



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, Michelle Davies, Margaret Drew, Peter Foxtton, Jean James, Keith Mitchell, Sara Raggett,
Ken Williamson; **Honorary Member:** Lynn Jones

NEWSLETTER Spring 2014

Dear Resident,

2013 was a year full of events and celebrations for BHRS, marking the Society's **Golden Anniversary**. The celebratory events concluded the year with a **Queens Road Christmas Fair**, organised by BHRS and the Parish Council. It was a marvellous opportunity to bring everyone in Buckhurst Hill together - the Parish Council, Residents' Society, Town Centre Partnership and local traders - to herald the start of the festive season in Buckhurst Hill.

The event exceeded all expectations; hundreds of families visited the stalls, shops and Santa's grotto in the library.

The Society would also like to thank all the instrumentalists, local school and church choirs who came to make it really feel like Christmas!"



BHRS Committee Members Margaret Sinfield and Margaret Drew with the flowers presented to them by Santa (Aniket Patel, Parish Council Chairman) at the opening of the event



The colourful roundabout in the Car Park

More Christmas photographs inside this Newsletter

The Society continues to lobby 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.

It responds quickly to local issues and when necessary organises public meetings to keep its members informed about important issues.

We hope that you will continue to support us in the future so that we can continue to build on the legacy of this first 50 YEARS.

Tony Oliva Chairman

A full programme of events is planned for the rest of 2014, details are on the green sheet enclosed with the Autumn Newsletter; The events are also listed on the last page of this Newsletter.

51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will be held on **Wednesday 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 **Lynn Jones will give a talk entitled 'Buildings of Buckhurst Hill'**.

Janice Curd (whose hard work with Epping Forest College students produced BHRS's new logo), Sarah Raggett (a longstanding member of the Committee), and Keith Mitchell, are resigning from the Committee this month. This leaves **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 23rd. Committee meetings are held on the last Tuesday in each month.

PLANNING

Report by Ken Williamson

A member of BHRS's Committee reviews the weekly Planning List published on the Parish website, views the plans on line and follows up with a site visit.

The majority of applications raise no concerns with the Committee. Where it is felt that an application is not in keeping with the area, would have concerns with neighbours or is an overdevelopment of the site, BHRS will raise any issues at the Parish Council Planning and Environment Committee Meeting, followed up with logging the Society's objections via the EFDC Planning website.

Recent applications that have given concern include:-

EPF/2696/13 Former Electrical Substation

This was a revised application for the site of the Substation in Station Way; over thirty members of the public attended the Parish Council Meeting where objections were made regarding overdevelopment, loss of amenity to neighbours and road safety issues. This application was strongly objected to by the Parish Council but was recommended to be accepted by the EFDC

Planning Officers. The Area Planning Sub Committee referred the application to the District Development Control meeting held on March 20th; permission was granted by 10 votes to 4.

EPF/2688/13 142 Buckhurst Way

This was an application to demolish the existing bungalow and erect a three storey block of five 2 bed units. Similarly to the substation site many members of the public objected.

This application was refused by EFDC.

EPF/2639/13 Land Rear of 198 & 200 Forest Edge

This was an application for a new dwelling in part of the rear garden of the two properties. The main objections were overdevelopment, lack of amenity on site, loss of amenity to neighbouring properties and a dangerous egress from the site.

This application was refused by EFDC.

EPF/0059/14 6 Scotland Road

This is an application for demolition of an existing 3 bed detached dwelling and construction of 2 new 4 bed detached properties. The main objections were overdevelopment, loss of amenity to neighbouring properties and detraction from the existing street scene.

Decision awaited by EFDC.

EPF/0153/14 71-73 Queens Road

This is an application for two shop units and six flats; objections were made regarding overdevelopment, lack of amenities on site and loss of amenity to neighbours. Decision awaited.

69 Queens Road

The Society has been assisting a neighbour of this property and an Enforcement Notice has been served on the owners regarding the erection of the extension outside the agreed limits in the Planning Permission.

Objections to this overbuild have been raised with the Parish Council and the relevant Councillor.

The past six months have been quite a busy period and various other sites are being watched and commented on **including 48 Roebuck Lane**.

BHRS is aware that there are times when some neighbours are not being informed by EFDC of a new planning application that could affect their

properties; the Society is considering ways in which it might assist.

Just before publication EFDC submitted a proposal to install a **CCTV camera at the junction of Queens Road and King's Avenue.** BHRHS is investigating

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANELS

Report by Steven Neville

These regular meetings provide a forum for residents to meet with the local community police and express and discuss their concerns. Residents can also set the police priorities for action in the area.

The meetings have often been a rare chance for the public to talk to community police officers before, rather than, after a crime has been committed.

