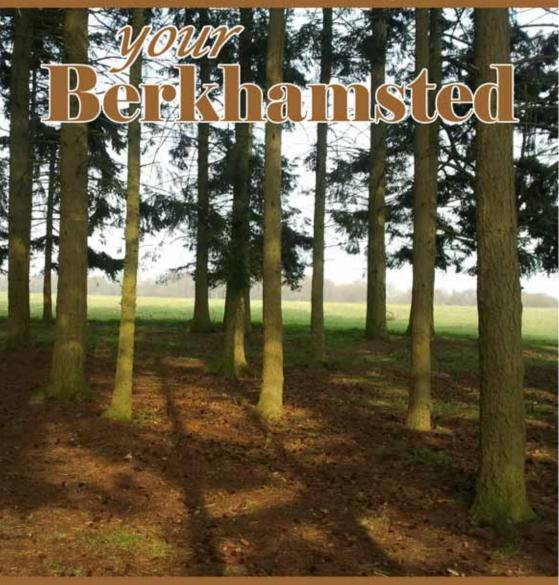
the magazine for town and parish



Internet TV comes to Berkhamsted Raise a glass to Tring Brewery The Chilterns Commons Project The Spirit of Berkhamsted

November 2011

From the Editor November 2011



The Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted

Welcome to the November issue of *Your Rerkhamsted*.

There's no doubt that you can find many enterprising people in and around the Berkhamsted area and we meet just some of them in this month's *Your Berkhamsted*. Dan Parry and John Gerry take us on a tour of Tring Brewery, and Dan also talks to the mother and daughter who are bringing online TV to Dacorum.

Julian Dawson's new column on Berkhamsted in the news has already prompted feedback from readers. We're pleased to hear from Wally Finch, the chairman of Berkhamsted & District RNLI, about the lifeboat Spirit of Berkhamsted, which Julian mentioned last month.

See if the origins of your street name are covered as Joanne Lloyd-Davies concludes her article "What's in a name?".

We're fortunate to live surrounded by wonderful countryside in Berkhamsted. This month Katy Dunn of the Chilterns Conservation Board tells us about local commons, why they matter and how we can protect them.

Also this month, we have the last in our series of Crispin Baker's monthly beekeeping diary, and Norman Cutting reports back on a meeting about the South Berkhamsted concept.

Ian Skillicorn, Editor

Photo credits: Front cover: Berkhamsted Common, pg 23: Launch at Totternhoe Knolls near Dunstable by Chris Smith, pg 24: Sonning Common Green Gym on Peppard Common by Chilterns Conservation Board

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Editor's note: *Your Berkhamsted* is always keen to welcome those of you who would like to contribute in some way. We know that the lead up to Christmas is a very busy time and this can mean that contributions for the magazine can be thin on the ground in December for January's issue! If you have an article that would fit in the January 2012 issue please send it to us.

Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and letters published in this magazine and for the accuracy of any statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor. Your Berkhamsted has no affiliation with the Save Your Berkhamsted campaign.

Your Berkhamsted Leader by Canon Anthony Lathe



If anyone else had been there they might well have thought it was stupid. I was in tears at 10 o'clock in the morning. The previous

evening I had finished reading the novel "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro. It is a brilliant, terrible yet beautiful tale of quiet, seemingly reasonable, hopeless inhumanity. To catch the mood, I suppose, next morning I was listening to Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace". Hence the tears. My thoughts turned to a phrase from George Herbert, the seventeenth century clergyman and poet, "The Country Parson is generally sad". The reason for his sadness is not just contemplation of the suffering of Christ, but seeing "sin and misery; God dishonoured every day and man afflicted".

These sombre thoughts are not intended to drag you down to misery as well, but a reminder that November is a sombre month, but not without its beauty. It is late Autumn, the winter is coming. There is Remembrance Sunday with its recollection of so much destruction, sacrifice and bravery. The beginning of November bring us the more ancient and universal All Souls' Day to recall our bereavements. Towards the end of the month comes the solemn season of Advent.

So often sadness is felt to be a sign of weakness. If someone asks how we are, we will say almost anything from "Very well" to "Not bad". Adults apologise for crying, or creep away to grieve in private.

We would rather talk about anything than to share our sadness. Perhaps, even, we look down our noses at the Victorian way of open grief and massive monuments. Yet, at the individual level, grief remains as important as ever. At times like Remembrance and All Souls' this can be publicly acknowledged and shared. It is good to be able to be solemn, even sad, without shame.

George Herbert's words about the country parson being generally sad come in a chapter headed "The Parson in Mirth". This throws up many questions worth asking. Can we know happiness without having experienced sadness; can we really know what peace is without having experienced conflict? Of course we can through imagination, but those who have the treasure are those who have been through the pain and manage it.

It is not a new thought that when people are sad they are not cut off from God, but somehow drawn closer. Julian of Norwich, who lived in very difficult times, could write, "He cometh down to the lowest part of our need". Trivial tears brought about by a novel and some music might, I hope, be a sign of some understanding of real sadness and to know that, as God is involved, it need not lead to despair. Indeed sadness has a kind of beauty. I am sure that sadness is often a Godly quality, of value in its own right. Sadness should be open and admitted without shame. The writer of Ecclesiastes puts it well, "There is a time to weep, and a time to laugh". Both! yB





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Around the town

The latest news from around Berkhamsted

Services at All Saints'

November 1st 8pm Service for All Saints Day. This will be a Communion Service. Sunday November 27th 4pm Service of Wholeness and Healing.

