



Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society
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(Newsletter Editor: Margaret Sinfield)

Chairman: Jenn Page, **Vice Chair:** Peter Foxton, **Treasurer:** Margaret Sinfield, **Membership Secretary:** Jenn Page,
Committee Members: Frances Davies, Margaret Drew, David Freeman, Ralph Gowling, Jean James, Steven Neville,
Fiona Wheeler OBE, Ken Williamson **Honorary Member:** Lynn Jones

NEWSLETTER Autumn 2016

Dear Resident,

Hello I am **Jenn Page**, the new **Chairman of BHRS**. I have been a member of the Society and on the Committee for at least ten years. When I took over the role of Chairman from Tony Oliva, little did I realise how much work went on behind the scenes as he made the job appear effortless. I hope I can follow his example.

If you have not read EFDC'S DRAFT LOCAL PLAN FOR BUCKHURST HILL you should be aware that the following sites are proposed for essential development:

Part of the garden at **1 Powell Road** - approximately 30 homes

The Car Park in Lower Queens Road on the west side of Buckhurst Hill station - approximately 44 homes

The flats and shops in Lower Queens Road (east side) - approximately 11 homes

IT IS PROPOSED TO ALTER THE **GREEN BELT BOUNDARY**, TAKING THE HOUSE AND GARDEN OF **1 POWELL ROAD** OUT OF THE **GREEN BELT** TO ENABLE PROPOSED BUILDING.

Ironically the Plan states that weaknesses within Buckhurst Hill are: *'traffic congestion with particular pinch points around Queens Road,*

Station Way, Princes Road existing education and health care facilities are at capacity or oversubscribed, which is a potential impediment to future development of the settlement'.

The Draft Plan is out for Public Consultation from the end of October for six weeks.

There will be a static exhibition at the Library where you will find hard copies of the Draft Plan as well as more consultation forms.

It is important that we all make comments on this Draft Plan. You can comment on the EFDC website eppingforest.consultationonline.co.uk then select **Get Involved**.

The District Council is also sending each resident a leaflet about the Plan. **PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT AWAY BEFORE READING.**

Just to lighten the atmosphere let me introduce Rusty, a 'Hearing Dog for Deaf People'. Page 6



To revert to important issues, BHRS member, Parish and District Councillor, **Steven Neville**, is organising a **Speed Watch Group** to catch speeding drivers, after complaints to BHRS about some dangerous driving on residential roads. Each resident who takes part in the scheme will receive full training on how to use the equipment; it also means more speed traps can take place in Buckhurst Hill to catch the dangerous drivers.

You will also find articles in this Newsletter on the determined efforts being made by BHRS to maintain **bus routes** and create step free access at Buckhurst Hill station.

We have had a good summer - our annual lunch at the Bald Faced Stag was well attended. Apart from the food, I think folks come to chat and do Margaret Sinfield's challenging quiz. I say that because I can never answer all the questions but it's good fun.

In July David Stevenson gave one of his excellent talks about what was happening in the world during 1916. We always have a full house when David visits so we have already booked him for 2018 to talk about the Armistice.

Please do not forget to come along and support **Christmas in Queens Road** on Friday December 2nd from 3pm to 7pm. And do come to our **Christmas meeting on Wednesday December 7th**, details on last page.

STEP FREE ACCESS AT BUCKHURST HILL STATION

Report by Jenn Page

Recently I followed up Tony Oliva's previous correspondence with Chris Taggart – General Manager, Central and Waterloo and City Line. I asked Chris what progress had been made with opening the step free access at Buckhurst Hill Station.

I also wanted to know when the canopy over the platforms would be painted, now the columns have been refurbished. This was his reply.

'I managed to find some money to undertake some redecorating, and that is what you have noticed. However, the reality is that I haven't been able to secure funding for other parts of the station. We do look opportunistically to fund certain works 'on the back of' other work but this is all about timing.

With regard to the secondary entrances, a feasibility study is underway and is likely to be concluded by the end of the year. This will look at how much work is required to bring the facilities up to a reasonable standard.

