisis point, but residents rallied around to make the rebuild happen, and both the

Association and a newly rebuilt Hall continue to operate to this day.

The Hall is maintained by the BCA by drawing on funds raised by hiring out the Hall, together with operation of the Brookvale Lottery and miscellaneous other fund raising events organised by the committee and residents.

We are very lucky to have the Village Hall. Many of the regular users of the Hall express their surprise at just how superb a resource it is for the local community. It is very nicely fitted out, and lovingly taken care of by volunteers. We are actually in the middle of maintenance works at the moment. We hope you will join us at our AGM at the end of May and see for yourselves why we are so proud of our Hall. Although it takes many hours of our volunteers' time to keep it running and booked (earning the Association money), and a lot of money to keep it maintained and insured, the community would be much worse off without it.

The BCA continues to organise regular events for all interests and age ranges. Over the years, we have organised or been involved in quiz evenings, beetle drives, fetes and fairs, coffee mornings, parties and discos, dinners, barbecues, firework displays (some of the best in Basingstoke!),

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cross-channel excursions, trips to wildlife centres and many other sports and leisure events.

The BCA really is central to maintaining the community spirit Brookvale is renowned for. If you are anything like the BCA's volunteers, you probably love the fact that you can walk down your street and say hello to a number of your neighbours. How many other places like this are there left in this country?

We believe Brookvale is a special place to live, and we want to ensure that the Association's good work for the community continues well into the future.

We do however need your help. The Association has always relied on the good will of volunteers. The number of volunteers involved in the running of the BCA has dwindled over the last few years. In fact, the situation has reached crisis point again. All of our Officers will be standing down at the AGM. This means that, in order for the BCA to continue to exist, new Officers will have to be selected at the May AGM. In next month's issue of Blurb, we will explain more about these positions.

Our AGM is on Tuesday 25th May at 7:45pm - make sure you make a note of it in your diary!

Clean up our streets

Brookvale, like anywhere else these days, is sadly often the victim of vandalism. Don't the graffiti attacks, car break-ins and other regular examples of mindless vandalism get you down? And how about the general litter problem? Do you often find yourself grumbling away to nobody in particular about how grubby the streets are?

No, there's nothing wrong with you! We often bring up these

issues at committee meetings.

Unfortunately, this is how things are in today's world. Many people of all ages don't seem to see anything wrong in throwing rubbish all over the place. It isn't just kids either. How many times have you seen adults littering the streets without a second thought about who might see them doing it?

It's a sad state of affairs, but there's no reason why we can't win this battle.

Although we feel that the council has become markedly more apathetic about proactive street cleansing, we are lucky that they are still quite responsive. Whilst the council's teams don't seem to come around the area looking for problems as often as they used to, they are usually very good at resolving these problems providing they are reported.

It's quick and easy to report any problems you find to the council - call 844844 and ask for Customer Services.

Back of Safeway

Continuing on the theme of keeping our village clean and tidy... Have you noticed how Safeway seem to have given up on keeping their grounds tidy, in particular the area by the rear access stairway and ramp?

We recently reported a number of problems in this corner of Deep Lane to the council, and they have done their part - clearing the bushes of litter, cutting back the overgrown bushes the entire length of Deep Lane, removing a large pile of garden waste which somebody had fly-tipped in the turning point...

However, Safeway's own grounds still remain in a terrible state by this rear access route. The trees are full of plastic bags, the banks of bushes are strewn with litter... If you haven't already

noticed yourself, we urge you to have a look when you are next in this area. Then maybe you'd like to add your voice to ours and write to the store manager asking why he has given up on keeping his store grounds tidy and why Safeway's don't provide bins to the public in this part of the car park?

Please address your comments to Neil Barber, Store Manager, Safeway Basingstoke, Thornycroft Industrial Estate, Worting Road, Basingstoke, RG21 8BJ.

Adult Education

The Adult and Community course listing, published by BCOT in conjunction with Queen Mary's College is now available for courses starting from Easter onwards.

To obtain your free copy call 306347 or 306355 or get one from Libraries, the Information Centre in the town centre and many other outlets.

Walking for Health

Improve your fitness and walk and talk by joining the "Walking for Health" scheme in Basingstoke.

Led by volunteers, the walks are suitable for all abilities. The back marcher always walks at the pace of the slowest walker, the walks are non-competitive and everybody is welcome.

Walks start from the Boathouse in Eastrop Park on Mondays at 11am and at the Walled Garden car park at Down Grange on Pack Lane in Kempshott on Thursdays, also at 11am.

For more information, call 845574 and leave your name and address.

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

Events review**Spring Fever Jumble Sale**

Brookvale Village Hall, Saturday 3rd April 2004

Our Spring Fever Jumble Sale was a real success. We couldn't believe how popular the event was - there was a queue of eager bargain hunters outside the hall an hour before the sale started. Thank you to everyone who donated their items for the jumble. You raised £232 for your local Community Association! All unsold items were deposited at various Charity Shops around the town by our volunteers.

**WANTED!**

Part time

Cleaner/Caretaker

for Brookvale Village Hall

Job share considered

For more details, please
contact Linda

(01256) 329475

linda.chandler@brookvale.org.uk

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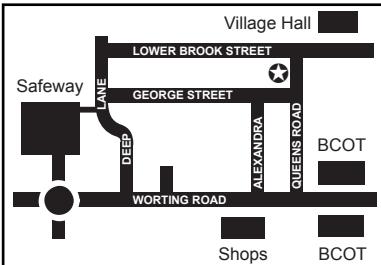
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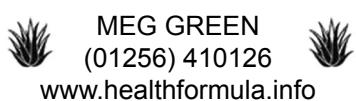
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Practising at The Hackwood Partnership

Events review

Skittles Evening

Brookvale Village Hall, Friday 5th March 2004

What a great evening... All in all, we sold 44 tickets, raising £120 for the BCA. And even greater news is that 50% of those who participated were Brookvale residents! Thank you to everyone who came along - we hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!



Left: Winner of the Killer Round, Charles Dellow being handed his prize money by John Banks.

Below: The winning team (left to right: Pam Mansfield, Joy Alexander, Lin Chandler, Yvonne Taylor, Tony O'Brien and Pam Banks).



Upcoming events

3Cs Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th May, 10am-midday at Brookvale Village Hall.
Meet your neighbours over Coffee, Cakes and Chat.

Ladies Night

Tuesday 11th May, 8pm at Brookvale Village Hall.
Join us for an "Introduction to Belly Dancing" with our special guest tutor! Bring a scarf to tie around your waist, wear a loose, floaty skirt and bare feet. £2 donation.

The Brookvale Teazer

Friday 21st May, quiz starts at 8pm at Brookvale Village Hall.
The old quiz night favourite is back! Join resident Quizmaster Extraordinaire, John Banks, and Basingstoke's Mayor, Councillor Gerry Traynor, for a fun quiz night. Book your tickets soon as this event always sells fast! Please call Pam (352078) or Linda (329475) for tickets. Tickets £4, nibbles supplied, bring your own drinks and glasses.

Brookvale Community Association AGM 2004

Tuesday 25th May, 7:45pm at Brookvale Village Hall.
What does the future hold for the BCA? Make sure you are at the AGM to have your say. We can only continue with your support... Join us for wine at 7:45pm, to start promptly at 8:00pm. More information on the AGM can be found on our website.

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