

BUCKHURST HILL RESIDENTS' SOCIETY

The price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance



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

Chairman: Tony Oliva, **Vice Chair:** Steven Neville, **Treasurer:** Margaret Sinfield, **Membership Secretary,** Jenn Page,
Committee Members: Janice Curd, Michele Davies, Margaret Drew, Peter Foxton, Jean James, Lynn Jones, Sara Raggett, Ralph Taylor

NEWSLETTER Spring 2013

WERE YOU HERE IN 1963? ... 1988? ... 2003?



The **first photograph** shows some of the **four hundred** residents who attended a **protest meeting** at the now defunct Roebuck Hotel, held in late July 1963, against a proposed redevelopment scheme for Queens Road.

This protest meeting was followed by a petition given to Chigwell Urban District Council signed by **3,000** residents, more protests and the lobbying of Council members.

Eventually, thanks to these efforts, the area was saved from the bulldozers, and Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society was formed in August that year.

The **second photograph** was taken at the 25th Annual General Meeting, the **third** was taken at the 40th AGM.

The Society continues to this day lobbying on behalf of the people of Buckhurst Hill to ensure that the town retains its character and remains an attractive and pleasant place in which to live.

To mark its **GOLDEN Anniversary** the Society will be holding a number of celebratory events this year. These include:

The 50th Annual General Meeting in May

An illustrated talk in July that will cover the history of the Society and how it came to be founded

A grand Autumn Tea Party (to be confirmed)

A special Christmas Meeting with 50th Anniversary cake!

We hope that all BHRS members will join the Committee in these celebrations.

Thank you to all members who have already renewed their 2013 membership.

If you have overlooked renewing your membership for 2013 you will find a form enclosed with the Newsletter.

DID YOU WALK TO SCHOOL TWENTY YEARS AGO?

Did you or one of your sons attend Buckhurst Hill County High School in Roding Lane?



The Society understands that lots of the boys who lived in the Hornbeam Road/Chestnut Avenue area used a short cut to get to school, when the ground was not too wet, along the path that runs from just below Buckhurst Hill Community School in Lower Queens Road, through the triangular scrubland and by the brook, eventually exiting through the top of the football club into Roding Lane.

Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society is in the process of gathering evidence to apply for designation of a Right of Way for this path that has been in use for 60 years. The path was blocked last year by Buckhurst Hill Sports and Social Club which erected gates at the entrance to the football field.

The path (visible on Google Earth) was a well-known route to reach what is now Roding Valley Park and Nature Reserve on the other side of Roding Lane. The path is now blocked on both sides of the football field. To apply for a Right of Way the Society has to gather evidence from users of the path and needs to demonstrate twenty years of use going back from the time it was blocked in 2012.

Usage of the path does not have had to be every day or constant just as long as you did use it.

The Society has a number of people who have completed an evidence form but is looking for more. If you used this path on your way to school (or at any other times) and are happy to complete a questionnaire to this fact, please contact the Society (see front page for addresses).

BUCKHURST HILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

To mark the 75th Anniversary of the opening of the School, the Old Buckwellians are holding an exhibition based on the School's history on Friday September 13th in Theydon Bois Village Hall. The exhibition will be open to the public from 2pm to 5pm, tea, coffee and cakes will be served. There will also be displays of memorabilia plus many photographs and videos on large screens.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Report by Tony Oliva

A member of the BHRS Committee reviews EFDC's weekly planning applications and visits any site that gives concern, and subsequently views the plans. The Chairman will then write to the Planning Committee with the Society's comments on the application.