I will of course keep you in touch with developments. We will keep track of this.

RODING VALLEY CENTRAL LINE

Report by Jenn Page



Without public consultation, TFL has cut by half the number of Central Line trains on the loop line service (Woodford via Hainault) passing through Roding Valley, Grange Hill and Chigwell.

TFL claims that the cuts are necessary to allow extra services on the Epping to Leytonstone branch, one of the busiest on the line.

During the morning rush-hour the 06.35, 07.44, 8.00, and 8.27 will no longer run. As a sop to this TFL have said the first train will now leave at 05.32 and two trains, 05.46 and 05.52 have been added to the service and the last train at night will be 10 minutes later.

A petition against these cuts, signed by over 1,000 people, will be presented to the London Assembly on November 2nd.



PLANNING

Report by Ken Williamson

This is my first contribution to the Newsletter as both a Committee Member and a Parish Councillor.

The Planning Lists continue with large numbers of applications, we will soon be extending the extensions.

Mention was made in the last Newsletter with regard to **West Lodge, 32 Palmerston Road**. Following the Planning Inspectorate allowing the appeal for the original scheme of 13 flats (previously objected to by BHRS Committee, the Parish Council and Plans South) there have been further applications for this development, culminating in a larger development of 14 flats being approved.

This result is deeply disappointing and we will review the process to see if there are any lessons that can be learnt for future developments. Scaffolding is now appearing around the building and demolition will commence shortly. A very sad day for Buckhurst Hill.

There have been applications for **52 Stradbroke Grove and 18 Kings Avenue** where neighbours voiced concerns over some parts of the design. It is gratifying to be able to report that following discussions both of these schemes have been amended in a manner acceptable to all parties.

There have been proposals for new dwellings at the side of **2 Gladstone Road and 40 Princes Road**.

Both of these developments have been objected to and refused Planning Permission by EFDC.

An application for a Wine Bar at **158 Queens Road** has been refused by the Planning Officers under Delegated Powers.

Peter Foxton, on behalf of BHRS, objected to this application, but as Chair of the Parish Council Planning and Environment Committee I felt that there were insufficient planning reasons to object to this application.

When the Parish Council makes an objection, or indeed Plans South refuses an application, we have to give our reasons for objection or refusal. These reasons need to be based on a sustainable planning argument.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

The scheme adjacent to **Cascade Close** has been withdrawn, the two other schemes in **Hornbeam Close and Hornbeam Road** have been approved.

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

This has already mentioned under the Chairman's Report - it must be stressed that these sites are only being discussed for future development, currently there are no detailed proposals in place. Any application would have to go through the same process and scrutiny of any other development in the area.

If these areas are adopted for future development then obviously schemes will be put forward at a future date. As already stated, **it is important that we all make comments on this Draft Plan.**

Go to the EFDC website

eppingforest.consultationonline.co.uk and then select Get Involved.

SOMME CENTENARY

Report by Margaret Sinfield

Early in the morning of July 1st this year a group of BHRS members accompanied members of the Buckhurst Hill Branch of the Royal British Legion to North Weald Airfield to take part in a **'Somme Centenary Commemoration'**.

July 1st 2016 was the 100th Anniversary of the First Day of the Battle of the Somme, and to honour this Epping Forest District Council organised an early morning commemoration service for those of all faiths.

At dusk the previous evening, in front of a replica of a WW1 trench, the Vice Chairman of Epping Forest District Council, Cllr David Stallan, had lit a brazier around which he and Airfield Officers, dressed in the uniforms of the British Army of 1916, held a vigil throughout the night.

The service began at 7.30am the following day, the hour at which troops along the line left their trenches a hundred years ago.

The Battle of the Somme continued for 141 days, resulting in more than one million casualties. The British Army alone sustained 57,470 casualties, of which 19,240 soldiers died in the first 24 hours. When the battle ended on November 18th

there were 419,654 British casualties, 500,000 German casualties and 204,253 French casualties.



