



Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society
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Chairman: Jenn Page, **Vice Chair:** Peter Foxton, **Treasurer:** Margaret Sinfield, **Membership Secretary:** Jenn Page,
Committee Members: Frances Davies, Margaret Drew, David Freeman, Steven Neville, Fiona Wheeler OBE,
Ken Williamson Co-opted member: Anthony Young **Honorary Member:** Lynn Jones

NEWSLETTER Spring 2017

Dear Resident,

Following the example of Radio 4's Today Programme this Newsletter is being produced by two Guest Editors from BHRS's Committee, David Freeman and Ken Williamson.

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter and thank you for tuning in. Over the next hour or two we will be bringing you some old favourites as well as what we hope are some new ideas to keep you up to date with the news in Buckhurst Hill.

Enough introduction let's get to the first news item

MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

Following the success of our afternoon tea party last year to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, this year we are holding a Mad Hatter's Tea Party for BHRS members and members of other Buckhurst Hill organisations on Friday May 19th at 2.30pm at St. James' UR Church, Palmerston Road.

Wearing a festive hat would add to the festivities. There will also be musical entertainment.



We need to know how many to cater for, so please fill in the form inside this newsletter.

If you are unable to travel to the church the Committee can provide you with a lift there and back, please tick the appropriate box on the form.

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

BHCA CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

The Society had its very popular Cake Stall at this annual event in Bedford House at the end of November. In addition to a large and varied selection of cakes and bread pudding made by BHRS members, Peter Foxton's delicious homemade jams were again a great attraction.

There was also a Guess the Weight of the Cake Competition, the striking pink cake (at the right-hand end of the table in the photograph) was donated by Yiqing from Le Parfum, which was at that time at the top of Queens Road.

The event raised £236, thank you to Peter and all other members who baked for the event and those who manned the stall during the day.



NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

You will notice we have changed the format of the Newsletter. Please let us know what you think. Guest Editor Ken Williamson burnt the mid-night oil to get this edition print ready. The Deputy Editor says he kept shouting 'Hold the front page' in his sleep. (What sleep said the Editor).

Looking back on the last few months, *Christmas in Queens Road* stands out as another extremely successful event. Father Christmas cut the tinsel to open the afternoon and Mother Christmas switched on the lights. Two new editions to the afternoon were racing ferrets, donkey rides and some of you may have spied 'Harry Potter' up and down the street. All were very popular. My thanks to the Committee and everyone else who helped on the day and to the Parish office for their help in the run up to the event and to the office and Parish Councillors on the day. A very special thanks to Margaret Drew as her planning and precise attention to detail helped to create a stress free afternoon. The Charity to benefit was the Parish Council Chairman's choice - You can see photographs of the day on our website and in the article in this Newsletter.

The Local Plan was very high on our list of priorities before Christmas and an excellent response to the Plan was sent to EFDC from the Society. The consultation closed on 12 December after which we became aware of significant additional information about each of the three sites proposed for development. We sent a further letter of objection that this information was not included in the Draft Local Plan and it would seem the last letter has been read by those dealing with the Local Plan. (you can read our responses on our web site). A recently published EFDC interim report on the Plan states that c3,300 people responded to the consultation: slightly over half said they strongly disagreed with the overall vision set out in the documents.

The Society has now fully entered the 21 century. Margaret Drew works daily at keeping Facebook fresh and interesting; Peter on Nextdoor (formerly StreetLife); and Anthony, Twitter. Follow us on all three. And of course we still have an interesting website.

Thank you for your continuing support and we look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events, details of which can be found on the website and Facebook.

PLANNING

Report by Ken Williamson

Yet another Newsletter and no let up in the number of applications and the never ending quest to increase the number of dwellings in the area as well as the size of those dwellings.

Your committee objected to the proposals to extend both 31 and 33 Amberley Road. These two bungalows were previously a single bungalow and BHRS, the Parish Council and EFDC Plans South all objected to the proposal for an additional bungalow on this site. This was overturned by the Planning Inspectorate and permission was granted. Both of these applications have been granted.



There have been applications for a rear extension to 71 Princes Road the first of which was refused. The current scheme is yet to be decided upon although BHRS's Committee and the Parish Council have voiced concerns over the impact this extension will have on neighbouring properties.

A further application for a new dwelling adjacent to 2 Gladstone Road was submitted, objected to and refused permission by EFDC.

