



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;  
**Co-opted Members:** Frances Davies, David Freeman, Ralph Gowling **Honorary Member:** Lynn Jones

## NEWSLETTER Spring 2016

Dear Resident,

Spring and Summer 2016 is both a time to remember and a time to celebrate.

To **REMEMBER** the sacrifice of the **forty-three men** from Buckhurst Hill who were killed in the **Battle of the Somme** in 1916, **seven** of whom were killed on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the first day of the battle. *These seven Buckhurst Hill men were John Pearson (High Road), Joseph Poulton and William Driver from Albert Road, George Auken (Palace Gardens), Edward Dearman (Alfred Rd.) Francis Miller (Princes Rd.) and Robert Bell.*

The majority of the forty-three men have no known grave; their names are inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial in Northern France, amongst the other 72,151 names of Allied soldiers killed on the Somme between July and December 1916.



In July this year, Stephen Goddard, BHRS member and Chairman of the Buckhurst Hill Branch of the Royal British Legion, will visit the

Thiepval Monument and lay wreaths in memory of these forty-three Buckhurst Hill men.

To **CELEBRATE** the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth II.



BHRS plans to join in the birthday celebrations by holding a **90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Afternoon Cream Tea** – an indoor ‘street’ party – for BHRS members and members of other Buckhurst Hill organisations on **Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm at St. James’ UR Church, Palmerston Road.**

**Palmerston Road.**

Wearing red, white and blue clothing, or a crown 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 2016, details are listed on the last page, and on the green A5 sheet enclosed in this Newsletter.**

## CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SOCIETY

*Message from Tony Oliva, BHRS Chairman*

I will have completed 10 years' service as Chairman of Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society by the time of the AGM in May.

During this period we have broadened our activities, developed relationships with many bodies and launched a new logo and website. Our finances remain strong and we continue to fight on many issues affecting our area. I therefore feel the Society is now in a strong position for someone else to take over the reins.

I therefore intend to stand down as both Chairman and Committee member at the AGM. However I will continue to be a member and give my full support to the activities of the Society. I am sure that the committee will soon announce who they have elected to be my successor from amongst my very able colleagues. I have enjoyed undertaking this role over the last 10 years but believe it is healthy for organisations to ring the changes on a regular basis so that someone else can bring in new ideas to develop the Society further in the future.

I would like to thank my colleagues and all our members for their support during my Chairmanship.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM.

## 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **Wednesday May 11th 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 **'MY LIFE AS A JUDGE'** - Anthony Bradbury.

There are **four vacancies on the Committee**. Frances Davies, David Freeman and Ralph Gowling have recently been co-opted onto the Committee and are 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 30th. Committee meetings are held on the last Tuesday in each month.

## PLANNING

*Report by Ken Williamson*

I had been hoping to start this report by saying that it has not been a busy period for BHRS's committee, but the appetite for extending our properties seems to be unending. There is news on the three largest developments in the area.

The scheme to demolish **ST ELISABETH'S CHURCH, CHESTNUT AVENUE** has been to Appeal and the Planning Inspectorate has dismissed the Appeal, stating, "The loss of the building as a non-designated heritage asset would be harmful to the character and appearance of the area given that it makes a significant contribution to the character of the area." Excellent news.

The development at **1 POWELL ROAD** continues through the Planning process, currently the Parish Council has raised objections to the revised scheme and the Officer's Report is awaited before the development is decided on by the Plans South committee. There have been numerous objections from residents and BHRS urges as many people as possible to make their concerns known to their local Councillors.

**FOREST PLACE** has been granted permission for its plans to renew the outdated buildings on the Roebuck Lane frontage and to develop additional space within the site. There has been some confusion as this site is immediately next to **1 Powell Road**. For clarity Forest Place is not on Green Belt land and is an extension of an existing use.

At EFDC Plans South on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March permission was granted for an additional Basement level incorporating three flats at the **ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION SITE IN STATION WAY**. Following consultation with local residents BHRS spoke in opposition to this proposal. Councillors voted as follows:- ten for the proposal, three against and three abstentions.

At the same meeting the revised scheme at **WEST LODGE, 32 Palmerston Road** was granted permission. BHRS had objected to the previous scheme which was subsequently refused permission. If Councillors refuse permission when Officers have recommended granting permission the meeting has to propose a way forward. The developers had taken into account the previous comments from the Councillors and therefore there was little scope in objecting to the revised plans. Ironically some of the Councillors voiced the opinion that the revised flat roofed scheme was disappointing and a chance had been lost for an innovative design for this site. The

vote for this project was: five Councillors for the proposal, four against and six abstentions.