In the recent past **the community police** have organised and facilitated the NAP meetings; the community police have also taken the minutes, so that attendees and other regulars could have a record of what had been said.

Seven or eight or more members of the public would attend if they had a burning issue to discuss.

Earlier last year the meetings were moved to a weekend, resulting in a very poor attendance from the public. Later in the year the meetings were moved back to a weekday, and there were significantly more attendees.

Buckhurst Hill Residents' Society has had a long history of sending representatives to these meetings and is very concerned that these vital meetings might be lost, as due to the severe cutbacks to police budgets - 300 police posts across Essex will be lost over the next year - it was hard for them to carry on running NAP.

The **Police** would like the public to take over; this already happens successfully in Epping. I was in discussions with the Police about this when the **Parish Council** stepped in (they were under the wrong impression that the Police wanted to end NAP) and stated that instead of NAP, the Police should just have a standing item on the Parish Council meetings' agendas. BHRHS objected, saying that a parish meeting was an inappropriate format as a replacement for

NAP, which is a **discussion forum between the police and the public.**

The Parish Council has now reconsidered its thoughts and BHRHS has said it would work with the Council and the Police to resolve the issue of how public and police can interface and set priorities for the future.

DOG POO

Report by Steven Neville



There's no such thing as the Dog Poo Fairy

Many of you will have noticed the increasing amount of times dog owners do not pick after their pooches. What can be done?

Epping Forest District Council can give out **penalty notices** to irresponsible owners.

However the difficulty is catching the offenders. EFDC says it sends out **officers** to monitor hot spot areas.

With this in mind and noting the problem is getting worse not better BHRHS has written to **Gary Waller**, the Cabinet Member responsible for dealing with this issue, asking:

When do the patrols go out?

Where?

How is the area patrolled selected?

How many convictions have there been?

Why are there so few bins?

The Society will keep members posted on developments.

TALK ON ST. CLARE HOSPICE

St. Clare Hospice is a leading care service attempting to overcome the devastating results of Cancer and other life threatening illnesses, and giving support to families and friends.

On **Thursday May 15th at 2.30pm** a Director of the Hospice will be talking about the work being done both in the hospice and in the homes of patients to relieve suffering.

Come and listen to the latest ideas at St. James' United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road on May 15th. £3 entry/subscription.

REPORTS ON AUTUMN AND SPRING BHRS EVENTS

In **November Mark Lear** gave a fascinating talk on the East End of London.

In **December**, at the **Christmas Meeting**, **Caroline Friedman**, past BHRS Chairman, unveiled the **new BHRS logo**, designed by Epping Forest College student, Victoria Precious.



Caroline Friedman



Tony Oliva, Caroline Friedman and the new logo

After cava and anniversary cupcakes, the **Rev. June Colley** gave a fascinating seasonable talk on the History of Christmas Carols.

QUEENS ROAD CHRISTMAS EVENT

Report by the Margarets Drew and Sinfield

Christmas arrived with a Buckhurst Hill bang at the top of Queens Road on Friday 6th December. Carols, stalls, activities, food and entertainment to suit the season were there for families to enjoy together, at this event hosted by BHRS and Buckhurst Hill Parish Council.

The day had started extremely early for some of the members of BHRS Committee, as well as for Aniket Patel (Parish Council Chairman) and Nigel Moore (Parish Clerk).

They were all on duty two hours before sunrise in Queens Road to ensure that no cars tried to park in the car park at the top of the hill which had been closed officially by EFDC for the day.

Fortunately for everyone the weather was much milder than at the Christmas event last year.



Early morning 'patrol'

At 9am the **market stalls** which had been sponsored jointly by **Higgins Construction** of Loughton and **Buckhurst Hill Parish Council** arrived, followed by the children's roundabout. The Library was then cleared and decorated to house **Santa's grotto**, and a **bookstall**. There were moments of high drama early in the afternoon when the generator for the lighting failed, but **Glenys at Power Plate**, dressed as a pixie, stepped in to provide the power so that the market twinkled. Many thanks, Glenys. The event began with the opening of the Christmas Market by Buckhurst Hill's **Lydia Bright**, of the television programme 'The Only Way is Essex'.



Eleonor Laing MP was present, and a choir from **Braeside School** sang most harmoniously.



The market stalls were filled with Christmas fare, including beautiful gifts from **The Wedding**

Designer and from **Inspire**, cookies and other goodies from **Green Owl Café** (all traders from Queens Road) as well as Christmas trees, wreaths, crafts and cards which offered residents a chance to do their Christmas shopping.

The colourful **roundabout**, **balloon man**



and Parish Council **Lucky Dip** gave the event a fun fair feel that children loved.