Buckhurst Hill Football Club applied for permission to change the use of open fields within the Green Belt in Roding Lane to playing fields and for the formation of a new car park. Objections were raised basically on the construction of the car park, as the use of Green Belt land as football pitches is an acceptable use. We also requested that no further development of the built facilities should be allowed in the future. If additional accommodation was required for the increased number of pitches then it should have formed part of the application. We have also requested an Ecological Survey and a Flood Risk Assessment. We still await a final decision on this application.

Much public concern was raised over an application to build 4 houses in the rear garden of 18 Russell Road. This proposal was objected to by the Parish Council and on the evening of a public meeting organised by one of the neighbours we heard that the application had been refused by EFDC Officers

Currently we have concerns over an application at 31 Kings Place which would destroy the unique character of the area. The properties to the South remain as they have been for many years and this property is one of a pair that remain on the North Side. We await the outcome of this application.



We are heartened that Epping Forest District Council is taking a strong line on opposing any rear garden developments that do not have direct access to a road.

As always if you have any concerns over a Planning Application or a Planning Matter let us know.

FROM GOLD-DIGGERS TO REINDEER – CHEERS! Public houses, tea rooms and places of refreshment in Buckhurst Hill

The Christmas meeting of the Residents' Society is always something special, and this year was no different with the wonderful children's carol singing. But how to follow that? It was decided to have a light-hearted look at pubs and how refreshment opportunities have changed over the years. We began with an opening view of the much-missed Roebuck hotel, which dated back to the 17th or 18th century, although rebuilt in the 1890s. It retained a part of the original building as the bar, but the whole lot was sadly demolished in 2004. More than just a pub, more than a hotel, it was the venue for dances, meetings and weddings, and many people remembered Mrs Mills playing the piano there! Fortunately a little of

the Roebuck remains – the stag's head is on a building of St John's School.



The Bald Faced Stag, again of considerable age, although rebuilt after a fire in 1936, has, it seems, lost its name, and is now only known as the Toby Carvery – very sad; even the bus stop has been re-named Stag Lane.

The Prince of Wales had other names (such as B52) before being demolished to make way for the flats of the Atrium

There were many more pubs, of course; the Three Colts is still with us, and the Warren Wood, both dating from the 1860s. The site of the previous Parish Office (which many remember as the premises of Les George) was once a pub called the Title Deed; what is now Prezzo was the British Queen (with many other names in between). The Railway Tavern is still there, and the Monkams Inn, but we have lost the Prince of Wales (now the Atrium flats), the Duke of Edinburgh and the Reindeer on the Epping New Road, and the Mother Hubbard on Loughton Way. There was once on the corner of the High Road and Gladstone Road a building known as the Red House; it had many uses over the years, but it began as a pub called the Gold-diggers Arms in 1868. It was a British Restaurant in the war.



Off licences existed in Queen's Road, but in the Victorian period, temperance was of some importance. Therefore it was necessary to have places where people could partake of tea and other wholesome beverages, such as the Princes Road Retreat, and Guy's Retreat (later replaced by Allworthy's ice cream factory). Trinity Terrace, on the Epping New Road, once had tea rooms.

Now of course we have a wide range of refreshment places; some pubs remain but we have many cafés and restaurants. From Italian to Turkish, from Chinese to fish and chips, Buckhurst Hill has a good choice – let's get out there and support these local businesses!

LYNN HASELDINE JONES

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

The Public Consultation period has now ended and your Committee made lengthy comments, which are available on our website. Our thanks to Peter Foxton the Vice Chair for his detailed reading of all the reports and appendices. There has been a draft response from EFDC which notes that there will be no further public consultation until 2018.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Report by Margaret Drew

December 2nd 2016, the Christmas lights switched on, Santa cut a sparkly ribbon and the children from Daiglen School sang the first carols to open our Buckhurst Hill Christmas Fair, the super way of a Merry Christmas arriving in Buckhurst Hill!

It goes without saying that Father Christmas and his lovely wife came, chatting to children about what they'd like to find in their stockings or under the tree. It has become impossible to believe that Father Christmas goes anywhere other than Buckhurst Hill prior to the 24th. One little boy explained very clearly to his sister, "See I told you it wasn't a real Santa last week – this is the real one!"



Despite being at work, Jebb (stilt walker) said most emphatically that he looked forward to coming to such a friendly community event each year! Having Harry Potter come to the fair too meant extra magic fun between them. Jebb is planning on his own little daughter coming in the future – maybe when her legs are longer?

