

blurb!

The monthly newsletter of
 **Brookvale**
Community Association

ISSUE 24
August 2004

In this issue: Brookvale, the BCA and you - Victory Hill - Disabilities Co-ordinator - Lottery Winners - Upcoming Events

Brookvale, the BCA and you

Editorial by James Byrne,
the BCA's new Secretary

The Brookvale Community Association (BCA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in May, many thanks to those of you that were able to attend. At this time the previous committee members with a few exceptions, having all worked tirelessly in the past to serve the Brookvale area, opted to stand down and permit others to take their place. We therefore now have a predominantly new committee very much looking forward to playing an active part in our local community. We are all fast realising just how much time and effort is required and sincerely pass on our thanks to those members that have now opted to stand down, fully recognising their enormous contribution in years gone by towards maintaining the sense of community for which Brookvale is renowned.

Since this is my first contribution to Blurb in my role as Secretary I thought I would take this opportunity to run through exactly why the BCA exists and what we are looking to do in the months ahead. Some of Brookvale's long standing residents will already know the BCA well while other new members of the community may know very little.

The BCA is a registered charitable organisation set up to represent the interests of the Brookvale community (which now incidentally includes the new developments at Victory Hill). We have a formal constitution in which the BCA's objectives are outlined as follows:

"[The BCA exists for the] benefit of the inhabitants of Brookvale and the neighbourhood ... by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and

inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants. [The BCA] will establish a Community Centre [and maintain and manage this] Centre for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent bodies in furtherance of the above."

What does the BCA do?

- We represent the voice of Brookvale residents in local planning issues. We liaise with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council (B&DBC), Hampshire County Council (HCC) and our local councillors on any planning issues that have an impact on the Brookvale area.
- We report problems in the Brookvale area to B&DBC and HCC such as graffiti, vandalism, flytipping, road problems, refuse collection problems, damage to council property etc. and see that these issues are resolved. I am sure you will agree that keeping on top of these problems is very important and has a dramatic impact on the general perception of the area and also our quality of life. If you discover any problems that you would like us to report and follow through, please contact our Communications Officer (contact details on the back page).
- We liaise with our local councillors on a range of matters affecting Brookvale residents. This is a two-way relationship. Our councillors, who are present at our monthly committee meetings, regularly feed back information about issues that are of

importance to Brookvale residents. We also directly raise issues with our councillors, rather than dealing with a faceless council. Our councillors then escalate these issues on our behalf, directly with the relevant council department.

- We organise a wide range of community events. We organise coffee mornings, barbecues, picnics, a Ladies Night group, themed social get-togethers (such as Murder Mystery nights, quiz nights, skittles etc.) and outings outside the local area (some recent examples include a day trip to Calais and a visit to a local bird sanctuary). Details of our upcoming events can be found on page 4. We are hoping to organise an even wider range of events over the coming months, which will appeal to as many people as possible – we hope to cater for all interests and ages. We are pleased to report that some members of the previous committee have agreed to continue organising a number of these events. This is appreciated immensely by the new committee. We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas for a community event. We would also like to hear from you if you have some spare time to help organise these events. Our contact details are on the back page.

- We rent out our Village Hall (on Lower Brook Street) in order to fund these events and activities. Keeping the Hall running takes up hours of our volunteers' time. We even have a paid caretaker who looks after the daily maintenance and cleaning of the Hall. When the BCA was formed, we didn't have a community centre. We are

continued on page two >

For the latest news and information, visit our new website: www.brookvale.org.uk

< continued from page one

very lucky to have such a lovely facility, and the new committee wants to exploit the Hall more for the direct benefit of the community. It is after all YOUR hall, and we want YOU to use it! We hope to set up new social groups to make use of the Hall and hold more community events in it. It is possible to hire the Hall at very reasonable rates (see bottom right of this page) Please contact our Hall Booking Agent (details on back page) or see our website for more details.

- In addition to the income derived from Hall bookings, we run the Brookvale Lottery in order to raise money for our community activities and the upkeep of the Hall. If you don't already play the Brookvale Lottery, see page 4 or our website for details on how to start playing!

- In order to keep the community informed of all these local issues and events, we publish Blurb, our regular publication, and our website, www.brookvale.org.uk - check it out now if you haven't already, and keep coming back for all the latest news and updates.

Our Village Hall

The Hall is of course our biggest asset but it is also our biggest financial liability. The Hall belongs to the BCA, not to the council like many other community centres. We are therefore committed to meeting the ongoing costs of the hall which include insurance, maintenance, repairs and electricity bills.

Perhaps you would like to book the hall for a private party, would like to set up a one off community event or get involved in a regular activity at the hall? We are open to all ideas and would very much welcome your suggestions. In fact, next month's Blurb will include a questionnaire allowing you to tell us more about what you would like. However, as well as requesting a particular event, why not also volunteer your own time, get actively involved in your community and help to facilitate your desired event?