To the sound of distant gunfire Fr. James Rodley, Rector of St Andrew's Parish Church led the service (men from North Weald Airfield who died in WW2 are remembered at St. Andrew's Church), which contained readings from the poems and the writings of soldiers who fought in the Great War.

Cold rain fell continuously throughout the proceedings adding to the sombre atmosphere, although at the Somme on July 1st 1916 it was actually a warm and sunny day.



Following two rousing hymns the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt. Revd. Stephen Cotterill, gave a moving address. At the end of the service Stephen Goddard, BHRS member and Buckhurst Hill British Legion Chairman, laid a wreath on behalf of the Legion below the solitary Union

Flag. The poignant sound of the Last Post ended a very moving experience for all those present.

THE BUCKHURST HILL RED WALK

On May 1st Lynn Haseldine Jones led an informal walk with the theme of May Day – the day traditionally associated with socialism - looking at the homes of a number of local people with socialist connections, ending at the Anti-Air War Memorial (the Sylvia Pankhurst Bomb monument) at Woodford Green.

The day was fine and sunny and more than twenty-five 25 people attended to enjoy the sunshine and a gentle stroll.



Lynn writes: We began in Ardmore Lane, once the home of **Elizabeth Fox Howard** at Ardmore House.

Going into the Wilderness we visited the site of the former home of artist **Walter Spradbery**. Stopping briefly in Hills Road, the home of **Herbert Henry Elvin**, a trade unionist, we paused at Devon Close, the site of the home of **Arnold Francis Hills** of Devon House.

Richard Howard Stafford Crossman of Buckhurst Hill House was perhaps the most well-known of the people we were following, being the Labour MP for East Coventry and the author of the famous diaries.

We could not forget **Edward North Buxton** of Knighton, who fought for the preservation of Epping and Hainault Forests.

Elinor Pugh of Woodcroft, 52 High Road was a regular correspondent with the painter Walter Spradbery.

Another woman of note was **Alice Maud Stacy** of Woodthorpe. The family donated Stacy Gardens to people of Buckhurst Hill.

And finally we arrived at the site of Red Cottage



in High Road, Woodford Green, which for a number of years was the home of **Sylvia Pankhurst**, with its Anti-Air War Memorial (the Sylvia Pankhurst Bomb monument) – *pictured here with myself*

I enjoyed doing the research to put this walk together and I think those who attended enjoyed the theme – and the welcome drink at the *Traveller's Friend* in the sunshine!
The handout for the Walk is on the BHRS website.



Buckhurst Hill House home of Richard Crossman

'IN DOOR STREET TEA PARTY' to CELEBRATE HM QUEEN ELIZABETH'S 90th BIRTHDAY

Report by Margaret Drew

Afternoon tea, especially of the 'cream' variety has been a traditional British ritual for many a year and one that so often we don't have time for. However on 6th June this year what better way could we have had to but sit down and enjoy HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday with each other! The appropriately decorated hall at St James' Church, with Union Jack flags flying, was filled with members of BHRS and other local Societies. During the afternoon, accordionist Hugh provided music including a good old fashioned sing-song, well-known songs from musical halls, war times and school days. Of course included

was a patriotic chorus of the national anthem and an enthusiastic round of 'Happy Birthday to Her Majesty'.



sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, for all

Throughout the afternoon, slides of the Queen from birth to aged ninety were on display – a remarkable life history leaving everyone looking forward to many more celebrations.



Most folk were dressed in appropriate red, white and blue clothes, but Joan Frances stole the show with her magnificent home-made crown.

Many members asked for the event to become a frequent one. Do let the BHRS committee know if you have any ideas for other occasions where you feel a good old fashioned afternoon tea would be welcomed.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Members were once again very generous in providing a splendid selection of home-made cakes for the BHRS annual coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care, part of the 'Biggest Coffee Morning'. £250 was raised for the charity; thank you to all who contributed cakes.



HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE

Sophie Biebuyck, on behalf of *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People*, gave a poignant talk at a recent meeting about 'Hearing Dogs' and how she was introduced to her enchanting dog Rusty.

