



# NEWSLETTER Summer 2008



## Betchworth & Buckland Society

For the protection and conservation of the quality of life in Betchworth & Buckland

### Welcome

...to the first edition of the Society's Newsletter. As new Chair of the Society, I hope to increase the communication to members and the community– and this newsletter is one channel to do that. We hope to give you news of our Committee and some interesting articles and reviews on a twice yearly basis. The Newsletter will be distributed by email or post to members and will be available on our website. On occasion we may circulate with the Parish Magazines to attract new members.

*Duncan Ferns, Chair*

### Sand & Pit Regeneration News

Early 2008 saw considerable planning activity from Surrey County Council on the County Minerals Plan. B&B Soc has worked closely with CAMEL (Campaign Against Mineral Extraction & Landfill) to lobby against the expansion of sand extraction in our villages.

#### Buckland Shag Brook

There is more success in our lobbying of Surrey CC to remove the initial proposal to exploit an extension of Park Pit to the west in the area known as Shag Brook. The Society and CAMEL worked hard to assemble the evidence base to demonstrate that the further lowering of the water table that would result from this proposal would be severely detrimental to the ecology of Reigate Heath, which Natural England– the government conservation body has a duty to protect as a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Shag Brook is therefore safe for a while.

Meanwhile ... the landowner of Park Pit, Dungate Estates Ltd– managed by Adrian Sanders, foreseeing the end of income from mineral rights, submitted a plan to open up Park Pit as a public park, with a 250-seat conference venue, proposed as a new building in the style of a large barn within the pit area. In March 50 members of the Society attended the open day presentation and walk around Park Pit, and agreed that it was a good amenity space that would be a great asset to have as a public access area– albeit for a small charge. This planning application was supported by the Society on condition that the adjacent sand processing equipment would be removed by 2010. However, in March 2008, Mole Valley DC refused planning permission largely on the grounds that we are in the green belt. Our goal is to support a solution that gives some degree of public access to this area of great landscape, amenity and wildlife value, rather than have it continue 'out-of-bounds'.

### ABOUT US ...

#### Our Purpose

The Society strapline summarises our purpose– For the protection and conservation of the quality of life in Betchworth & Buckland.

We aim to deliver our purpose through four practical goals :

- ?? To protect the natural and built environment in our villages.
- ?? To provide financial support and advice for projects that enhance village life
- ?? To encourage interest in the local history, culture and personalities of our villages
- ?? To promote social events to bring together residents of Betchworth and Buckland and raise funds.

#### Your Committee

Stella Cantor (Secretary)  
Anthony Eisinger  
David Evans  
Duncan Ferns (Chair)  
Fiona Hooper  
Nigel Husband  
Tony Innes  
John Pharo-Tomlin  
Paul Rietchel  
Dick Shadbolt  
Richard Worsley (Treasurer)

#### Website

[www.bandbsoc.org.uk](http://www.bandbsoc.org.uk)

### JOIN US TODAY

**We need your support. You will receive future Newsletters and invitations to all our events. Please complete the form overleaf and send to:**

### Membership Secretary

Richard Worsley (B&BSoc,)  
Greenridge,  
Reigate Rd,  
Reigate RH2 9RE

## Betchworth Common Field

The battle to save Betchworth Common Field from sand extraction has failed, and from 2012 onwards it will be exploited by an extension to Franks sandpit (south of the A25 in Betchworth). Preliminary work may start before 2012, on landscaping bands (bunds) and a tunnel under the road, near to Betchworth Post Office, to convey the sand under the road to the existing processing plant in Franks pit. We will continue to work to minimize disturbance to residents.

## Planning Issues

Our Committee discuss selected planning applications that might have an impact on residents of our villages. The following applications each caught our attention in the first half of 2008 from planning applications that may impact the visual character of the village, or cause potential traffic or noise issues. We do not wish to prevent change, but wish to keep the 'look and feel' of the village.

- ?? Park Pit Conference Centre and public access plan
- ?? Wonham Mill development of flats
- ?? Street Farm Cottage, outbuildings by The Green
- ?? Hartsfield Manor change of use to a hotel
- ?? Brockham Badgers application for a recreation ground in Betchworth
- ?? Buckland Court Stables, proposed restoration (illustrated opposite).

We will not provide full details of our views in the Newsletter, as each case involves a degree of either support or challenge, and we cannot please everyone all the time. However, your committee does make representations that we believe are representative of our membership—so please do tell us what you think of new planning applications as they arise.

## PROFILE— Fiona Hooper

Each Newsletter will profile a member of our Committee or our community. Thanks to Fiona Hooper, Committee member, for starting the series.

**"I joined the committee in 2006 because** I wanted to contribute to the local community. It's always interesting & illuminating to meet more neighbours and local people. My parents (Ronald & Phyllida Mackay) lived here at Sandhills on the border of Betchworth & Buckland for almost 25 years before me so I knew the area & various people quite well already. Although I now live in Betchworth, I lived in nearby Newdigate for over 30 years & grew up in Chipstead & know & love the whole area very much. **The great thing about our villages** is that every day I appreciate what a beautiful area we live in, especially while enjoying walks around Buckland & Betchworth, & what a real village community there is here despite being so close to London. It's wonderful how little the area has changed over the years. **Outside the Society** I enjoy travel, tennis, reading (I've joined the book group!), cinema, meeting new people of all ages, eating out in our excellent local pubs & restaurants & having taught Drama for most of my adult life, going to the theatre as often as possible! **I am particularly concerned about** keeping our villages rural, preserving their natural beauty & not getting sucked into Greater London and am sure The B&B Society can help by keeping a close watch on planning issues to prevent this happening." ✍

## EVENTS

### 2008 Calendar

**Wed 9 July 6.30pm to 9.30**  
**Annual BBQ with Jazz Band-**  
**Buckland Village Green**

**Tues 28 October 8pm**  
**Autumn Lecture Meeting**  
**Reading Room, Buckland**

**Friday 14 November 8pm**  
**Annual Dinner**  
**The Red Lion, Betchworth**

**Tues 16 December 6.30-9**  
**Christmas Drinks Party**  
**Reading Room, Buckland**



*Buckland Court Stables*  
*Painting by Hassell (1821)*

### Previous Events

Download the report on 5 Years of our Events from our website at [www.bandbsoc.org.uk](http://www.bandbsoc.org.uk)

For a donation of just **£10 per household** you can become members for 12 months.

Name .....

Address ..... Postcode .....

Email ..... Phone .....

Please enclose a cheque payable to 'Betchworth & Buckland Society' & forward to the address on the other side of this cut-off slip

We look forward to meeting you at our events