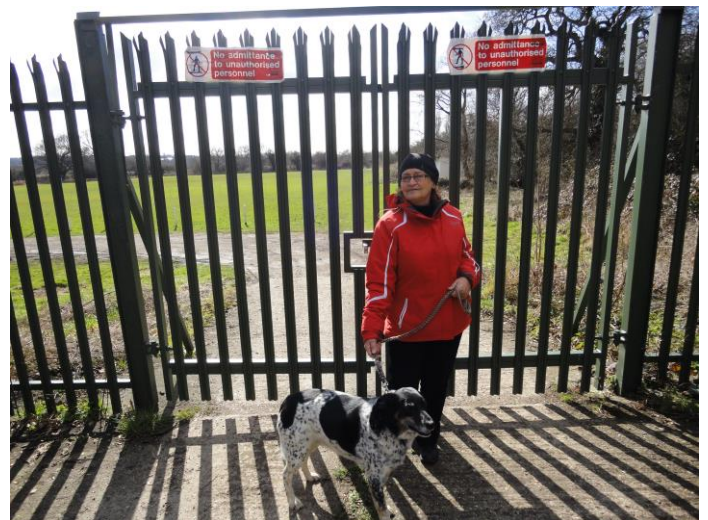
Lists of applications, both current and decided, can be found on EFDC's planning website:

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

Plans for current applications can also be viewed at the Information Centre, Queens Road, or at the District Council Offices in Epping. If you need a copy of the plans, these are obtainable from Epping.

BHRS fights off proposals for an even worse design for the Football Club Gates in Roding Lane

Last year the Planning Inspector turned down the appeal against EFDC's decision to refuse planning permission for the unsightly steel gates to the Football Pitch in Roding Lane.



Michele Davies in front of the Gates in Roding Lane

The Society was therefore surprised to find that a new planning application had been lodged with an even more industrial design that totally ignored the Inspector's recommendations.

The Society made strong representations to EFDC's Planning Committee which agreed with the Society. In mid-March this year the Planning Committee unanimously turned the application down.

The current gates are now going to the enforcement section of EFDC which will force their removal.

The Society hopes that this sends out the message that the countryside does not belong to anyone to despoil and to do as they wish – it is our heritage and should be respected and be open for everyone to enjoy.

EPF/2397/12 Erection of new house in the rear gardens of 82 and 84 High Road, Buckhurst Hill

The Residents' Society and others have been eager to see a Conservation Area in Buckhurst Hill for some time. The area around the listed St John's Church and Pond has now been selected because of the fine array of (mostly) well maintained Victorian houses in the surrounding roads.

The proposed new house in question would not fit in with the overall appearance of the area.

Whilst BHRS appreciates that 82/84 High Road would not originally have had garages (Melrose Villas, otherwise known as the Laurels, and the Lilacs date from the 1860s), and that the garage is now perhaps not particularly attractive to look at, a design more in keeping with the Victorian atmosphere of the area would be better received.

BHRS was also concerned at the preservation of the footpath outside the position of the proposed property, and the access to the property from Hills Road.

A frontage onto the pond would match the houses of Hills Road; the proposed plan seems to have the front and rear of the proposed house opposite the rear windows of 82/84 High Road and the side windows of 2 Hills Road, which would be detrimental to the privacy of these properties.

This application was opposed by the Society and was subsequently withdrawn.

Costa Coffee - EPF/1722/12

This was a retrospective planning application for a Children's Play Area in the rear garden of Costa Coffee in Queens Road.

The Play Area is used twelve hours a day, every day; BHRS and local residents had raised strong objections to the noise caused by the children using the equipment.

The Society is pleased to report that EFDC has refused planning permission.

The Society hopes that the EFDC enforcement will make sure that the applicant abides by this decision.

BRINGING BHRS into the 21st CENTURY

Report by Janice Curd

As the Society prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Committee is working with students studying Graphic Design at Epping Forest College in Loughton.

The students have been given a brief, at the request of the Committee, that as part of their module they redesign the Society's logo and mission statement to bring it more up to date, while still keeping the values of the Society intact.

The Committee is pleased to be working with staff and students alike and will keep members posted of developments.

Heather Thirtle remembers sitting up night after night in the autumn of 1963 with the members of the first Committee, planning and setting up the Society. She says that she spent a considerable amount of time with the other members sitting on the floor of a cottage in Princes Road designing the present logo.



EXPERIENCES OF AN OLYMPIC GAMES MAKER!