Many people have commented that we desperately need a youth group to keep local kids and teenagers

occupied and away from mischief but to date nobody has come forward to do this. Could you do this with the support of the committee?

Events

We have a number of events planned for the coming months. A family picnic, with games to follow, will be taking place at the beginning of September. It is an ideal opportunity to meet your neighbours in an informal environment. Bring your families and friends – the more, the better! More details can be found on page 4, our website or on the posters which will shortly be going up around the Brookvale area.

We are also doing everything we can to bring back the once renowned and much missed Brookvale Fireworks display in November. Whether we can actually do this will to some extent depend on us being able to get approval from the council, get the prerequisite insurance and overcome any other health and safety and legal concerns.

Other events on the horizon include a quiz night, skittles night, murder mystery night and of course, our regular Ladies Nights. For more details, see page 4.

Sense of community

Before I go, I would just like to add a few lines about community. The concept of a local community should be important to us all since a sense of belonging to a community is recognised as contributing to our overall quality of life and sense of wellbeing. I recognise that we are all different, may come from a range of backgrounds and may have differing interests. However, regardless of this, we are all bound together by the location of our homes in the Brookvale area. What happens here is of interest to all of us since we all, regardless of our differences, have a stake in our shared future in the neighbourhood.

As well as our differences we will of course also share many similarities and interests which can help us to build new friendships and relationships if we make an effort to get out and meet our neighbours. A

sense of community can make all the difference between living in relative isolation and having friends and acquaintances on your very doorstep. It's a little sad that many of us today no longer know our neighbours while our friends may be scattered across the country or even the world. I'm not suggesting we all discard our old friendships but it can of course be very rewarding to make new friends in your local neighbourhood.

Trite as it may sound, we, each and every one of us, have the opportunity to continue to make Brookvale a great place to live and to build upon the sense of community. Next time you recognise a neighbour in the street why not say simply say hello or give a friendly wave, it all helps.

If you would like to help out with any Brookvale event or contribute your time to the BCA in any way please do not hesitate to get in touch, it would be much appreciated. Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience and will allow you to get to know your neighbours. In addition, **we are keen to include your comments, feedback, suggestions and anything else you might like to pass on to your community in future editions of Blurb.** Please contact our Communications Officer (details on back page).

Please feel free to contact me by email james.byrne@brookvale.org.uk or alternatively send a regular mail to 31 George Street, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 7RN.

Hall bookings

The Village Hall is available for your private events and functions at the following (very reasonable!) hourly rates:

	9:-17:00	17:-23:00
Mon	£12	£14
Tues	£12	£14
Wed	£12	£14
Thurs	£12	£14
Fri	£12	£18
Sat	£12	£18
Sun	£10	£10

For more information, please contact our Hall Booking Agent (details on back page) or visit our website: www.brookvale.org.uk

Furniture up for grabs

A secondhand black bedside locker, in good condition, is available at no charge. Call Karin on 356116 or email karin.joseph@brookvale.org.uk

Victory Hill

We have had a meeting with two officers from the council that are involved with the further development of the Victory Hill site. At the moment, the council are in the initial stages of conducting feasibility studies. As yet, no developer has come forward with a proposal for the site. We have a map on our website of the proposed development area which can be viewed at: www.brookvale.org.uk/news/victoryhill

Disability issues

A new Disabilities Co-ordinator has been appointed for the BCA. Chris Hall has been a Brookvale resident for many years and has been involved with the BCA for some time. He is very clued up on disabilities legislature, through his role at the Shaw Trust in Basingstoke, and is therefore in a good position to represent disabled Brookvale residents' views and co-ordinate any specific disability-related issues raised by residents.

Chris' contact details can be found on the back page.

Wheelie bins reminder

Following our article in the last issue of Blurb, just a reminder to ask that you take your wheelie bins in on the day of collection. Vandals have used stray empty wheelie bins on previous occasions to cause significant damage to property and cars.

In addition, please remember that the pavements are used by people with pushchairs and disabled people who may find it difficult to manoeuvre their walking aids and vehicles around badly parked bins.

Transformation Yoga & Relaxation

Learn how to move, breathe and relax from within.

7 week course beginning
Wednesday 15th September at
Brookvale Village Hall (7:00-8:15pm)

For more information call
Melanie Pickard on (01420) 840555

Cocchiarella Professional Tailoring

*Ladies and Gents garments
Alterations & Repairs
30 years experience. 7 day service*

7 Deep Lane, Basingstoke
Telephone 01256 468727

Aero Tone Class

Women Only
Beginners/Intermediate

Mondays 6:15-7pm
Brookvale Village Hall
£4.00



Non-smoking disabled person **requires a room for rent** within the Brookvale area.