The gifts in the Lucky Dip were provided by monies from **Waitrose's** Green Token collection. The Town Centre Partnership funded **Megan, the juggling elf**, who not only performed tricks but taught some children her skills to the great amusement of all around.



Families were able to have photographs taken by **Chris Bedwell**, one of the Buckhurst Hill Photography Competition award winners, with **Father Christmas** (Tony Webb) in the library. **Broomes Newsagents** had kindly provided Santa's gifts to help him out on the night! Local traders had really gone to town to provide a festive atmosphere – roast chestnuts and mulled wine at **Il Bacio**, home-made fancies in **Le Parfume**, the opportunity to decorate a cup cake in **Mammalina's** and **My Gift Box**; finally who could forget **Gary** singing outside **Fingertips!** **Power Plate** sportingly offered a different style of make-over in their studio inviting face painter

Caroline Porter to make magic, transforming delighted children into fairies and super heroes.



At the bottom of the hill singers entertained the street with carols outside Waitrose, where children were enchanted by a lovely pony. Music made the evening complete: carollers came from **Braeside, Daiglen, Loyola and St. John's Schools, Note Bene, St. James UR and St. John's Churches and the Bridge.**



A group from **Roding Players Orchestra** played carols in the Library



Members of the **Beaconsfield Brass Band** (above) played robustly for two hours, both in the Market and outside the Post Office, filling Queens Road with the sound of delightful carols.

It really was an evening when Buckhurst Hill folk came together for Christmas.

Photographs by Janet Caddock and Margaret Sinfield
There are more photographs of the groups of carol singers on last page of the Newsletter

BHCA CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Society had a 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 £150. BHRS would like to thank the many members and friends who made the delicious cakes, bread pudding and jams.

REPORTS OF FURTHER EVENTS

At the **February meeting**, **Ken Barker**, from Epping Forest Beekeepers gave a most interesting talk on the difficulties and delights of keeping bees.

The **Hitchcock Film Night** in March followed the very successful 1963 Film Night last year. Once again usherettes dressed in black and carrying torches showed the audience to its seats. Choc ices and popcorn was served at the interval. The 'B' film was a documentary on the Walthamstow and Leytonstone Hollywood Film Studios in 1911.

The Alfred Hitchcock film, **The Lodger**, was a very early film of his, the first film that he made in England, and which he described as "the first true Hitchcock movie".

It is still the most famous and acclaimed British film of the silent era.

With **Ivor Novello** in the title role this 1926 film now has a new orchestral soundtrack performed by the London Symphony Orchestra.

The audience at BHRS's Film Night was enthralled by the early film techniques used by Hitchcock as well as being captivated by the suspense in this thriller.

Another Film Night is being planned for next year, suggestions of suitable films are welcomed.

STREET LIGHTING

Report by Peter Foxton

On January 12th this year, Essex County Council introduced a **Part Lighting Scheme** to save electricity, where most Street Lights were turned off between **12am and 5am**. This produced many protests, particularly in Epping Forest, from users of late night Underground trains. A group from BHRS's Committee undertook several walks from Buckhurst Hill Underground Station **after midnight** to judge the situation on behalf of Society members.

The group's opinion was that while many unlit streets still had sufficient light to walk safely, for example due to private lights or the reflected glow of lights from London, there were many cases where there was not sufficient lighting - narrow streets, streets with houses only on one side, and even main roads where oncoming car headlights induce temporary blindness.

Accordingly BHRS wrote to Essex CC arguing that the lights should not be switched off until **1.30am** to enable late travellers time to reach home.

At the time of writing it has been reported that the times will be adjusted so that lights are off between **1am and 6am**; BHRS like others has protested again about the later switch-on time.

Incidentally, lights are timed automatically not to come on if the sun has already risen.

However when autumn arrives this 1am to 6am switch off time will just move the hazards to early commuters.

Residents can also contribute by suggesting particular lights which should remain lit all night, or reporting uneven pavements or other safely hazards.

CHARITY DONATIONS

Following a number of BHRS events in 2013 the Society is delighted to announce that it has donated **£1695** to various charities -

*April Talk: Leaving Collection: Himalayan Trust: £350
Children's Fashion Show: Haven House Hospice: £400
Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Care: £240
Quiz Night Raffle: Haven House Hospice: £115
Committee Ladies' Lunches: St. Elizabeth's Centre: £300
Christmas Fair Lucky Dip: Alzheimer's Society: £200
November Speaker: St. Clare Hospice: £50
December Speaker: Loughton Food Bank: £40*

DISAPPEARING BUCKHURST HILL

The first in a series of Newsletter articles researched and written by Lynn Jones

1. DANELEY COURT NURSING HOME

The former **Daneley Court Nursing Home** was recently demolished, to be replaced by a development of apartments. The enormous building was such a part of Queens Road that most people would have walked past it almost without noticing it. However, history shows us that it was once two separate houses, known as **Ivydene** and **Rowantree**.



