



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

Chairman: Tony Oliva, **Vice Chair:** Peter Foxton, **Treasurer:** Margaret Sinfield, **Membership Secretary:** Jenn Page,
Committee Members: Michele Davies, Margaret Drew, Jean James, Steven Neville, Ken Williamson;
Honorary Member: Lynn Jones

NEWSLETTER Spring 2015

Dear Resident,

The Committee regrets to announce that John Davies, who served as BHRS's Membership Secretary for many years, died peacefully in Whipps Cross Hospital on Friday 6th February after a short illness.

John worked for many good causes over the years particularly for the Scout Movement.



This photograph of John with the statue of Lord Baden-Powell was taken in 2012 following a reception at Gilwell Park for the unveiling of the Window of Recognition, to which John himself, and Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society, had donated.

See tribute on page 6

A full programme of events is planned for the rest of 2015, details are listed on the last page, and on the green A5 sheet enclosed in this Newsletter.

52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **Wednesday May 13th at 7.30pm** at St. James' United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road.

The **Agenda** is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Refreshments will be served at the beginning of the meeting; after the formal part of the evening the **new BHRS Web Site** will be launched and then **Lynn Jones** will give a talk entitled **'The Linder Family of Buckhurst Hill'**.

There are **three vacancies on the Committee**.

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 30th. Committee meetings are held on the last Tuesday in each month.

Proposition: Annual subscription to be increased from January 2016 to £6 per annum for cash or cheque payments but to remain at £5 per annum for Standing Orders.

It is hoped that this will act as an incentive for members to move over to Standing Orders which make payment and collection of subscriptions far easier for both members and the Society.

A large number of people already pay by Standing Order and it seems to work well, there have been no complaints. Frequently members cannot remember if they have paid for the current year; a Standing Order means that the subscription will be paid automatically

PLANNING

Report by Ken Williamson

This has been a busy time for the Committee with the schemes for **1 Powell Road (McCarthy and Stone) and St Elisabeth's Church in Chestnut Avenue** having reached the stage where Planning Applications have been lodged with EFDC.

The Committee circulated details of the planning process and the possible timetable on both of these schemes: the Powell Road scheme had three hundred leaflets circulated in the area adjacent to the development and similarly St Elisabeth's had one hundred and thirty leaflets circulated. The Committee was very pleased with the response from local residents regarding the Powell Road scheme, it showed an overwhelming objection to this development. At the time of writing both schemes have been presented to the Parish Council which raised objections to both schemes; this means that the proposals will now have to be decided by District Councillors.

Objections to the proposal at **1 Powell Road** centred on Green Belt issues, overdevelopment, effect on Linder's Field, additional traffic, effect on all local services, poor siting due to the gradients in the vicinity, the effect on existing care homes in the area, etc. etc .

Objections to the proposal at **St Elisabeth's Church** were led by Parish Councillor Wheeler who spoke passionately that the residents of the area should be allowed to be heard regarding proposals to replace the church. She stated very strongly that local residents did not want this scheme. Other objections included overdevelopment and the design of the Chestnut Avenue elevation, which required more sympathetic treatment to make a softer transition from the 1930s houses to the new development.

To ensure that BHRS's objections to these two developments continue to be heard the Committee will inform all those that have left their contact details with the Society of the next meeting dates. If you want to be included please send an email address to:

info@buckhursthillresidents.co.uk stating which development is of interest to you.

During the period July to December 2014, there were a total of seventy-six applications heard at

the Parish Council, nine of which were for works to trees. Of the sixty-seven applications for building works, BHRS Committee delivered notes to ninety seven addresses and commented on twenty-eight applications.

This resulted in eight refusals, four schemes withdrawn and two awaiting results.

BHRS's Committee has gained refusals at **13 Queens Road** for a proposed 3rd floor addition, which would have destroyed the Victorian facade to these shop units, also at **25 Gladstone Road** for a scheme which would have affected the street-scene.

The development at the **Albany Stud on Epping New Road** has been granted permission.