BHRS is currently looking at the provision of **Affordable Housing** on land owned by the Council which currently provides garages to local residents. The proposals throughout EFDC have been phased with the plans for the Buckhurst Hill properties beginning to go through the Planning Stage. There are four areas in Buckhurst Hill and the Parish Council has objected to all four. The main concerns are the loss of garages in areas that already have significant parking pressures and also access to the Allotments. Whilst BHRS sees the provision of Affordable Housing as a high priority, these developments appear to be, in most cases, awkward infill solutions. Your Committee has meetings with local residents and looks forward to a robust objection when these developments reach Plans South.

We mentioned above the permission granted for the demolition of **West Lodge**. This was not on the List of Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest, although quite a few people thought that it had significant merit.

**St Elisabeth's Church** was saved by being listed, this reinforces the need to update the register of locally listed buildings. If you are aware of any building that should be considered then please let the BHRS know, and, as always, if you have any concerns over a Planning matter the Committee is here to help you.

## GET READY TO CAMPAIGN FOR A BUS SERVICE

*Report by Michele Davies*

In November 2015, out of the blue and without consultation, Essex County Council announced that it was cutting a £600K grant to TFL for providing this area with buses.

I guess that not many of us had thought about the financial arrangements between Essex and London for the provision of the four buses that serves West Essex from London, Nos 20, 167, 397 and 549.



These buses are often the only way of getting about in the area; they provide the only free transport for pensioners, the only way to get to

our local hospital Whipps Cross, a way for staff of the numerous local care and nursing homes to reach their employment from their homes in East London areas like Ilford and Walthamstow and a way for school children to get to school, to name but a few.

Some of us wrote to Cllr Hirst to challenge this but the decision had already been taken.

### What happens next?

Because of the mayoral elections, and presumably because Buckhurst Hill is not the only district which borders London and where this has happened, we have learnt that TFL will conduct a review of all bus services where buses go over the London boundary. TFL has a legal duty to consult on any changes to its bus routes. This review is timetabled for 2017 but given that budgets are usually set about six months in advance of the beginning of the financial year (April) this could happen sometime this year. TFL has had major cuts to its funding and promises have been made by a mayoral candidate to freeze fares which will add further strain on their budget. Anyway why should Londoners pay for our bus services?

Essex County Council has said it will be looking to the provision of other (private) bus services to fill the gap. This does not fill us with confidence. Private bus services operate to make a profit and are not accountable as a public body like TFL.

We have been in touch with **Waltham Abbey residents** who tell us of a very sorry tale of withdrawn of services followed by the provision of unrealisable and unaccountable private bus services which do not meet their needs

### What is BHRS doing about it?

The Society intends to campaign for the provision of decent bus services to serve our area. We will join forces with Loughton Residents' Association and anyone else who wants to take an active part. To this end we are currently in the process of building up a **database of local businesses, schools, churches and residents** who will be affected by these changes and who need to make their views known when TFL undertakes its review and when future transport proposals are drafted.

We will inform them of what is happening and provide a focal point for a campaign.

### What can you do?

*At this stage please tell everyone who does not know about it – just because it has not happened*



*yet does not mean it is not happening – it will happen!*

*If you meet local politician tell them how worried you are about this. Raise it with them when they are canvassing. If you want to get involved or just want to be kept informed give us your email address by emailing us at [westessexbuscampaign@gmail.com](mailto:westessexbuscampaign@gmail.com) If you are already a member of BHRS we will keep you informed as a matter of course but do email this address if you want to get involved in the campaign. Remember nothing may happen for months and that is why you may not hear anything from us immediately.*

## **BHCA CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**



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 £200, thanks to the many members and friends who made the delicious cakes, bread pudding and jams.

## **BHRS CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

This year the Social featured children from **St. John's School** playing and singing Christmas carols, while the children's parents joined BHRS members in the partaking of seasonal fare.



## **QUEENS ROAD 2016 CHRISTMAS FAIR**

*Report by Margaret Drew*

*Photographs: Janet Caddock*

Buckhurst Hill really knows how to start the jolly Christmas season. The annual fair, organised by Buckhurst Hill's Residents' Society and Parish Council, was held at the top of Queens Road, everyone having fun and raising money for The Alzheimer's Society.



*Organisers Margaret Sinfield, Jenn Page and Margaret Drew were presented with magnificent bouquets by Aniket Patel, Parish Council Chairman.*



**Barbara Blossom**, former Chairman of both Buckhurst Hill's Residents' Society and Parish Council, who was made Epping Forest Citizen of the Year in 2005, opened the event, here she is cutting the ribbon assisted by Snowman Aniket Patel, Chairman of the Parish Council.





**Accordianist**, Hugh Bardwell (provided by the Parish Council); **Gary**, Buckhurst Hill's answer to Neil Diamond, (provided by Fingertips); and the fabulous **Becontree Brass Band** filled the top of Queens Road with that traditional Christmas sound.