I have looked into some of the families who lived in these once fine large houses.

IVYDENE

This was the westernmost section and was numbered 154. For a number of years in the 1920s and 1930s it was the home of the **Prior family**.

Albert Henry Prior was born on 28 January 1875, the son of James T Prior, a carman and contractor, from Sampford in Essex and Leah (sometimes referred to as Sarah). He married **Charlotte Hart** in 1898 and they had nine children; Albert, Sidney, James, Leonard, Doris (a teacher of music) who married Alfred W Piercy, Cyril, Stanley, Elsie who married Robert W Grimwade, and Clifford. Albert H Prior was involved in some aspects of the shipping industry dealing with wharfage and lighterage in Leamouth, Poplar, and became a builder (under the name **Prior and Alec Ltd**) of houses in Buckhurst Hill, including Tower Crest, at the top of The Drive, which became the family home after Ivydene, and other houses in The Drive which were rented out.

Albert Prior died in 1933 and his wife in 1939.

ROWANTREE

This was the easternmost section, numbered 152. For a few years it was the home of **Mrs Betsy Eagles**, the widow of James Eagles, who had died in 1908.

The couple had nine children, all in London except the youngest child, Victor, who was born in Buckhurst Hill when the family was living in Princes Road. James Eagles was a corn dealer. Mrs Eagles later moved to Derwent Villa, Queens Road and died in 1921 aged 82.

From around 1914 to 1923 **Henry Thomas Hester** was the occupant of Rowantree. He was born in Camberwell in 1843 and in 1881 he was working as a steward at an asylum in Hackney, where he lived with his wife Rosa and a son, Albert, Rosa died in 1891 and Henry remarried the next year to Sarah Julia (nee Boyd) and they had one son, Henry, born in 1893. Henry Thomas Hester died aged 81 in 1924.

From the late 1920s the occupant was the splendidly named **Sophocles Xenophon Pantcheff**, who had moved from a house in Victoria Road. He was Bulgarian in origin, and applied for British citizenship in 1931.

Sophocles X Pantcheff was an **inventor of kites and the holder of a US patent (in 1921) for a hexagonal kite**. A local resident remembers Mr Patcheff making 'Atlanta' kites in his workshop at the rear of the house for military use during the Second World War, although a history of kites in the west states that the 'Atalanta' (sic) was a popular toy in the 1930s.

He was married in 1913 to Ella Jessie, an anaesthetist, who was known as Mrs Pantcheva.

They had one daughter **Margaret**, who later taught at Loughton High School, and one son, **Theodore Xenophon Henry Pantcheff CMG** (known to the family as Bunny), who must have spent some of his boyhood in Buckhurst Hill. He became a member of HM Diplomatic Service, being First Secretary in Lagos 1958-1960 and in Leopoldville 1961-1963. He later lived in Alderney. Sophocles Pantcheff died in 1949, aged 64.



With many thanks for information on the Prior family kindly provided by David Prior and Jill Murphy; also thanks to Patricia J Barrett for information about the Pantcheff family.

There has not been enough space in this edition to print all Lynn's more detailed information about the families, if you would like further information please contact Lynn via BHRS (address on front page) *ed.*



Carollers: Daiglen School



St. James UR Church



Loyola School



St. John's School



St. John's Church



BHCA Bookstall in the Library

DIARY DATES

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

Wednesday April 2nd 7.30pm *Helen Leonard – MY LIFE IN THE TOWER OF LONDON*

Wednesday May 7th 7.30pm **51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** followed by refreshments and a talk: *Lynn Jones – BUILDINGS OF BUCKHURST HILL*

Thursday May 15th 2.30pm **THE WORK OF ST. CLARE HOSPICE** £3

Wednesday June 18th 12 noon **SUMMER LUNCH AT THE STAG** £10, wine and drinks extra – form enclosed

Wednesday July 2nd 7.30pm *Professor David Stevenson - WHY THE FIRST WORLD WAR BEGAN & WHY BRITAIN WAS INVOLVED*

Wednesday August 6th 7.30pm *Malcolm Dick – CROSSING THE RIVER – 2000 YEARS OF TRAVELLING OVER THE THAMES*

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** £6 per person, tables of eight maximum, please bring your own food and drink (soft drinks and wine only)

Wednesday November 5th 7.30pm *Dale and Val Gravett – LIFE WITH THE LIONS*

Wednesday December 3rd 7.30pm *Joan Francies – A RIDE AWAY* Wine and Mince pies

Friday December 5th or 13th **CHRISTMAS EVENT IN QUEENS ROAD** – date to be confirmed