

BHRS's NEW LOGO

Janice Curd reports

In January this year, BHRS approached Epping Forest College with a commission to design a new logo for the Society, as it celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The Graphic Design Department led by Rowan Hartfree-Pearce, supported by Karen Sturt, was keen to work with the Society and agreed that the students could use this opportunity to work on a 'live project' as part of their course.

A brief from BHRS was submitted to Rowan and Karen and forty 40 students produced their initial designs, which were then given feedback from tutors as well as the Society in order to progress to the next stage.

Students met with members of BHRS Committee in May to discuss the ideas behind their designs and to gain constructive feedback.

Of the forty designs, fifteen were chosen for further development; from these fifteen just six were selected to compete for the Committee's choice of BHRS's new logo.

At a presentation in June the Society expressed its thanks and appreciation to staff and students at Epping Forest College for the hard work and professionalism put into this project.

The winning design was created by Victoria Precious. On behalf of BHRS I presented Victoria with a cheque for £50.



Victoria Precious with her prize winning logo

Sophie Ullah was awarded a gift voucher as the runner-up.

The Committee was most impressed by the hard work and professionalism of the students and is looking forward to the launch of this new look.

Initially the students were shown the original logo, but they then visited Buckhurst Hill to form their own ideas of what were the characteristics of the area.

As you can see, the final result incorporates all the elements of the original logo designed by Heather Thirtle and her two friends - a tree, a house and a church - albeit in a design perhaps more in tune with the twenty first century. ed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Tony Oliva reports

A member of BHRS's Committee reviews EFDC's weekly planning applications and visits any site that gives concern, and subsequently views the plans.

I will then write to the Planning Committee with the Society's comments on the application.

EFDC's planning website details the list of applications, both current and decided:

<http://plan1.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/ApplicationSearch.aspx>

Plans for current applications can also be viewed at the Parish Office in the Library, Queens Road, or at the District Council Offices in Epping.

Copies of the plans are obtainable from Epping.

158 QUEENS ROAD EPF/1684/13

This is an application to build two 3 storey blocks with 4 flats in the rear garden of this property which for many years operated as an off-licence at the top of Queens Road.

In addition the application seeks to expand the retail units on the site and increase the residential accommodation above.

The Society believes the flats in the garden represent overdevelopment on this site and will impact upon the residents of Princes Road who will now find a three storey building at the bottom of their gardens. In addition the designs are very poor and parking is insufficient.

The Society has voiced its objections at the Parish Planning Committee and the Committee has concurred and also objected to this application. The decision of EFDC's Planning Committee is awaited.

We then sat and considered what to do next - our evenings were now free, after working until 11pm every evening for weeks.

We felt a Residents' Society was the answer and we formed the Society immediately, to ensure that should a similar problem occur there would be a Society, and its funds, ready to deal with it.



We three sat on the floor of a cottage in Princes Road designing a logo - the old and new and a tree - a logo that has lasted fifty years.



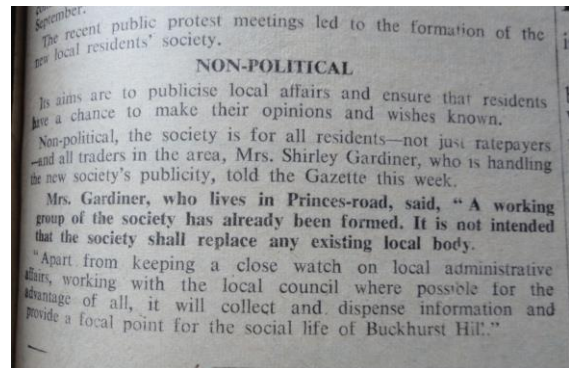
The Committee of the new Society was working well and our feelings were that if we three joined the Chigwell UD Chamber of Commerce we would be a louder voice there.

However, the two men were accepted onto the Executive Committee which was male dominated, but they were not accepting a woman.

It was not until two years later that I was accepted and became their Chairman for twenty years. I am now their President.

The Chamber of Commerce covers an area from Roding Valley to Ongar and we will always be pleased to work with BHRS in any issue which affects us both.

It was the vision of Heather and her two friends that the Society should be for all in Buckhurst Hill, residents and traders, and non-political.



The aims were also to publicise local affairs, ensure that residents have a chance to make opinions and wishes known, to collect and dispense information, and to form a focus for social life within Buckhurst Hill.



Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society has from that time onwards worked hard to retain the very best features of Buckhurst Hill, whilst not standing in the way of natural progress.

Surrounded by the greenery of Epping Forest, BHRS will continue to protect these special features for, we hope, the next fifty years! Pg8

HISTORY WALK IN QUEENS ROAD

Under a clear blue sky, bathed in warm sunshine, on the first Sunday in October, Lynn Haseldine Jones, Buckhurst Hill Historian, led members of Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society and Historical Society conducted a fascinating walk.



The start of the History Walk at the top of Queens Road under an oak tree

The group of thirty five made its way down the hill looking at all the existing old houses, as well as listening to Lynn's absorbing descriptions (and her photographs taken in the 1800s) of the original buildings which had once graced Queens Road, and the lives of their occupants.

At that time Queens Road was more residential, having some charming cottages in addition to many large villas, a church and a school, plus some shops, including a blacksmith's shop.



Group near Buckhurst Hill House in Queens Road

Some of the walkers had lived in Buckhurst Hill all their lives and were able to add their own personal reminiscences.

At the end of the Walk a collection was taken for the Poppy Appeal.