**Father Christmas** was there to see everyone and gave them presents, naturally. **Jebb**, the Stilt Walking, joke-telling Juggler( sponsored by the Buckhurst Hill Village Forum), had been asked back due to popular demand.

A free **Puppet Show** for children almost turned the library into a theatre on the pier!



**Pony Rides, Lucky Dip, Chess in the Library and Face Painting in Repose** were just a few of the activities available.



The Residents' Society's own **Hoopla Stall** was the best way for children to win a super

set of antlers or a hat to match Father Christmas.



*Jebb the Stilt Man*



*Balloon Stall*

Children from several of the **local schools and churches** braved the wintry weather to entertain shoppers who were at the market stalls searching for stocking fillers by being real wassailers greeting the festivities with carols.

*Photographs on last page*

A large number of children entered enthusiastically in all the other happenings arranged for them, including the Card-making activities organised by Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church.

**Il Bacio** handed out mulled wine to warm people up and the traditional roundabout added to the super way to welcome the Yuletide.

## **PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION and EXHIBITION in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

*Report by Competition Organiser Margaret Drew*

**BHRS** is working alongside traders in **Queens Road** to hold a **Photographic Exhibition and Competition** to celebrate Her Majesty's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

The theme for this competition is a real challenge but with the simple title – **The Queen**

Photographers are very welcome to interpret this in whatever creative way they wish e.g. a Queen Bee – it is not anticipated that participants will have had Her Majesty's company for a portrait opportunity.

Entrants are invited to submit **A4** photographs in either colour or black and white.

**There is no entry fee. The closing date is May 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Mounts and frames will be provided.

Shortlisted photographs will be exhibited in shop windows in Queens Road between **June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup>.**

The **Prizes** are Book Tokens from Loughton Book Shop 1<sup>st</sup> - £50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - £40 & 3<sup>rd</sup> - £30.

For an **application form**, more **information** and to arrange **delivery** of your entry please email: bhrsevents@icloud.com or call: 07951 019 377

*It is believed that the first partially successful photograph of a **camera** image was made in approximately 1816 by Nicéphore Niépce – 200 years ago, so this too could also be considered a great anniversary to celebrate for our super competitors!*

## **BUCKHURST HILL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Four members of BHRS's committee attended the Parish Council Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March to discuss the way forward for the preparation and adoption of a **Neighbourhood Plan** for Buckhurst Hill. This will form the way that Buckhurst Hill may change over the next 20 years, but will also focus on short term changes within the next five years. There will be many consultations within the process and everyone will be able to take part and express their views. Look out for the dates of future meetings and if you have the chance to participate make your concerns known. The Society will try and keep

you informed of progress in its Newsletters, but also look out for any updates on the website.

## **ESSEX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

The second stage of the consultation exercise on the future shape and role of **Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS)** has begun.

Three options for change have been formulated and ECFRS are now seeking your views on these.

Over the last decade, the Service has seen the number of incidents it attends reduce by around half. At the same time, the Service has increased its work on preventing fires and emergencies from happening in the first place.

ECFRS would like to invite you to participate in their consultation and would also be grateful if you could help them to encourage participation in the consultation through sharing/publicising the **online questionnaire** available via their website [www.essex-fire.gov.uk](http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk).

The consultation concludes on the 25th of April.

## **NEWSLETTER PRINTERS**

BHRS Committee is very grateful to its regular printers, **Brylan Print Solutions**, who printed the entire 2015 Autumn Newsletter in colour at no extra cost as a tribute to Kenneth Manterfield. The printers said it was because of their workers' "admiration of our old soldiers and their bravery".

## **CHARITY DONATIONS**

Following a number of BHRS events £1185 was donated to various charities in 2015.

*Macmillan Cancer Care - Coffee Morning £320*

*Essex Air Ambulance - Quiz Night Raffle £125*

*Hearing Dogs for the Deaf - Committee Ladies' Lunches £140*

*The Alzheimer's Society – Christmas Event £600*

## **LORDS BUSHES**

*Article by Margaret Drew*

We have followed the Thames Path, hiked the South Downs and are currently mid walk from Essex to Surrey, over a planned, if a little barmy, eight days. However, these ventures take time



and preparation. Crossing the road into Lords Bushes requires no more planning than finding my wellies!

Recently we have been going daily. At first we followed main footpaths along Monkham Lane, across Jerico Plain and around the pond but soon investigated the less trodden paths and those sometimes harder to see where they continued including some that come to a prickly end.

Near the top of Monkham Lane a large, cleared area appeared with trees gone and distinct large truck tracks. Throughout the woods piles of logs, trunks of silver birch and mounds of newly cut holly also began to draw interest.