During the Plans South meeting representatives from the City of London acting as the Conservators of Epping Forest gave notice that there are covenants in place on the land which would preclude this development.

The legal position will have to be finalised before work commences.

There are still serious concerns over the proposed development of two new detached houses at **6 Scotland Road** which is yet to be decided.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter some proposals lead to breakdowns of community relations. One example recently entailed four applications in eight months, resulting in one application being withdrawn and two being refused. A very much amended application has now been accepted by Plans South, but there is a possibility that an Appeal has been made against a previous decision made by the Planning Officer. Maybe the saga continues

The anguish caused to both sides by these types of applications is enormous, all of which could have been avoided by discussion and a common sense approach to what is achievable. Why can't neighbours talk to each other; this is not a contest for the biggest extension.

One scheme that was refused recently by EFDC went to appeal and the Planning Inspectorate then approved it. This appeal was decided using the new **Householder Scheme**. Having studied this scheme BHRS's Committee has many reservations in the way that the legislation works. The Committee will be contacting our MP, Eleanor Laing to discuss the process. It is hoped

that the results will be in the next Newsletter.

Whilst making site visits to each proposal your Committee is looking for general items of concern in the neighbourhood. If you have any concerns over a building project in your vicinity, email: info@buckhursthillresidents.co.uk and the Committee will take up your concerns with the appropriate person.

BUCKHURST HILL UNDERGROUND STATION & CENTRAL LINE SERVICES

Report by Tony Oliva

Last Summer I emailed the Manager of the Central Line (Chris Taggart) with many example photos complaining about the decorative state of Buckhurst Hill station compared with all the other stations at this end of the Central Line. I eventually had a meeting in November, on the platforms, with Chris Taggart and a number of his local managers, to review the situation.

As a result Chris Taggart said: *In January our stations project team will carry out a survey of the station to identify what needs to be done, including a survey of the iron works and the platforms' 1891 Victorian Canopies, which are in a very poor state.* No timescale was offered.



We also discussed the possibility of opening up the southern gates to the station to allow step free access, but he would not give approval for it at this stage. However the Society will continue to pursue this as it would be of great benefit to passengers with disabilities/children's prams/luggage. It would also benefit the local businesses near this entrance.

You will notice significant changes to the booking hall in the summer as the new ticket machine layout is implemented and the booking office is closed. This is part of the new arrangements across the whole Underground

system; staff should then be on hand by the machines to help people with ticket purchases and travel advice. It would be useful to know from members if they have any problems once the changes have been made.

In mid-September TFL plans to open a number of underground lines through the night on Fridays and Saturdays on a permanent basis. This will start at the beginning of the Rugby World Cup in the UK which is expected to attract large numbers of overseas visitors to London. These new arrangements will extend as far as Loughton on this part of the Central Line so Buckhurst Hill Station will be open through the night on Fridays and Saturdays from then onwards.

GERRY DAVEY

At the beginning of last year Gerry Davey announced his retirement from the post of BHRS's Auditor, a post he held since 1972. In recognition of Gerry's commitment to the Society for so many years the Committee presented Gerry (who lived in Buckhurst Hill for many decades) with a framed sketch of St. John's Church by the late Jack Clouse and a signed copy of 'Grand Commuters' by Lynn Haseldine Jones. The Committee is extremely grateful for the professional expertise that Gerry brought to BHRS, and the time he gave, so efficiently and cheerfully (and for no remuneration), in auditing the annual accounts for so many years.

CHARITY DONATIONS

Following a number of BHRS events in 2014 £890 was donated to various charities last year:
July/August Speakers: Guide Dogs for the Blind: £80
Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care: £180
Quiz Night Raffle: Essex Air Ambulance: £175
November Speaker: Loughton Food Bank: £30
Christmas Fair Lucky Dip: Alzheimer's Society: £200
Committee Ladies' Lunches: Starlight Children's Foundation: £230

BUCKHURST HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Horticultural Society has recently acquired a web site: bhortsoc.co.uk
The Society is open to all local residents.