Report by BHRS Member, Chris Marshall



I applied for a position as a Volunteer/Games Maker for the London Olympic Games in summer 2011 and attended a three hour interview that autumn at Exel in Docklands.

This included a one to one interview of some 30 minutes!-not a shoo in by any stretch!

My first training session was in early 2012 at the Wembley Arena.

The day of the training was held with four inches of snow on the ground. Having battled my way there from Buckhurst Hill, on my way into the arena I bumped into the comedian Eddie Izzard, who was heavily involved in promoting the Games.

Somewhat cheekily I shouted over to him, "Hi there Eddie, I applied for the summer Olympics not the winter one!" He laughed and came over and had a chat with me!

The day included a pep talk on our importance to the success of the games from Lord Coe himself.

Further training sessions were held over the next few months in London.

My role was finally decided - Team Member in the Transport Section at the Fleet Depot based next to the John Lewis car parks, adjacent to the Olympic Park. I fulfilled 13 eight hour shifts over a five week period during which I checked-in the drivers on their shifts, amended shifts, dispensed meal vouchers, collaborated in writing a daily newsletter plus other general dogsbody duties!

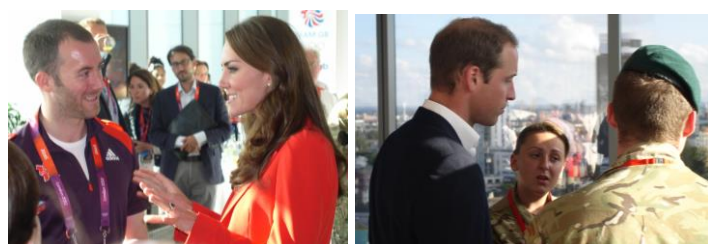


I was fortunate in a number of ways in my role. I had the opportunity to access the Park each day, wander around and experience the atmosphere. In addition all the Games Makers were entered into a ballot for attendance at the Opening Ceremony rehearsals - I won a place and gave the ticket to my wife, Sylvia - I know my place! One evening during the games I was given a ticket to attend a Team GB reception at the Olympic Park.



Champagne, wine, canapés and buffet were followed by chats and photos with a number of athletes - past and present - including Lynn Davies, Adrian Moorhouse, David Hemery, and gold medal rowers. Also (as photographed) Sally Gunnell, Kelly Holmes, and Katherine Jenkins the singer.

But the undoubted highlight of the night was the appearance of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge - William and Kate - and I talked with both of them!



A party on the night of the Closing Ceremony concluded a memorable time as a Games Maker. But the experience continued! I went to the 2013 New Year's Day Parade in London in my uniform to support the Games Makers walking in the parade. One of the marchers came over to me, had a chat and then cajoled me into joining the March down Whitehall and the presentation of a Parade Medal! Truly, a once in a lifetime experience!

RECENT BHRS EVENTS

BHCA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Society had a Cake Stall at this very well attended event in Bedford House and a Guess the Weight of the Cake Competition.



QUEENS ROAD CHRISTMAS EVENING



In the early evening of Friday December 7th Queens Road was filled with the sound of wassailers greeting the Festive season with carols; a total of twelve local groups sang carols at various points in Queens Road, as part of the Christmas Evening organised by the Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society in conjunction with the Town Centre Partnership.

The evening began with nursery school toddlers singing, followed by the children from three local schools, then Churches Together in Buckhurst Hill, Haven House Singers, Sing Immanuel, Note Bene, Singers from the Dance School, and more.



Pupils from Daiglen School on the Piazza



Haven House Singers

These groups valiantly braved the decidedly wintry weather to entertain Christmas shoppers on their search for stocking fillers and festive fair.

Many of the shops were open late, and their stunningly dressed windows tempted passers-by.



The competition for the Best Dressed Window was very close but in the end 'Sanjo' won, (photograph above) with 'Arabesque' in second place.



The children were entertained by a spectacular Light Juggler, Johnny Slap (sponsored by the Town Centre Partnership). In addition, some fierce 'Pirates of the Caribbean' emerged unexpectedly from 'Arabesque' to thrill the children.



