

# blurb!

The regular newsletter of



**Brookvale**  
Community Association

**ISSUE 27**  
**March 2005**

**In this issue:** Jumble & Car Boot Sale • Goodbye, Queens Rd PO • AGM • Eye Tests • Renovations at Hall • and more...

## Spring Fever Jumble and Car Boot Sale

**11am, Sunday 13th March**

Brookvale Village Hall (on Lower Brook Street)

Both sales start at 11am.

Car boot sale traders set up from 10:30am.

Pitch fees: £5 per car, £7 per van.

Please donate your clothes, shoes, toys, books and small bric-a-brac to our Jumble Sale. Bring your items to the Village Hall between 5pm-7pm on Saturday 12th March. Alternatively, please contact Cathy to arrange a collection - phone (01256) 413993 or email [cathy.elford@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:cathy.elford@brookvale.org.uk)

For all the latest local news , events and information, visit our website:

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

## Goodbye, Queens Road PO

Our campaign to save Brookvale's Post Office was not successful. We are very sad to report that Queens Road Post Office closed on 1st February 2005. It had been serving the Brookvale community since 1910 (source: Royal Mail Heritage).

All those that were involved in the campaign are very angry at the Royal Mail for closing this important local amenity. Brookvale Community Association would like to thank all the residents and local businesses that signed the petition and wrote in with their views. The local Liberal Democrats party also campaigned heavily on this issue and we are very grateful to Cllr John Shaw, Jen Smith and their door-to-door team for their time and efforts in getting so many signatures.

We would also like to thank Mr Bopari, our Sub Post Master, for the many years he has spent serving our community.

Details of alternative Post Offices in surrounding areas can be found on our website: [www.brookvale.org.uk](http://www.brookvale.org.uk)

Alternatively, please call the Post Office helpline on 0845 7 22 33 44.

## Upcoming AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on Tuesday 24th May.

If you have been thinking about how you might be able to get involved in your community, this is the ideal opportunity to find out how you can play a part in it. Whether you have very little time to give, or are lucky enough to have a lot of time on your hands, whatever you can do to help will be appreciated by your local community and the current committee.

We will need to appoint replacement Committee Members for specific roles - more details of exactly what those roles entail will be published in the next issue of Blurb. We are also grateful for any general help you can give at events etc. Or if you have any ideas for events or social groups, this is the perfect platform to raise your ideas.

Even if you don't have any regular time to give as a volunteer, please show your support for your Community Association by attending our AGM (a minimum turnout is required to achieve a quorum) - put Tuesday 24th May into your diary now!

## Free eye tests available

A free home-based eye care and testing service is available to people who qualify. Those who cannot visit an optician unassisted, regardless of age are entitled to the eye care service. This includes people who need the assistance of friends or relatives to get out and about or people who have difficulty using public transport. You are entitled to a sight test if you have eye problems, are over 70 and have not had a sight test for two years or have been advised to have more frequent eye examinations and one is now due.

An optometrist will examine your eyes in your own home. They are equipped to detect glaucoma, cataracts and other potential visual problems and can provide advice and assistance in choosing the best frames and lenses.

For further advice or to book an appointment, please call 0500 295 245.

## New Road proposals

Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council have developed a Central Area Action Plan which lays out all the plans to raise the quality, image and vitality of our town centre.

A draft Concept Statement has now been prepared for the upper section of New Road (the road behind McDonalds and the main Post Office at the Top of Town). The ideas include providing new homes and buildings to create a "more traditional street whilst maintaining New Road's role as an important route within the Top of Town".

The Borough Council has begun a consultation period which will last until 30th April 2005 and welcomes your views on the ideas for New Road. This is your opportunity to have your say on the regeneration of our town centre.

You can see the Concept Statement, including walk-through animations, and send your views by following links on the Council's web site at: [www.basingstoke.gov.uk](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk)

You can also obtain a copy of the document by calling (01256) 845492 or 845495 or writing to the Head of Regeneration and Design, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH.