QUEENS ROAD 2014 CHRISTMAS EVENT

Report by Margaret Drew

Photographs by Janet Caddock and Margaret Sinfield

Christmas really did arrive with a bang in Buckhurst Hill one Friday evening in December. The Fair at the top of Queens Road organised by Buckhurst Hill's Residents' Society and Parish Council in aid of The Alzheimer's Society was a great success.

Children from *Daiglen School* opened the event with their super carol singing as the Christmas lights were switched on.



Daiglen School Choir

The music continued throughout the evening with carolers from *Braeside, Loyola, St. John's* and *Buckhurst Hill Primary Schools* as well as *St John's* and *St James' Church* choirs.



Braeside School Choir



Loyola School Choir

The fabulous *Becontree Brass Band* filled the Market with that traditional Christmas sound,



while a group from the *Roding Players Orchestra* entertained in the library.



Accordianist, *Hugh Bardwell* and Buckhurst Hill's answer to Neil Diamond, *Gary*, (provided by *Fingertips*), also ensured that the sound of Christmas was everywhere.

Magic Shows, Pony Rides (*young Miles Braysher is on the pony below*), card-making activities from BH Baptist church and a *Lucky Dip* entertained the children.



Father Christmas (see below with *Mother Santa*) had his own Grotto and *Jebb, the Stilt Walking Juggler*, sponsored by the Town Centre Partnership, amazed everyone with his tricks as well as causing groans at his jokes.



Stalls, roundabout, toffee apples (see below) and candyfloss apart, what made this event really special was the great spirit of community.



The *Green Owl Café* came up the hill to join the fun, *Adelphia Restaurant* had free tasters and *Sanjo* made a free prize draw. *Il Bacio* offered free mulled wine during the evening as well as bringing welcome drinks to the teams setting up during the day, including to members of BHRS who started their day there at 6am!

The *pony rides* were made possible thanks to neighbours allowing their drive-way to be used, as well as hosting the *face painters* during the evening. *Repose Studio* provided all the electricity for lighting the market. That's team work! And over £1000 was collected for the *Alzheimer's Society*.



Three of the organisers presented with gifts by Aniket Patel, Parish Council Chairman

BEST DRESSED CHRISTMAS WINDOW

Bella Capelli was awarded the BHRS Certificate for best dressed window in Queens Road in 2014.



BHCA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



The Society had its usual **Cake Stall**, with homemade jams as well as cakes, at this very well attended event in Bedford House, plus a Guess the Weight of the Cake Competition. The event raised £144 thanks to the many members and friends who made the delicious cakes, bread pudding and jams.

BEFORE AND AFTER – THE JOYS OF CLEAN LIVING!

Report by Michele Davies

It has only taken 10 years but the river walk from the *Cascade Road storm tanks to the rugby field* has finally been cleared of litter and residents can look forward to a lovely spring walk. At the time of writing there only remains an old foam mattress which it is hoped will also be cleared. Fed up with the disgusting state of the walk a local resident who is also a BHRS Committee Member contacted Steven Neville, also a Committee member, to lobby EFDC to clean the area.

It appears that the walk had totally been forgotten in terms of cleaning and the council was not sure who was responsible for it, as some of the area belongs to the Housing Department, some may be to the Parish Council and others to the District Council.

The Committee is pleased to say that the Housing Department took the initiative and arranged a prompt litter pick and cleaning of the area – well done them for their quick response and a job well done.



BEFORE

AFTER

The Committee has asked the council departments to organise between themselves as to who will take the initiative for the area, if necessary recharging others, and schedule regular litter picking of the walk so it does not get into such a disgusting state again.

It just goes to show that we do not have to live with squalid conditions; all we need do is raise it with the council and they will respond. Do not

put up with it - be responsible and report it yourself. Congratulations also for the excellent Council service that responds to fly tippers with very prompt responses to on line reporting. Credit must be given where it is due!

