

THE BOOKHAM BROADSHEET

The Journal of the Bookhams Residents' Association

April 2000

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write this Bookham is looking at its best and brightest with blossoming trees and colourful daffodils. It is because Bookham is so beautiful that we in the BRA do our best to preserve the best and improve on the less good.

One great improvement is the refurbishment of the pavement and parking bay in Church Road. It has caused a few weeks of disruption but in the long term we hope you agree with the results. We have been a major inspiration behind this work by putting forward the plan to widen the pavement alongside the Church wall and deepen the parking bay. Both alterations should help pedestrians and drivers alike. We also suggested introducing 1 hour free parking to allow for more movement in the parking bay and encourage shoppers to visit this part of our shopping area. There are now two bays for the disabled and two lowered crossings for wheelchairs. The traders in Church Road always feel that they are at the forgotten end of the High Street so we want to encourage residents to make more use of them.

Elsewhere in this Broadsheet you will read about other activities which are all aimed at keeping Bookham as pleasant as we want it to be.

Of course not all our recommendations are realised as the Council has to follow Government guidelines, so we are not able to prevent some of the new buildings going up, but the Planning Committee does its best to preserve the character of Bookham.

We keep a watchful eye on trees, parks and open spaces.

The Bookhams Residents' Association

(Founded 1926)

NOTICE OF 73rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 28 April 2000 at 8.00pm
The Harrison Room, The Barn Hall, Church Road,
Great Bookham.

Agenda

Chairman's Welcome

1. Minutes of the 72nd Annual General Meeting – 23/4/99
2. Treasurer's Report, adoption of accounts and agreement of 2000/2001 subscription
3. Executive Committee's report for the past year
4. Appointment of Auditors
5. Election of Chairman for 2000/2001
6. Motions
7. Any Other Business and Questions

GUEST SPEAKER

RODNEY SHAW
MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

"CONSERVING MOLE VALLEY'S HERITAGE"

The BRA exists to maintain and improve the facilities for the community in Bookham. What are the issues you feel strongly about?

Please come to the meeting and give us your support. New members are always welcome. Coffee and biscuits will be available.

My Committee regularly attend meetings concerning planning, traffic regulations, Norbury Park, Police and Community Partnership Groups. At our monthly meetings each member reports on his particular area of responsibility and we discuss the findings. These points are then brought to the notice of Councillors who regularly attend our meetings and in turn keep us informed of their reports.

The Village Day will once again include a painting competition for our local schools. We are very grateful to Hobnail and Last for organising this and look forward to the results. The traders in Church Road are co-operating with them to fund this competition and offer substantial prizes to the winning school. Hobnail and Last were also responsible for putting up the Christmas decorations in Church Road and taking them down very promptly. They were a welcome addition to the festival and the BRA commend their co-operation and enthusiasm.

Our speaker at the AGM will be giving an illustrated talk on Conserving Mole Valley's Heritage which I think you will agree promises to be very interesting. The meeting is at 8pm on 28th April in the Harrison Room at the Old Barn Hall and members and non-members are invited to attend.

OUR COMMITTEE IS IN GREAT NEED OF A SECRETARY AND URGENTLY ASKS FOR YOUR HELP. WE ALSO NEED MORE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO SHARE OUR BUSY SCHEDULE SO DO OFFER TO STAND AND HELP US OUT.

We look forward to seeing you all on 28th April.

Brenda de Brouin

Membership

First of all a very big thank you to all of our Road Stewards who collected subscriptions and distributed the Broadsheet during the last year.

The good news is that our membership is up slightly on the previous year, although we still have a long way to go. To extend the membership

further we really need more Road Stewards, so if anyone feels they could perhaps cover another road, or if they could recommend the role to a friend in another road, I would be delighted to hear from you.

When our Executive Committee claims to act on behalf of the local community I am sure you would agree that the greater the proportion of that community who are members of the BRA the greater the impact we are able to make.

Rosemary Roberts

Cleaner Bookham

Work started by Bookhams Residents' Association Committee nearly one year ago and is aimed at achieving a cleaner village. The scope for improvement is wide; street and pavement cleaning, reduction of uncleared dog fouling, clearance of rights of way footpaths and of course graffiti, which has been particularly bad this year. In March 1999 there was an upsurge in graffiti activity and the village has been struck by the vandals in most weeks since then.

Residents cannot fail to notice the defacement, which has been repeated ad nauseam on shop premises, bus shelters, walls, signs, control and junction boxes. BRA efforts through the summer were principally to raise awareness of the need to be proactive; encouragement was given to report any and every incident to an appropriate authority. In the majority of these cases of criminal damage reporting should be to Mole Valley Police, but Council owned residences and shops encourage reporting through M.V.D.C. and some businesses direct their staff to report incidents through a management chain. This all results in a very variable response to graffiti attack.

Reporting of incidents to the Police is, I believe far from 100%. One reason is that owners are often not aware of graffiti damage to their property if it is on a part that is not seen by them in normal daily activity. This is certainly the case for properties where the back or side boundary fence borders a public footpath. Another reason is that sadly there is no improvement in the time it