The donkeys were so very gentle that despite one of the lights in the drive, loaned by kind neighbours, going out children didn't seem to mind the dark!



The Baptist Church with their card making activity and the fantastic chess games very kindly came again and so did BHCA with their children's art class activity for youngsters to try out – brilliant!

After climbing up the hill BHCPs children sang so enthusiastically that the crowd around them blocked the road for some time! They very much deserved the round of applause. Accordion, band, church choir and local singers all filled the air with music the whole evening.



This year the Parish Councillors Glenys and Jane, festively dressed, invited all to 'Guess the Lucky Station'. Parish Chair, Neville Wright, helped children fish for ducks, assisted by previous Chair, Aniket Patel, who had worked with the BHRS to set this event in motion, initiating the financial support from the Parish. Super BHRS members ran Hoopla, Higher-Lower and Pick a Picture, which was once again filled with prizes donated by so many generous businesses – Fingertips, Repose, Revloution at Your Feet, Coco, Legends Barbers, Liquorice, Believe In, Wow Brows, Lumleys, Azzura, Sheesh and Lexus.





Local businesses who joined in with their community spirit were BHRS members, Sandra and Jo (Sanjo) with 'Lucky Crystals', Jo (Liquorice) with Winter Pimms and Tracy (Fingertips) helping with setting up. Petty Son & Prestwich ran the 'Lucky Dip' this year as well as supporting the event advertising, Il Bacio had tasters and mulled wine and Inspire helped one of the committee provide warm drinks to helpers throughout.



Preparing for this event is obviously a challenge and real teamwork between members of the BHRS committee and the Parish. Hopefully it inspires local residents to join the BHRS as a strong number of members ensures that activities like this can continue as well the essential campaigns to maintain our local area –THE MORE THE MERRIER!

AREA PLANS SOUTH MEETINGS

Following a debate at the Full Council meeting of Epping Forest District Council, a vote was taken regarding moving the Plans South meetings from Roding Valley High School to the Council Offices in Epping. The main reason for the move was given as Security and also better facilities for all those attending. We are sorry to have lost this venue which reinforced the view of local decisions being made locally.

FURTHER THREAT TO BUS SERVICES

In March the 167 bus route from Ilford was curtailed to terminate at Loughton Station instead of running on to Debden. We have now learnt that the 20 from Walthamstow to Debden may also be under threat in 2019. Transport for London have revealed that the total costs for these routes in Essex exceeded fare income by around £1.5m, of which £0.6m was repaid by Essex County Council. In April 2016 Essex CC abruptly withdrew this subsidy and TfL then held a public consultation on the 167. Despite overwhelming opposition of residents in Buckhurst Hill, Loughton and Debden, TfL decided to curtail the service to running between Ilford and Loughton only.

At the same time, the frequency of the 549 from South Woodford to Loughton was reduced from 60 to 70 minutes, allegedly to improve reliability, but this will mean that occasional passengers will no longer be able to just turn up at the same minutes past each hour; they will have to consult the timetable or face a long wait.

TfL are under further pressure to eliminate their current £500m subsidy from Central Government, and this will lead to a reappraisal of all routes which extend outside London Boroughs. TfL have explicitly stated that London should not subsidise services in adjoining counties.

We cannot disagree with that. Transport in Essex is the responsibility of the County Council, and BHRS will be joining with residents of Loughton and elsewhere to lobby Essex CC to negotiate with TfL to maintain services either by increasing fares on journeys within Essex or by restoring their subsidy by raising Council Tax. Essex CC must not be allowed to simply walk away from their responsibility, as they did last year with the 167, and pass the blame to TfL. The current contract for the 20 expires in 2019.

54th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on Wednesday **May 10th** at 7.30pm at St. James' United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road.

The Agenda is enclosed with this Newsletter. (On the reverse side of the Agenda you will find details of a proposed change to the Constitution).

Refreshments will be served at the beginning of the meeting; after the formal part of the evening *'FIVE YEARS AS A DOCKLAND APPRENTICE' – Len Taphouse*

There are two vacancies on the Committee. Anthony Young was co-opted onto the Committee last year and is happy to stand for election. If you have internet access and are interested in joining the Committee, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact the Society before April 29th. Committee meetings are held on the last Tuesday in each month.