## Park renovations

Phase 1 of the renovations to King George V Playing Fields (on Deep Lane) have begun. New railings are currently

being installed. Further works are planned to improve the layout, aesthetics and usability of the park. Works are also planned for Victory Park.

## Hall renovations underway

In the last issue of Blurb, we reported that Brookvale Community Association had been awarded a grant by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council to carry out renovations to our Village Hall.

You may have seen some of the results already; the new shutters have been installed on the windows and front door. It has completely transformed the outside of the building! We are very happy with the results and hope that you are too.

At the time of going to print, the toilets were being refurbished to include improved cubicle layouts, baby changing facilities and new flooring throughout. They will have their public debut at our Jumble and Car Boot Sale!

Thanks to our regular Hall users for their flexibility during the works.



## New events diary

A whole new events diary has been planned for the coming months. Please check out the back page!

This is a promotional message from our new sponsor.  
Brookvale Community Association does not endorse any companies or products.

## The Price of Ignorance!

Last month was the first time a copy of Blurb came through my letter box at Victory Hill. To be honest, I wasn't even aware that we were part of Brookvale. It was a nice change to receive a piece of mail that was not offering me another credit card or a menu for another new pizza delivery service, so I read it. Yes, I actually read it and I even logged on to the web site, curious about who was behind this newsletter. I guess my curiosity was fuelled by its apparent uniqueness – I have not seen this type of voluntary community awareness within an urban environment before and so I offered my sponsorship as a local business because I believe I can offer something to my neighbours too and this feels like a good way of sharing knowledge and experiences.

Early last year, my Grandmother died at the age of 89, succeeding my Grandfather by some 10 years. It was a sad time for our family as it marked the passing of a generation. We all mourned her in our own ways and my mother, the eldest of three children, had the added responsibility of closing her mother's affairs.

Now I chose to write this piece and title it "The Price of Ignorance!", because not one of us realised what we were getting into and how ignorance cost our family a serious amount of money. If you're like me, you don't think a great deal about what will happen when you're gone and I can now say, with experience, that this is an expensive mistake.

Here is an astonishing fact: the Law Society says that 70% of us don't have a will and trust the laws of intestacy to settle our affairs. Do you know what effect that has on your estate?

However, both of my Grandparents had wills. But then I learnt that there are good wills and not so good wills. They had the latter. It cost us thousands to the taxman that could have been saved so easily. So I ask this question in hindsight - do the 30% that do have wills have an appropriate one?

The whole probate process took over 18 months to sort out and saw the Inland Revenue getting a large chunk of money that could have been kept by our family. I wonder whether either of my Grandparents would have wanted it to end this way?!

So, why am I sharing this story with you? Because I can make a difference and if the circulation of Blurb is 1000, statistically 700 of my neighbours don't have a will! That's 700 families who are leaving their hard earned assets to the mercy of the state! To die 'intestate' (without having made a will) can produce untold problems for those left behind. But it doesn't end with a will, how many

of you reading this know the consequences of becoming incapable to handle your own affairs? Who will act on your behalf and do they have the legal authority to do so? What are your options if you are struck down and can't live without artificial means of life support? It's in our nature to avoid doing necessary things if we perceive them to be uncomfortable, but imagine how uncomfortable it will be if you do nothing.

These are not pleasant thoughts but they are facts of life. Making a will and providing proper legal authority gives you a feeling that you have done everything correctly and provides a sense of security that only comes in the knowledge that you have tied up all those loose ends.



National Legal Services is an established legal company with agents across the country. Specialising in the laws of ascension, we help people put their affairs in order in the privacy of your own home and at a fraction of 'high street prices'. Irrespective of your age or the value of your estate, making a will and putting your affairs in order is one of the most important tasks that you are likely to undertake.

To receive a free information pack call

**0800 328 2364**

(Ref 8899)

Alternatively, feel free to call me on (01256) 461488 and I will be happy to answer your questions.

Andrew Flower  
t/a National Legal Services,  
409 Winterthur Way,  
Basingstoke, RG21 7UW.

