



# BERKHAMSTED REVIEW

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## EDITORIAL

Hon. Editor  
Mr. H. D. Woodward, 53 Bridgewater Road  
Tel. 2723

## ADVERTISEMENTS

Hon. Manager  
Mr. C. J. Gosling, 8 Bridgewater Road  
Tel. 3194

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Mr. & Mrs. G. W. A. Dell, 4 Clarence Road  
Tel. 4706

## MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

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## In and around Berkhamsted

by 'Townsmen'

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

I have been studying the latest edition of the Berkhamsted street plan, a very useful thing to have if your local geography is shaky. No man about town likes to be asked the way to a road he has never heard of.

At a rough guess there are about 170 street names in the index, though only a dozen or so are actually called Streets. However, we have about 65 Roads, 18 Lanes, 7 Ways, and—would you believe it?—22 Closes, all of which are additional to Three Close Lane.

You can walk along a Ride (Gilpin's), ride along a Walk (Captain's or Greene), drive along a Path (Gravel) or stride along a Drive (Beech, Oak, Holly, Gaveston or Normandy). If you are seeking a Rise, try Delahay or Ashridge. Then there are five Avenues to explore, as well as six Gardens. Remember, however, that South Park Gardens are on the north side of the town, while North Road is on the south. A compass is not very useful in Berkhamsted.

I salute the publishers of the plan for giving Back Lane its proper name. We are also given what is surely the least familiar name in the district, Dennys Lane. This is the one which runs from the top of Cross Oak Road to the bottom of the next valley. Then, as it continues towards Ashley Green, with

Hockeridge Wood on the left and Pancake Wood on the right, it becomes John's Lane.

Just one suggestion for future editions: a section showing the whole of Potten End would be more appropriate to a Berkhamsted map than a plan of Bovingdon.

### A NEW DIRECTORY?

Several people have asked if there will be another Berkhamsted directory. One was published three or four years ago by the Round Table, and I fancy that hundreds of people still make good use of well-thumbed copies.

Certainly there would be a warm welcome for a new edition, but apart from the immense task of bringing the information up to date, much higher printing costs have to be taken into account. Perhaps the Round Table will let me have their comments.

### ROUND THE VILLAGES

Speaking of Potten End, as I was a minute ago, a resident of that delectable and prize-winning village suggests that Townsmen should remember the title of this feature and say more about the places *around* Berkhamsted.

Well, I have known Potten End since the trees round the water tower were so high, and have great affection for the garden village. But what can I, only an occasional visitor, say that isn't already known by



the people who live there?

Like many another village, Potten End solved its public hall problem years ago and has a very pleasant round of social activities. Little Gaddesden and Northchurch are in the same happy position.

I recall a time when some townspeople felt rather sorry for villagers; now it is customary to hear townsmen say they would like to live in a village. And Potten End seems to be top of the pops!

By the way, I do hope everybody reads the back pages of the *Review*. It's a shame not to know what is happening *around* Berkhamsted.

### LOOKING FOR THE OTTER

Now for a silly little story from the not very distant past. A friend recalls staying at the Old Mill House Hotel during or soon after the war and wandering around the garden, through which the millstream flows. Like many other visitors, he was attracted by signposts showing the way to "The Water Otter". He followed the path, which led to a small shed which contained just one huge, old kettle. Not what one expects to find in a safari park!

### BUSY WRITERS

Local historians in neighbouring towns have been very busy. Last year I reviewed the splendid *History of Hemel Hempstead*, deservedly a best seller. Last month I commented on Sheila Richards' new *History of Tring*. And now Chesham has a really handsome volume, full of pictures and interesting text. Clive Birch, the author and publisher, is to be congratulated on *The Book of Chesham*, as it is called, and envied his success in selling the whole edition, at over £5 a copy, within weeks of publication.

For some time much thought has been given to a book on Victorian and Edwardian Berkhamsted, consisting largely of pictures. Our town is fortunate indeed to have had a number of good photographers, the greatest of them all being Mr. J. T. Newman. George Sills and T. Banning added to the vast number of photographs of bygone Berkhamsted. Earlier still, William Claridge, who lived opposite the Black Horse public-house, was very active with the camera, and thanks to him we have hundreds of photographs of local scenes and people in the 1850s and 1860s.

A generous selection of these old prints will, I believe, be warmly welcomed.

### THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

Please come and hear the Rev. Richard Inwood on Saturday, 23rd November, 1974, at the King's Road Evangelical Church. The programme is as follows:

- 3.00 p.m. Methods of Bible Study
- 4.00 p.m. Film
- 4.30 p.m. What is the Good News—I
- 5.30 p.m. Refreshments (tickets at the door)
- 6.30 p.m. What is the Good News—II
- 8.00 p.m. Coffee

Admission free, all welcome.

### THE COURT HOUSE

Work is about to start on the reconstruction of the old Court House. The cost of the restoration work will be about £17,700. It will include a new floor and staircase, a temporary escape stair from the upper floor and a new heating and electrical system. That we can go ahead at all is the result of a number of very fortunate events. A grant of £6,000 has been promised from the Historic Buildings' Council. The appeal, launched in the summer, has already raised nearly £2,000. The parish has been able to allocate £2,500, part of the bequest received from the late Miss Bald. An anonymous and extremely generous donor has made available to the parish a loan of £4,000. The balance will come from parish funds and from the appeal, which is still very much open. We hope that any readers who have not yet contributed to the appeal will be moved to do so. Any amount, no matter how small, will be put to good use. Please help us to finish the restoration of this excellent old building, which will soon take its place again as one of the few halls in Berkhamsted available for community use.

### CHRISTIAN AID

A big 'thank you' to those who supported the barbecue and band concert on 28th September making the evening so tremendously enjoyable. The organisers are indebted to the Berkhamsted and Boxmoor Silver Band for providing such marvellous entertainment, and to Father Campling for allowing us to use the hall and grounds of the Sacred Heart Church. The event, which was mainly a social occasion, also netted approximately £35 for Christian Aid.

**Saturday, 23rd November.** The Berkhamsted Welsh Choir are giving a concert in St. Peter's Church at 8 p.m. Tickets obtainable from members of the Christian Aid Committee at the door. Adults 30p. Children 15p.

**Sunday, 1st December.** Austerity Lunch in the Methodist Church Hall at 12.30 p.m."

### PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDE COMPETITION

The Photographic Slide Competition organised by the Rotary Club of Berkhamsted has received sufficient entries to encourage the Vocational Service Committee to organise a slide show, critique and presentation of prizes to which all entrants, their friends and the general public are cordially invited.

An evening's entertainment has been arranged for the 14th November, 1974, at St. Peter's Hall, starting at 8 p.m. Mr. Dennis Toms of Kodak Ltd. has generously agreed to show a selected number of slides and give an informed criticism of each.

After a short interval, during which coffee will be served, prizes will be presented to the winner and runners-up. It is hoped that all interested in photography will come along on the 14th November and participate in what promises to be an interesting evening.