JOHN DAVIES 1933 – 2015

Taken from the Eulogy at John's funeral by Lay Preacher Chris Windward

John was born in Cardiff but was brought up in South Woodford where he attended St. Mary's Church as a boy, soon becoming Head Chorister; John remained an active member of that church for the rest of his life.

On leaving school John was unable to join the Navy due to his poor eyesight, so he opted instead to go into advertising. He joined IPC Magazines where he worked his way up to become Advertising Manager for some of the top weekly women's magazines. He eventually moved to a prestigious American bank where there was a less-pressured working environment. He married Frances in 1975, they met during their work with the 52nd Epping Forest Scout Troop. After a very short time they moved to Buckhurst Hill where they then lived for the next 39 years.

John had many interests throughout his life but in his younger years it was to Scouting that he devoted his enthusiasm, skills and time.

He was Assistant Scout Leader of the 52nd Troop for over 25 years. He led their weekly meetings and organised many summer camps at Gilwell Park, the Scout Headquarters.

For 25 years John served as Chairman of the Scout Football League under whose auspices 250 cubs and scouts played every week.

He helped to organise the Gang Shows involving the 52nd and 33rd troops which were eventually performing at the Hawkey Hall to over 3,000 folk during the week.

In 1967 John was asked to lead the Epping Forest Scout contingent to the International Scouting Jamboree in Idaho.

John was also actively involved with many other organisations apart from BHRS for which he was Membership Secretary for many years.

He was also on the Committee of the Woodford and Wanstead Branch of the Royal British Legion, a Committee raising money for

Macmillan Nurses and an Abbeyfield Retirement Care Home. He was also a Governor of Cranbrook School, and a member of PROBUS. John was always good humoured even in the last years of his life when he suffered so much ill health; he was cared for unstintingly by Frances during those years.

Following his death John was described by many of his friends as a true English gentleman; he was a larger than life character, invariably cheerful in disposition, ready to help out when-ever needed, always impeccably dressed.

Buckhurst Hill will miss John as will many BHRS members.



John as Town Crier at the 2002 Buckhurst Hill Christmas Fayre, standing in Waitrose's store in front of BHRS's Santa's Grotto.

PLASTIC BAGS

Report by Steven Neville

After the General Election in May this year it is mooted that a charge of 5p will be levied on plastic bags.

Plastic bags are harmful to the environment as they take thousands of years to biodegrade, can cause animals to choke to death, and they have harmful chemicals in them which if released into the soil or water have great potential to harm us and the flora and fauna around us.

In recent years various towns have banned their use by working with traders and local residents.

Totnes is an example where BBC broadcaster Rebecca Hoskins launched a campaign and sought, successfully, to have plastic bags banned and alternatives used.

In 2012 Northern Ireland put in place a similar levy as the one proposed in England and Wales. The result? a 72% reduction in the use of plastic bags for shopping! In the Republic of Ireland a similar had already been made in 2002 and it produced a 90% reduction. So are our shops ready for this?

Members of St. James' URC Eco Committee and BHRS Committee will be asking this of shop keepers in Buckhurst Hill and I hope so will you. Also we need to encourage Waitrose to do so as the store has been known to foist throwaway plastic bags on people in recent times rather than offer them Waitrose long life bags.

Letters to their HQ need to be sent to:

Waitrose Limited, Doncastle Road, Southern Industrial Area, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8YA

BAPTIST CHURCH opens COFFEE SHOP!

Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church, on the corner of Palmerston Road and Westbury Lane, has now completed its new extension.

The extension incorporates a coffee shop called **The Lighthouse** which is open on Mondays to Thursdays from 8.30am to 4.30pm; Fridays from 8.30am to 2.30pm. The Church say "Come for coffee/tea, cake/biscuits and a chat".

ARMENTIÈRES IN THE GREAT WAR

Photographs: Carol Goddard/Margaret Sinfield

In October last year a group of eleven members of the Buckhurst Hill Branch of the Royal British Legion, including six BHRS members (the Goddards, Spencers and Sinfields) travelled to Armentières in Northern France for a four day visit to join the town's commemorations of **La Course a la Mer** (The Race to the Sea) October 11th to November 2nd 1914; The **Battle of Armentières** was part of the First Battle of Ypres.