Father Christmas with his sack of gifts (provided by the Town Centre Partnership) strolled up and down the hill throughout the evening, greeting adults as well as children. Amongst the stalwarts ignoring the wintry weather to speak with him were Eleanor Laing MP and County

Councillor Valerie Metcalfe.

In addition, the local residents who braved the icy wind were rewarded by a number of shops offering free hot beverages and food (sausage rolls, chocolate goodies), as well as face painting, discount vouchers and more.

At the top of the road Il Bacio handed out hot roast chestnuts and mulled wine to warm people up.



Later in the evening the adults listened and danced to the crooning of Gary B., a Neil Diamond sound alike (arranged by 'Fingertips' at the top of the hill).

While some found that the extreme cold prevented them from leaving their warm homes, the Christmas Evening in Queens Road was a superb way to welcome in the Yuletide here in Buckhurst Hill. Perhaps next year a Christmas Market would be an even better way to enjoy Christmas in Buckhurst Hill – let us know what you think!

The Unknown Warrior

In November His Honour Judge Anthony Bradbury gave a most fascinating account of the origins of the First World War casualty whose body rests in the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. This moving story stunned the audience which sat in total silence for the entire time the Judge was speaking; there was no movement at all, except for the occasional lifting of a hand to wipe away a tear.

There have also been talks this winter by Dudley Chignall (Beatrix Potter and the Lake District), and Tony O'Connor (Walter Spradbery and The Wilderness).

POLICE

Report by Jenn Page

In February the local NAP meetings reconvened in Costa Coffee, Queens Road.

If you have any concerns you can email BHRs and a Committee member can represent you at the meetings. If you would like to attend a meeting (meetings start at 6pm) please check for dates on the following website: http://www.essex.police.uk/my_neighbourhood/epping_forest_district/buckhurst_hill/buckhurst_hill.aspx

National cuts to policing budgets have meant that Essex Police recently underwent significant internal reorganisation and subsequent changes to local policing teams, including the team which covers Buckhurst Hill.

The neighbourhood policing team now in place is led by **Inspector Matt Twomey** with **Sergeant Simon Dear** supervising the Neighbourhood Constables and Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

PC 73501 Nick Archbold is our Neighbourhood Constable and Matt Didcock our dedicated PCSO. Issues should, in the first instance, be directed to the relevant Neighbourhood Constable (either Nick or Matt) who can in turn escalate issues up the chain of command as appropriate.

The team has a **mobile phone**, number 07968 354 021 which local residents can call to report low level issues. The phone is carried by PCSOs until 11pm. If the phone is not answered immediately please leave a message. Crimes that are taking place should continue to be reported via 999 in an emergency.

Dial 101 when an offence has already taken place.

To contact a Police Station dial 101, select Essex Police. If the officer you wish to speak to is not on duty the operator will send them an email asking them to make contact with you on their return to duty.

Loughton Police Station now houses the CID, the Neighbourhood Policing Team, the Neighbourhood Crime Team, plus the Prisoner Investigation Team. The local **999 response team** continues to work from the Chigwell Response Hub on the M11.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The Committee has decided that it is not appropriate for the Society to put up a candidate for this election.

THANK YOU

The Committee would like to thank all members who have so kindly given donations to the Society. As you know, BHRs is not a profit making organisation, so the Committee is delighted that these donations can be used to keep the BHRs Newsletter alive.

DIAMOND JUBILEE of the 1953 CONQUEST OF EVEREST

On **THURSDAY APRIL 25th at 7pm**, at St. James' Church, Palmerston Road, a talk will be given by **MRS. GEORGE LOWE**.

In 1953 George Lowe, as a member of the British Everest Expedition, was involved in preparing the route towards the South Col at 8,000m altitude.

On May 28th, as part of the three-man support group and carrying a heavy load, Lowe climbed, with Hillary and Tenzing, to 8,500m to establish Camp IX.

It was from here, the following day, that Hillary and Tenzing successfully reached the summit of Mount Everest.