Christmas Party Pictures 11th December 2004



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07981 250573 or email  
chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk



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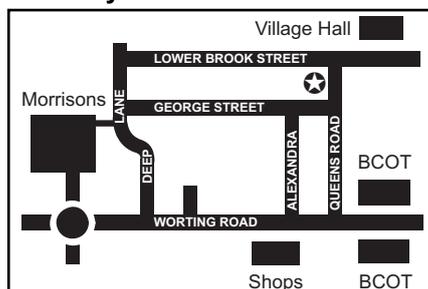
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## Event Review

### 4 Dames in Search of a Panto by Proteus Theatre Company

Brookvale Village Hall,  
Sunday 23rd January 2005

Once again, Proteus, Basingstoke's own professional theatre group, chose to end its winter tour in Brookvale. "Four Dames in Search of a Panto" explored the traditions of Pantomime.

The performance included an hilarious story in which good triumphed over evil and love conquered, well, just about everything. The afternoon provided excellent entertainment with the audience happily prepared to join in. In fact, if you were not there, don't be surprised if those of us who were present behave strangely when sprouts are mentioned.

*Review by Susanne Dean*



## BCA Information

More up-to-date information can always be found on our website:  
[www.brookvale.org.uk](http://www.brookvale.org.uk)

**For information on the Village Hall or BCA event bookings, please contact our Hall Bookings Agent:**

Cathy Elford  
(01256) 413993  
[cathy.elford@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:cathy.elford@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](mailto: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](mailto:pam.mansfield@brookvale.org.uk)

**For any information on local disability/mobility related issues, please contact our Disability & Mobility Co-ordinator:**

Chris Hall  
(07981) 250573  
[chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:karin.joseph@brookvale.org.uk)

**For any other information, please email:**

[info@brookvale.org.uk](mailto:info@brookvale.org.uk)

**Your local councillors are:**

Cllr John Shaw  
(01256) 461776  
[cllr.john.shaw@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.john.shaw@basingstoke.gov.uk)  
Cllr Doris Jones  
(01256) 415062  
[cllr.doris.jones@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.doris.jones@basingstoke.gov.uk)

Brookvale Community Association (BCA) is a registered charity.  
Reg. charity no. 269386.

## Upcoming Events

### Brookvale Baby & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time,  
1:15pm - 2:45pm, Village Hall

See our website for more details or call Helen on 421141. New members are always welcome...

### Spring Fever Jumble & Car Boot

Sunday 13th March, 11am, Village Hall

See the front page for more details.

### 3Cs Coffee Mornings

Saturday 2nd April,

Saturday 14th May and

Saturday 4th June

10am-midday, Village Hall

Don't feel like you're part of your community? Meet your neighbours and find out more about what's going on in your local area. Join us for Coffee, Cakes and Chat at 3Cs!

### Ladies Night

Tuesday 12th April, 8pm, Village Hall

Call Lin for more details on 329475.

### Skittles Evening

Friday 15th April, 8pm, Village Hall

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, Cathy Elford (details in the box to the right).

### Pudding Heaven

Saturday 21st May, time TBC, Village Hall

Whether you're a dab hand in the kitchen or simply enjoy giving in to your sweet tooth, you'll want to make sure this date is in your diary! Part competition, part eating extravaganza, this event promises to be a lot of fun. More information to follow shortly.

### BCA Annual General Meeting 2005

Tuesday 24th May, evening, Village Hall

Please put this important date into your diary now! If you have been thinking about how you might be able to get involved in your community, this is the perfect opportunity to find out how you can play a part in it. Even if you don't have time to give, please show your support for your Community Association at our AGM!

### Medieval Banquet

Saturday 25th June, Village Hall

More information to follow shortly.

### End of Summer Picnic in the Park

Saturday 3rd September, afternoon,

King George V Playing Fields

This event was a huge success in 2004 and we're delighted to report that it will be back in 2005! More information to follow shortly.