Requirements:

- * Room and facility to store and recharge a mobility scooter
- * Payment via housing benefit

Please contact Chris Hall on:
07981 250573 or email
chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk

Creative Nails

Now offering:

Full set pink & white Acrylics, full set Gel Nails, airbrushing, freehand nail art, manicures, pedicures, French Manicures, American Manicures

Telephone: (01256) 840555
1a George Street, Basingstoke

武術館

Wu Shu Kwan

CHINESE KICKBOXING

BE THE BEST

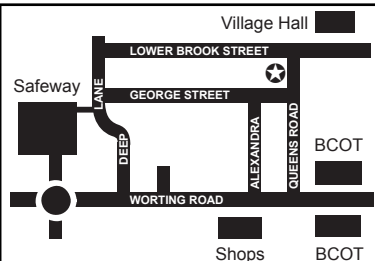
All classes for mixed ages
Beginners welcome
Brookvale Village Hall
Mondays 7:15 - 9:30pm
£6 per lesson
Contact: (01256) 477200



5-star rated salon

Open weekends (including Sundays) and until late during the week

Hair and Beauty



47a Queens Road (01256) 812635

www.marcopolo-hair.co.uk

Haymarket Restaurant & Coffee Shop



Visiting the theatre or meeting friends?

Coffee shop open 9am - 4pm for breakfast and light snacks

Restaurant open for lunch from 11:30am - 2:30pm

Tel: (01256) 460333

Wote Street, Basingstoke

10% discount with this ad

FOREVER LIVING

ALOE VERA

Health and nutritional products for humans and animals



MEG GREEN
(01256) 410126



www.healthformula.info

Freedom with...

- Hypnotherapy
- NLP
- Reiki
- Indian Head Massage
- Emotional Freedom Technique
- Tapas Acupressure Technique

www.megggreen.co.uk
megan.green@ntlworld.com
(01256) 410126

Practising at The Hackwood Partnership

Lottery Winners

Draw date	Number	Name
31st July 2004	324	Norman Cox
24th July 2004	193	Loue Jones
17th July 2004	752	Claire & Gavin Jones
10th July 2004	591	E Alexander
3rd July 2004	193	Loue Jones
June Bonus Draw	667	Jack Broom
26th June 2004	782	Peter Reeks
19th June 2004	601	Mr & Mrs Taylor
12th June 2004	769	Mr & Mrs Coles
5th June 2004	697	Charlotte Dunsfold

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

Information on the Brookvale Lottery can be found on our website, www.brookvale.org.uk. For more information, or to start playing, please contact our Lottery Agent - contact details in the box to the right.

Upcoming events

Community Picnic



Saturday 4th September, 12midday onwards at King George V Playing Field (on Deep Lane).

It's the end of the summer and the kids have got the BackTo School blues. Gather together your picnic food, a blanket, maybe a good novel, maybe a walkman, and definitely your friends, neighbours and families (even bring a gazebo if you like!) and see the summer off in style with the rest of your community. A dedicated area for picnics will be set aside between 12-2pm for everyone to eat their lunch at their preferred time. A rounders match and several other games for both adults and children will be organised for after the lunch period. (Please note that food will not be supplied. Children must be supervised by their parents/guardians at all times.)

3Cs Coffee Mornings



Saturday 4th September, 10am-midday, Saturday 2nd October, 10am-midday and Saturday 6th November, 10am-midday, all 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!

Ladies Night



Tuesday 14th September, Village Hall, 8pm. Why not come along and meet other like-minded ladies in the area. We will be discussing our programme of events for the coming year at tonight's meet. Call Lin for more information on (01256) 329475 or email linda.chandler@brookvale.org.uk

Skittles Evening



Friday 24th September, Village Hall, 8pm. We will supply the skittle alley and equipment, please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles (teams of up to 6 players). Tickets £5, please contact our Booking Agent, Louise Rham (details in the box to the right).

Brookvale Teazer



Friday 22nd October, Village Hall, 8pm The old quiz night favourite is back! Teams of up to 6 people. Tickets £3. Please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles. Call our Booking Agent, Louise Rham (details in the box to the right).

Brookvale Fireworks Fiesta



Saturday 13th November, Victory Park (end of Lower Brook Street).

We are doing everything we can to bring this old Brookvale favourite back. This is a provisional date - please stay tuned or visit our website for more information!

Please help support our events - you can download a copy of our latest events poster for your window from our website: www.brookvale.org.uk

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 our Hall Bookings Agent:

Louise Rham

(01256) 325193

louise.rham@brookvale.org.uk

For information on Blurb or Brookvale.org.uk, or to report local problems, please contact our Communications Officer:

Simon Brunger

(01256) 331962

simon.brunger@brookvale.org.uk

For information on the Brookvale Lottery, please contact our Lottery Agent:

Pam Mansfield

(01256) 324313

pam.mansfield@brookvale.org.uk

For any information on local disability-related issues, please contact our Disabilities Co-ordinator:

Chris Hall

(07981) 250573

chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk

To get in touch with your Street Rep, please call our Street Rep Co-ordinator:

Karin Joseph

(01256) 356116

karin.joseph@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.