Non-members are most welcome to this meeting, there is no entry charge - there will be a Retiring Collection in aid of the Himalayan Trust UK.

50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

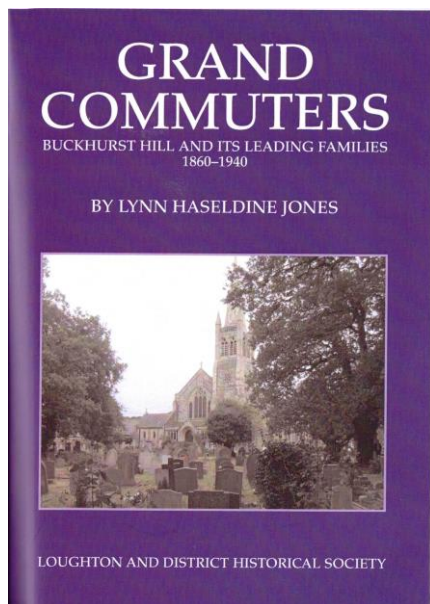
This will be held on **Tuesday May 7th at 7.30pm** at St. James' United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road. The Agenda is enclosed with this Newsletter.

Refreshments will be served at the beginning of the meeting; after the formal part of the evening Brian Billings will talk about *The History of Nursery Rhymes*.

There are two vacancies on the Committee.

If you are interested in joining the Committee (and have internet access) or would like to nominate someone else, please contact the Society before April 24th. Committee meetings are held once a month, usually on Tuesdays.

If you have friends or neighbours who would like to join the Society, either bring them to a meeting/event with you, or give them the spare subscription form enclosed with this Newsletter.



Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society Committee member Lynn Jones has just published a book on the history of Buckhurst Hill - *Grand Commuters – Buckhurst Hill and its Leading Families 1860-1940*.

Lynn began researching the history of Buckhurst Hill quite by accident. She says: "I began to wonder who might have planted the large cedar tree which is at the bottom of my garden". With the help of Margaret Sinfield, BHRS Treasurer, it was established that the area in Ardmere Lane where they both live was the site of the home of the Linder family in Victorian times.

Lynn researched the family, following them from Oakfield in Ardmere Lane to St Just and other Buckhurst Hill houses they had occupied.

She has also researched the Powell family, and the Buxtons of Knighton.

The other families covered in the book are the Westhorns of Holmehurst, the Howards and Silberrads.

The book includes a number of photographs from Lynn's collection, as well as others published with the permission of friends and neighbours.

Lynn is continuing her researches into the history of Buckhurst Hill in Victorian and Edwardian times, looking at for example, Langfords, Buckhurst Hill House, Oak Hall and Queensbury.

Do get in touch with Lynn through the Society if she can help you with the history of your house or family, or if you would be willing to share any photographs you may have of old Buckhurst Hill or people who lived here.

The book is published by Loughton and District Historical Society (ISBN 978-1-905269-17-4) priced £4.50 and is available from Broomes Newsagents, 34 Queens Road and from local bookshops, including the Bookshop in Loughton.

ROYAL MAIL CHANGES

Chris Ali, Delivery Sector Manager for the Woodford Green area, has written to the Society about changes to your Royal Mail delivery service.

The Manager says that he is making some changes to the way his team delivers our mail.

He explains that far fewer letters are now posted every day and the Post Office needs to re-organise the delivery routes. Many more packages and larger items are now delivered, new equipment will be used to carry these even more securely.

The changes being introduced in our area are in order to maintain and protect services, and to keep prices as low as possible. These changes have already been made in many parts of the country.

- *Post will still be delivered throughout the morning, but also for longer in the day*
- *The time of your standard delivery will depend on where you are located on the new delivery route: this may be later or possibly earlier than you are used to*
- *Should mail volumes vary, delivery arrangements and times may need to be temporarily adjusted*

The Manager says that he is confident that all of his local team will continue to provide the reliable, friendly service we have come to expect from them and of which the team is very proud.