Born with full hearing and with a successful career as an opera singer, Sophie sadly developed a rare inner-ear condition which gradually eroded her hearing. It was at this point that Rusty came into her life. Needless to say it was Rusty who stole the show at the meeting.



Hearing Dogs for the Deaf originated in 1982 and now has some 900 working hearing dog partnerships across the country. The cost to train and support each dog throughout its life is £40,000. In 2014-15 the charity raised £8.4million and trained 140 hearing dogs.

'19240 SHROUDS OF THE SOMME'

Article by BHRS member Neil McKenzie

As detailed in a previous article July 1st 2016 marks the exact 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. In that battle 19240 British soldiers were mown down by machine gun in the first few hours of the battle.

In 2013 a Somerset artist, Rob Heard, came up with the idea of making 19240 miniature plastic figures, 12 inches high, each representing one of these soldiers.

The plastic used was sufficiently pliable to enable the model to be shaped so that in fact no two miniatures were the same.

Each was then placed in an individual hand-stitched muslin shroud.

Each figure is linked to an army fatality using records from the Commonwealth Graves Commission.

Together with a friend he encouraged Exeter City Council to lay out these '19240 Shrouds of the Somme' and on July 1st 2016 the memorial

exhibition opened at the Northernhay Gardens in Exeter City Centre.

This exhibition lasted for one week and thousands of visitors came to pay their respects. It is thought that this was the largest WW1 commemoration in the country.



When the exhibition was over all the shrouded miniatures were sold to raise money for SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

Stories and photographs of those killed were sent into the project from relatives and researchers; each of the 19240 has a record on the 'Shrouds of the Somme' website – a legacy of individual soldiers killed on that fateful day.

www.thesomme19240.co.uk

Accompanying the exhibition was a continuous CD sound track, reading out the name, rank and regiment of each of the British soldiers killed on that first day of the Somme.

Allowing for just six seconds for each recorded message I estimated that it would take over thirty-two hours to complete all these messages.

It was a very moving spectacle, made even more poignant for me by the fact that my father fought on the Somme, he was wounded during the battle and had to return to England, fortunately avoiding the rest of the conflict.

However a number of the soldiers in this exhibition, depicted in their shrouds, may well have been his comrades-in-arms.

A CHILDS DELIGHT - A TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC AND BUGS

Report by David Freeman

A very popular event is the annual Teddy Bears' Picnic at Linder's Field in Roebuck Lane. Some thirty children and their teddy bears enjoyed their picnics along with mums, dads and

dotting grandparents. After, and sometimes during, the picnic trees and bushes were shaken and insect of all sorts fell onto white sheets, where they were gently placed into bug magnifying containers and examined in close detail, accompanied by squeals of delight and excitement.

Other activities included mask making, and colouring-in paintings. The children also took part in a teddy bear hunt through the ancient woodland.

Linder's Field is a wonderful example of how protection of the Green Belt is so important to this community, Linder's Field, Lord's Bushes and Knighton Wood allow families to enjoy the Forest within a gentle stroll from their doorstep, please make use of them.

NEW BUSINESSES IN QUEENS ROAD

Report by Margaret Drew

Queens Road continues to be a High Street that changes regularly.

This year there is a new Hairdressers, **Sandy Wood** - after all we have so few!

There is also another Gentleman's Barbers. However, not such a familiar service '**Legends**' at the top of Queens Road is already becoming popular. This is possibly because as well as staying open late every evening, they are also working on both Saturdays and Sundays.

The manager has become an associate member of BHRS recently to support local events and learn more about our area.

Another new associate member of the Society is the owner of the newly arrived Off-Licence, **Liquorice**. Running wine tasting events will be a change to the street as well as being a shop selling products long missing in Queens Road! The arrival of another café is pleasing to see, particularly as the site was drab and closed for over a year. **Organic Kitchen's** specialty makes it unique in the area, which will hopefully make it a real success too.