Lynn has already given one enthralling talk to the Residents' Society entitled '*Some important families of Victorian & Edwardian Buckhurst Hill*', as well as publishing a book, '*Grand Commuters*', on the same subject.



Walkers in Queens Road outside Portland House towards the end of the Walk

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

The Society's Annual Quiz Night, run in October by Steven and Roger Neville, was a great success. St. James' Church/Hall was filled with tables at which sat BHRS members and members of other Buckhurst Hill groups, agonising over a great variety of questions.



*On the left: **Steven Neville**, Vice Chairman BHRS, Quiz Leader On the right: **Tony Oliva**, Chairman BHRS, part of the Meadway Table, resigning himself to being defeated by the winning BHRS Table!*

A raffle held in aid of Haven House Children's Hospice raised £135.

THE BEGINNINGS OF BHRS

Report by Heather Thirtle

Additional comments by Lynn Jones in italics

Pages from the 1963 editions of West Essex Gazette (housed in Epping Forest District Museum) were photographed by Lynn Jones and Margaret Sinfield.

In 1963 the local newspaper, the West Essex Gazette, announced a redevelopment plan for Queens Road, to make it into another Debden it seemed, by means of Compulsory Purchase Orders.



I was young and very enthusiastic and realised something had to be done.

Looking at the plans it was obvious the task was too much for me, so I went to see Derick Cox at Reliable Radio and Laurie Rorke at the Sweet Shop and together we formed ourselves into a petition group.



At that time there were three butchers, two bakers, three greengrocers and three fish shops in Queens Road plus Harrisons the grocers and the International stores, plus a good sized Co-op.

We set about gleaning information and spent our evenings organising parties to visit every house and business in Buckhurst Hill to gain signatures for our petition.

The couple in the newspaper cutting below spent their honeymoon collecting signatures!



Soon posters appeared in shop windows advising passers-by what was planned and asking for support. A public meeting was hastily arranged at the Roebuck Hotel – it was described as 'the biggest gathering Buckhurst Hill has known for many years'.



'Keep your hands off Buckhurst Hill!' was the next headline, after the newspapers reported that over 400 people had turned up at the Roebuck meeting.

A single police officer was present, and residents 'barracked the councillors, hurling questions, shouting, cheering, clapping and at one point starting a slow handclap'.

At this point it was necessary to instruct a Solicitor and we chose one located in Finsbury Park for obvious reasons. Following many meetings with us he said that he felt the project needed a Barrister and one was duly instructed. The cost of legal aid and the cost of the Barrister was £4,000. There were no funds, so the three of us raised monies to pay the invoices.

When the petition was completed and bound we were advised that we must have a photographer present to take photographs of it leaving my hand and being accepted by the Clerk to the Chigwell Urban District Council, Mr. Faulkner.

We arranged this and also for a large group of people to witness the event.



Surrounded by Buckhurst Hill residents, Miss Heather Thirtle displays the petition containing over 3,000 signatures.



Then the good people of Buckhurst Hill waited anxiously to see what would happen next. Soon, to everyone's relief, the Council rejected the scheme.



Two councillors who voted against the plan said 'the people of Buckhurst Hill have expressed themselves most forcefully. At three public meetings they declared opposition to the scheme', and, somewhat dramatically, 'we as Englishmen pride ourselves on freedom. We were not put on the council to have people out of their homes and businesses...let us bow down to the will of the people'.

The flags went up and the celebrations began.



2000 - MILLENNIUM CLOCK



2000 - TIME CAPSULE BURIED



2002 - BHRS FLOAT IN BUCKHURST HILL'S CARNIVAL TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE



2007 - CAROLINE FRIEDMAN UNVEILING WALTER SPRADBERRY'S 'FEBRUARY SNOW' AT BEDFORD HOUSE, HAVING RESCUED IT FROM CORUS HOTELS



DIARY DATES (for further details of these events please see enclosed leaflet)

All meetings, except the Summer Meal and the Christmas Event, will be held at St. James' United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road

Tuesday November 19th: 7.30pm Speaker: Mike Lear - The East End

Tuesday December 3rd: 7.30pm 50th Anniversary Meeting:

Rev. June Colley – The Origins of Christmas Carols. Wine/cava, mince pies, Anniversary Cake

Friday December 6th: 3pm to 7pm: CHRISTMAS FAYRE *details inside this Newsletter*

Wednesday February 5th 7.30pm Ken Barker - Inside the Bee Hive

Wednesday March 5th 7.30pm in the Hall Film Night – Hitchcock. Interval choc ices and popcorn

Wednesday April 2nd 7.30pm Helen Leonard – My Life in the Tower of London

Wednesday May 7th 7.30pm AGM Lynn Jones – Buildings of Buckhurst Hill

Wednesday June 18th Summer Lunch at the Stag *Details will be in the 2014 Spring Newsletter*

Wednesday July 2nd 7.30pm Professor David Stevenson-Why World War I began & why Britain was involved

Wednesday August 6th 7.30pm Malcolm Dick – London History

Wednesday September 3rd 7.30pm Martin Fairhurst - The Central Line

Tuesday September 30th 11am to 12.30pm Coffee Morning in aid of Essex MacMillan Cancer Support

Saturday October 4th 7pm in the Church/Hall: Annual Quiz Night

Wednesday November 5th 2014 7.30pm Dale and Val Gravett – Life with the Lions

Wednesday December 3rd 2014 7.30pm Joan Francies – A Ride Away. Wine and Mince pies