2016 CHARITY DONATIONS

£250 Macmillan Cancer Care – Coffee Morning
£166 Loughton Food Bank – Quiz Night Raffle
£130 Macmillan Cancer Care – Summer Cream Tea Party
£100 Hearing Dogs for the Deaf – Committee Ladies' Lunches
£180 Hearing Dogs for the Deaf – Christmas Social Raffle
£500 Alzheimer's Society – Queens Road Christmas Event
TOTAL: £1326



A huge thanks to all those who organised these events and all those who attended and supported us. Let us try for an even bigger total this year

SOCIAL MEDIA

NEWS - As well as posting messages regarding updates, the BHRS Facebook has been sharing photos and little pieces about local history and our green areas thanks to members sending stories and information. It's also been great to be able to remind us all of activities in the community and events and businesses run by members of the society. BHRS is very happy to support its members in this way. We are also now on Twitter for news and comments.

If you are not a 'Tweeter' or a 'Facebooker' you can take a look at the most recent pages via the BHRS website by clicking



If you are a member and do have a message you would like to share please do send it and any photos to enquiries@buckhursthillresidents.co.uk or, of course, send us a relevant Facebook page to share from or add to our page as a visitor.

SPEEDWATCH



The Parish Council is looking for volunteers and have issued the following:- If you think that speeding traffic has a dangerous or negative impact in our area, why not participate in our Community Speed Watch scheme? If you can spare a few hours on a regular basis, Buckhurst Hill Parish Council is looking for volunteers to help us set up a SpeedWatch team locally.

All the necessary equipment will be provided and you will be fully trained to identify and report speeding vehicles. Community Speed Watch schemes around Essex play a crucial role in helping to re-educate motorists about speed, and raise awareness of the impact that anti-social driving can have on communities. If you would like to help or want more information contact us on 020-8498-9933 or email to office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk.

The Society is sorry to announce that Jean James has recently tendered her resignation from the committee. Jean has been a stalwart of the Residents' Society for many years and has played an integral part in all our events from serving on the Events Sub-committee to being Mother Christmas at our annual *Christmas in Queens Road*. Jean has also made many delicious cakes for our Cake Stalls (where will we be without Jean's coffee walnut gâteau?) and she made the most yummy smoked salmon sandwiches for our Cream Tea Party last summer. Jean was a very knowledgeable and valued member of the committee and we will all miss her.

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

Tues April 11 th	'FORENSICS CATCH CRIMINALS' - Chris Truran (ex Scenes of Crime Met. Police)
Sun May 7 th	WALKING THE BOUNDARIES OF BUCKHURST HILL starting from the Roebuck Heights, North End (where the Roebuck Hotel stood) at 2pm. There will be a short stop at the Monkams Inn, sometime after 3.30pm. Estimated length of Walk: five miles, approximately three hours walking excluding the stops. The Walk can be left at various points if needed. The terrain is over fields, pavements and Forest land. There are several kissing gates over which pushchairs would probably need to be lifted, and a flight of steps over the Railway. Please bring water, suitable field and Forest footwear, sun hats and sun block/waterproofs.
Wed May 10 th	AGM & 'FIVE YEARS AS A DOCKYARD APPRENTICE' – L. Taphouse
Friday May 19 th	2.30pm in the Church/Hall MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY - <i>CREAM TEA AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT</i> £5 donation suggested (application form enclosed with this Newsletter) Please wear a mad hat Spare mad hats will be available on the day
Tues June 27 th	at 12 noon ANNUAL LUNCH AT THE STAG £10, wine and drinks extra (application form enclosed with Newsletter)
Tues July 11 th	'QUEENS ROAD' - Lynn Jones
Tues August 8 th	'SEASIDE' - Janet Seward
Tues Sept 12 th	'REMEMBERING CAPTAIN CHARLES NEVILLE' – Steven Neville
Tues Sept 26 th	11am to 12.30pm COFFEE MORNING in aid of ESSEX MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT £3 to include home-made cakes
Sat October 7 th	7pm in the Church/Hall: ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT £6 per person, tables of eight maximum, please bring your own food and drink (soft drinks and wine only)
Tues Nov 14 th	Speaker to be announced in Autumn Newsletter
Fri Dec 1 st or 8 th	date to be confirmed - CHRISTMAS in QUEENS ROAD 3pm to 7pm
Wed Dec 6 th	CHRISTMAS MEETING

Thank you for listening and we hope to have another guest Editor for the next Newsletter and any comments you may wish to make regarding layout or content would be gratefully received.