1963 FILM NIGHT

This completely different BHRS meeting was held in St. James' Church Hall in mid March, and was attended by over seventy people, in spite of the icy weather.

Music from 1963 was playing and the lights were dimmed as usherettes with torches showed the audience to its seats. There was an introduction to the evening which compared 1963 cinemas to those of the present day:

The average cost of a cinema ticket in 1963 was 3s 1d (15p in today's currency), which, considering that the average wage at that time was £16 a week, is reasonably proportionate to today's prices.

*Since the 1960s there has been a 50% decline in **actual cinema buildings**, but today's cinemas have an average of four **screens** in each.*

*In 1963, at the end of the evening, the **National Anthem** was played in all cinemas; there was also a **Double Feature**, a main picture, preceded by a 'B' picture.*

*Films were shown as a **continuous programme** all day, not just a single film as today, people would come in and out in the middle of films, or would watch the whole programme through a second time.*

*There was always an **interval** before the big picture when refreshments could be purchased.*

*Maybe the biggest difference between the cinemas of 1963 and those of today is that in 1963 **smoking** was allowed in all cinemas, with ash trays provided!*

Wurlitzer music then preceded the 1963 Film Night programme, which commenced with a Bugs Bunny cartoon, followed by a Pathé News film of 1963 events, both world-wide and from the UK. At the interval the two usherettes, dressed in black, carrying trays, gave out choc ices and popcorn.



Usherettes Margaret Drew and Jenn Page



Popcorn Eaters Jeff Curd and his daughter Charlotte

A 1963 black and white transport film was then shown; the evening ended with the audience standing to sing the National Anthem.

The evening proved to be a most successful start to the Society's Golden Anniversary celebrations.



Part of the Film Night Audience

ST. STEPHEN'S WAR MEMORIAL

Last year the Society made a modest donation towards Buckhurst Hill Royal British Legion's project to restore the cross on the top of the War Memorial at St. Stephen's Church, which had disappeared many years ago. The cross has now been restored.



FORTHCOMING BHRS MEETINGS

Thursday April 25th: 7pm, ST. JAMES' UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, PALMERSTON ROAD
Mrs. George Lowe – *The Conquest of Everest 1953 – Diamond Jubilee 2013* see Newsletter page 6

Sunday May 5th: 2pm start at Roebuck Green: *Beating the Bounds – Walking the Parish Boundary*
Bring suitable footwear, water, sunhats, sun block/waterproofs. There will be a stop at the Hungry Horse (Monkhams Inn) for refreshments.

Tuesday May 7th: 7.30pm, ST. JAMES' CHURCH: 50th AGM: Refreshments will be served at the beginning of the meeting. After the AGM *The History of Nursery Rhymes* Speaker: Brian Billings

Tuesday June 25th: *Midsummer Lunch at the Bald Faced Stag* £10, drinks extra – see enclosed form

Tuesday July 23rd: 7.30pm, ST. JAMES' CHURCH: *Buckhurst Hill in 1963 and the origins of BHRS*
£3 to include tea/coffee and biscuits

Friday September 20th: 2pm to 4pm BHRS Golden Anniversary Tea Party – INFORMATION CENTRE, QUEENS ROAD – event to be confirmed

Tuesday September 24th: 11am to 12.30pm: ST. JAMES' CHURCH ROOM
Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning £3 to include coffee/tea and homemade cake

Sunday October 6th: 2pm to 4pm *History Walk in Queens Road*, led by Lynn Jones.
 Meet at top of Queens Road by the seat on the south side

Saturday October 12th: 6.45pm for 7pm ST. JAMES' CHURCH: *Annual Quiz Night*
 £6 Bring your own food and drink – no alcohol except wine

Tuesday November 19th: 7.30pm ST. JAMES' CHURCH ROOM: *The East End - Speaker: Mark Lear* £3

Tuesday December 3rd: 7.30pm ST. JAMES' CHURCH, 50th Anniversary Meeting: *The origins of Christmas Carols* Speaker: Rev. June Colley. Wine, mince pies, 50th Anniversary cake