One day, after a wander down a favourite, 'secret' path of mine, another area had been cut back. We began to feel concerned. Were the blue patches painted on trees indicating its survival or marking a boundary? Surely the forest would not be lost for housing development! A distinct sound of cutting machines echoed through the trees another time. A digger was dragging bundles of cut down branches. Each day we returned to see how much had gone.



A solitary oak appeared from the surround of tall willowy Silver Birch.

And then we were lucky. Volunteer tree warden and BHRS member, Roderick Grosstephan, appeared and reassured us that the

oak was protected. He checked all protected trees and had not been able to spot this one for a long time due to the surround of the close silver birch and prolific holly bushes.

*(Roderick's dedication to the forest's valuable trees is almost matched by his determination to keep it clean. He was armed with a litter picker as well as his means to record the trees!)*

Two days later we met and spoke to foresters while they were taking a break from their labours. They showed us a map showing plans to return areas of Lords Bushes into the woodland pastures it was 60 years ago. Butterflies, bees and other insects, vital to growth, are virtually

missing due to lack of open areas of grasses and wild flowers.

They also explained the importance for the health of oaks. Regular pollarding in the past, for about 140 years, had made them strong. Locals were allowed to use the branches for fuel. It became clear as to why so many oaks in Lords Bushes have the wide, lumpy areas from where the large branches leave the main trunk! It certainly had not occurred to me that they must have been 'pruned' in the past!

The veteran oaks are vital microhabitats so there will be no felling, although some may receive a rejuvenating cut back. Poplars, Hornbeam and Yew will join these very much-protected trees. Healthy Beech trees will also be left and more widely spread, all trees will have room for natural, healthy growth.

The foresters are very keen to find a Wild Service Tree, unheard of by us. As very rare it is protected and is, apparently, true proof of an ancient woodland. Some Birch will remain but the majority felled. They grow quickly and have a short life compared with others. This and clearance of holly and brambles will create or should we now say 'recreate' the woodland of the past. One forester was very enthusiastic as he explained how the newly recovered open pastures would support the return of butterflies and other creatures. His passion for this was very evident.

Lords Bushes is such a special part of BH and will be going through a historic change. We are so lucky to have this area on our doorstep. Our walks will definitely continue, hoping we will see the changes from a mysterious, deep, if tiny, forest to one with open, beautiful woodland pastures.

*Photographer (Member of BHRS) Jonathan Stevenson has recently begun to record the woods. <https://flic.kr/s/aHskqhFxeC>*

## **SAVING MONEY OF ENERGY BILLS**

*Report by Peter Foxton*

In December 2015 the Society passed on information about Essex County Council's scheme for saving residents money on their energy bills. This scheme has now closed; one BHRS member reports that they will indeed save hundreds of pounds by switching to the scheme. The Society will inform you if this scheme is repeated next year.

## PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE QUEENS ROAD CHRISTMAS FAIR

Daiglan School Choir, Braeside School Choir, Becontree Brass Band, St. John's Church Choir



## 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) except the  
AGM and Christmas Meeting*

**Tuesday April 12th 'DISTRICT NURSING BEFORE THE NHS' – Jean Fullerton**

**Sunday May 1st RED WALK. Start at Roebuck Heights at 2pm** 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, finishing at the Anti-Air War Memorial (the Sylvia Pankhurst Bomb monument) in Woodford Green. Mostly level pavements, with a brief diversion into the Forest – wear appropriate footwear. Total distance estimated as 3km (2 miles); it will be possible to return to Buckhurst Hill by bus.

**Friday May 6<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm St. James' UR Church AFTERNOON CREAM TEA** to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. £3 donation suggested (application form enclosed with this Newsletter)

**Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup> AGM** followed by **'MY LIFE AS A JUDGE'** - Anthony Bradbury

**Tuesday June 21st 12 noon ANNUAL LUNCH AT THE STAG** £10, wine and drinks extra (application form enclosed with Newsletter)

**Tuesday July 12th 'WHY SHOULD WE REMEMBER 1916? THE SOMME AND MORE'** David Stevenson

**Tuesday August 9th 'TREES IN HISTORY'** – Georgina Green

**Tuesday September 13th HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE** – Sophie Biebuyck and her dog Rusty

**Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup> 11am to 12.30pm COFFEE MORNING** in aid of Essex Macmillan Cancer Support: £3 to include home-made cakes

**Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8th 2016 7.30pm 'GHOSTS THAT WALK ON FRIDAYS'** – Kate Pool

**Friday December 2nd 3pm to 7pm CHRISTMAS EVENT IN QUEENS ROAD**

**Wednesday December 7th CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** evening to include carol singing from school children