We were the only representatives in the town from an English branch of the Royal British Legion so from the moment we arrived on the Friday afternoon we were made to feel most honoured guests.

On Saturday morning a very large number of **re-enactors** (men and women who take part in Great War commemorations throughout France and Belgium, setting up living history camps wearing 1914 military uniforms) re-enacted the battle with the Germans in

the local nature reserve at the official opening of the **Race to the Sea** commemorations by the Mayor.

Sunday was the day for solemn remembrance at **Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery** in Armentières, which contains 2,132 Commonwealth burials of the Great War. We each wore a poppy and a bleuuey (the blue cornflowers worn by the French). Following this ceremony we marched at the rear of a **procession** to **La Grand-Place**, the Town Square, led by the Mayor, other local dignitaries as well as the re-enactors, accompanied by **bands** playing songs from the Great War, watched by crowds of local residents.



Stephen Goddard and Peter Spencer (above) laid wreaths at the **Monument Aux Morts**, the town's War Memorial.

On the final day we visited the **Military Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemeteries on the Ypres Salient**. We first visited **Ploegsteert (Plug Street) Cemetery** with its impressive memorial commemorating 11,369 men with no known grave. **Buckhurst Hill** men whose names are engraved on the memorial include: **L/Cpl. Joseph Wakelin**, from 103 Princes Road, who had been serving in France for only two months before he was killed in action, aged 30; **Pte. Lawrence Gurton**, of 114 Princes Road, aged 19; **Gunner Thomas Radmall** aged 32; and **2nd Corporal Arthur Bird**, of Woodbine Cottage, High Road, aged 28.

We then visited **Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing**, just outside **Passchendaele**. Twenty-one Buckhurst Hill men died at Passchendaele, the second largest number of Buckhurst Hill fatalities in any single battle in the Great War.

At sunset on the penultimate day of our visit to Armentières we returned to **Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery** for the **Drum Head Ceremony**.

As we were leaving in the rain we noticed a Scottish piper was standing by one particular headstone in the mist, playing his own private lament. This poignant moment summed up the entirety of our visit to Armentières.



One of the highlights of the visit to Armentières: **BHRS member Stephen Goddard** was rewarded for his tireless work in linking the Buckhurst Hill branch of the Royal British Legion with the French re-enactment groups by the presentation of a magnificent **medal**, plus the **Diploma for Croix d'Honneur Franco-Britannique** with the rank of Knight.

DIARY DATES

All events are at 7.30pm at St. James' United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road

Talks are on the SECOND TUESDAY in the month (non- members very welcome)

£3 entrance, incl. refreshments

AGM and Christmas Meeting: SECOND WEDNESDAYS

Tuesday April 14th LAWRENCE of ARABIA incl. his local connections – Maggie Radcliffe

Sunday May 3rd at 2pm WALKING THE BOUNDARIES OF BUCKHURST HILL starting from the Roebuck Heights, North End (where the Roebuck Hotel stood). *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.*

Wednesday May 13th AGM followed by talk on the **LINDER FAMILY** by Lynn Jones (no charge)

Tuesday June 23rd 12 noon ANNUAL LUNCH AT THE STAG £10, wine and drinks extra (application form enclosed with Newsletter)

Tuesday July 14th TAKING THE WATERS (from the Romans to the spas at Bath, Buxton, Weymouth, Brighton) – Georgina Green

Tuesday August 11th MADE IN BUCKHURST HILL - Lynn Jones

Tuesday September 8th GRANGE FARM: THEN AND NOW - Roger Neville

Tuesday September 29th 11am to 12.30pm COFFEE MORNING in aid of **ESSEX MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**

Saturday October 10th 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)

Tuesday November 10th 7.30pm GUY FAWKES – Jef Page

Friday December 4th CHRISTMAS EVENT IN QUEENS ROAD

Wednesday December 16th 7.30pm CHRISTMAS SOCIAL details to be announced (no charge)