Two new boutiques, **Twenty-Six** and **Never Fully Dressed**, are really adding to the variety of clothes-shopping opportunities and have beautifully dressed windows.

In fact **Never Fully Dressed** was a winner in the competition arranged for the Queen's birthday!

It really is up to residents of BH to use our local

shops in Queens Road, Station Way, Loughton Way and others to ensure that we are able to maintain having local businesses. The expression 'Use it or Lose it' does come to mind!

BUCKHURST HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY www.bhhortsoc.co.uk

WINTER TALKS

Monday 7th November, 2016

Mr. Paul Harrigan – Bees in your garden

Venue: St. James' United Reformed Church.

Admission Free entry for members, £1 non-members.

Refreshments. Time: 7.30pm – 9.30pm. For more information please contact the Chairman: Mrs.

Maureen Briggs – email: mbriggs@uwclub.net or ring 0208 504 8436.

Monday 6th February, 2017 venue as above

Mr. Andrew Babicz – Seasonal Container Garden

Monday 6th March, 2017 venue as above

Ms. Elizabeth Gowing – Travels in blood and honey

SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Saturday 8th April, 2017 2pm – 4.30pm.

CHRISTMAS AT TOP OF QUEENS ROAD

Christmas is Coming and the Geese may be getting fat but BHRS is certainly not! It's the time for the exciting build up to our Christmas Fair! Friday 2nd December 3pm – 7pm.

Father Christmas is delighted to join us - being a member of the Society of course! A super entertainer has been chosen for youngsters, as always. **Jebb our Stilt Man** really has become quite a friend, enjoying the event himself!

Stalls, games, face painters, food, carol

singers, brass band – see poster on next page.

We also plan to round up the **roundabout**, sort out **sand activities** and delight all with **donkeys!**

This joint event with the Parish Council is really becoming a really traditional Yuletide event for our community - do come along.

A full programme of events is planned for 2017, details are listed on the last page, and on the green A5 sheet enclosed in this Newsletter.

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR
BHRS MEMBERSHIP WHICH IS
DUE ON JANUARY 1st
Preferably by Standing Order**



DIARY DATES (non- members are very welcome to all talks and walks)

*All talks are at 7.30pm at St. James' United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road on the **SECOND TUESDAY** in the month. Please note that The Film Night, AGM and Christmas Meeting are on **WEDNESDAYS***

Tuesday November 8th 2016 7.30pm 'THE GHOST WALKS ON FRIDAY' – Kate Poole

Friday December 2nd 3pm to 7pm CHRISTMAS EVENT AT TOP OF QUEENS ROAD

Wednesday December 7th CHRISTMAS SOCIAL school children carol singing plus talk by Lynn Jones
'FROM GOLD-DIGGERS TO REINDEER' - old pubs and refreshment places of Buckhurst Hill

Saturday February 4th 7pm for 7.30pm Bedford House Hall **QUIZ NIGHT WITH BHCA** £6, tables of 8, bring your own food and drink

Tuesday February 14th 'RIVER LEA, LUTON to LEYTON' - Richard Thomas

Wednesday March 15th FILM NIGHT – 'Brief Encounter' choc ices etc as usual

Tuesday April 11th 'FORENSICS CATCH CRIMINALS' - Chris Truran (ex Scenes of Crime Met. Police)

Sunday May 7th WALKING THE BOUNDARIES OF BUCKHURST HILL starting from the Roebuck Heights, North End (where the Roebuck Hotel stood) at 2pm. Estimated length of Walk: five miles, approximately three hours walking excluding refreshment stop.

Wednesday May 10th AGM & 'FIVE YEARS AS A DOCKYARD APPRENTICE' – Len Taphouse

Tuesday June 27th at noon ANNUAL LUNCH AT THE STAG £10, details in Spring Newsletter

TUESDAY TALKS LATER IN THE YEAR: July 11th **'QUEENS ROAD'** August 8th **'SEASIDE'**
September 12th **'REMEMBERING CAPTAIN CHARLES NEVILLE'**