Events presented by the Cowper Society

Friday 4th November at 1:00pm: RECITAL: Twenty21 voice, piano, 'cello and violin. Free admission - retiring collection.

Monday 7th November at 8:00pm: RECITAL: Organ Recital – Jonathan Lee, organist, St Peter's, Berkhamsted. Free admission - retiring collection

Monday 28th November at 8:00pm: RECITAL: Organ Recital - Terence Charlston, Former organist of St Peter's and professor at the Royal Academy of Music. Free admission - retiring collection.

A Better World is Possible

Bruce Nixon will be signing copies of the book in Waterstone's on Saturday 19th November followed by a charity event from 7pm to 8.30pm on Thursday 24th November. Tickets for the event, needed to provide an idea of numbers, can be obtained from Waterstones (call in or phone 0843 290 8145). The charge of £2 includes drinks provided by Nigel Nutkins of Tring's Own Apple Juice and a donation to the RoadPeace charity.

POETRY LIVE!

Come along to enjoy an evening of classic and modern poems, hosted by Leslie Tate

and members of Berkhamsted's Poetry Reading Group on Saturday November 19th, 7.30, All Saints' Church, Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HY. Tickets: £5.00. Profits from sale of tickets and books by Leslie Tate/Sue Hampton will go to Christian Aid. Contact: www.leslietate.com. Leslie Tate and Sue Hampton will also be signing their novels at Berkhamsted Waterstones on 5th November.

Bridgewater Sinfonia

Saturday 19th November at 7:30pm: CONCERT: Bridgewater Sinfonia. Tchaikovsky Fantasy-Overture: Romeo & Juliet; Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1 Alexander Ardakov piano; Dvorak Symphony No.8. Conducted by Adrian Davis. Tickets: £15, under 18s free, from Aitchisons or tel 01442 875945 or www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk

Town Farm Art Show in Cheddington

You are warmly invited to a festive art show in Cheddington - come and enjoy mulled wine, Christmas cake and mince pies, plus lots of ideas for really special Christmas gifts. Nine accomplished artists showing paintings, botanical art, porcelain, ceramics, sculpture, woodcarving, woodcraft, textiles and jewellery in the relaxed setting of Christine Bass's home, studio and garden. ONE WEEKEND ONLY: Friday 25th -Sunday 27th November, 10am – 5pm. Free entry and refreshments. Donations in aid of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. 6 Town Farm, Cheddington, LU7 0TT PLEASE PARK ON HIGH STREET -NOT IN TOWN FARM See

www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com.yB

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Read all about us!

Julian Dawson takes a look at varied and surprising references to our town on the internet

In my last article we travelled an expanse between lifeboats, the surrender of the Saxons and the preservation of Hitchcock movies. This month the topics will be no less extensive.

First of all, I must apologise to Berkhamsted FC fans for applying what is known as the commentators curse. An FA cup replay saw them succumb to St. Albans City (after a brave goalless draw), and the FA Vase saw them being dispatched by Hoddesdon Town in the east of the county. Let us gloss over the press coverage. But staying with sport, with a planning flavour, the proposed Hockey pitch and floodlights at Kitcheners field has not surprisingly brought some strong opinions to the blogosphere. I shall retain my veneer of impartiality only to say the as so often is the case opinions on both sides tend to exaggerate at the extremes. It was ever thus. However a more positive piece on a website for runners praises the planning process for producing a sustainable and acceptable development at old Bridgewater Boats site on the Grand Union Canal. And from canals to railways. Steam buffs amongst you will no doubt be already aware that the A1 Tornado 60163 blew through Berkhamsted Station on 28th September. Check out the Railway Chronicle blog for some splendid footage of this smart green engine.

Yet again, the Rex Cinema made the national press in the last month, appearing on the Guardian on 24th September. In this instance more unusually a writer reminisces about visits to the Rex in the 1970s, in particular recalling how Grease

enabled common ground to be found in a new family. That's the film by the way! Many of you will be aware of the appearance of Villagio, on the site of the late lamented Eat Fish. Villagio is actually a new brand by a company known as the Richoux Group, who BigHospitality.co.uk gleefully informs us, made a pre-tax loss in the first half of the year. Villagio is apparently a trial brand with a local Italian feel. Turns out we have the power to make it succeed or not. Though, and this is strictly not an editorial viewpoint, I suspect that we have quite sufficient Italian cuisine in the town, so it will have to wow us to last. And sticking with catering, the Crown just along the road is celebrating its appearance in the Good Beer Guide for 2012, winning praise for customer service, decor, atmosphere and quality of real ales. It's also very good value! I'll leave you to decide which of the above explains the regular attendance of the YB editorial team in aforesaid hostelry.

And finally, according to Berkhamsted born singer songwriter James Bennett, the Lake District can ruin your life. In an interview on the Fader music website he blamed his parents for dragging him up north. Youngsters, you have been warned. If any of this month's topics prompts you to voice your own take or opinion on local matters, do write a piece for an upcoming issue of YB. We'd be delighted to hear

from you. *y*B

Editor's Note: Thanks to Liz Jackson and
Wally Finch who got in touch to tell us

more about the Spirit of Berkhamsted mentioned in Julian's October column. You can read more on page 13.

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Sprint, stroll, scoot!

On Sunday 4th December, The Hospice of St Francis will be turning the streets of Hemel Hempstead a festive red and white. Kick-start the festive season in style by joining Santas of all ages as they sprint, stroll or even scoot along the streets of Hemel to raise sleigh-loads of money for local people with life-limiting illness.

Emma Day, event organiser said: "At only 2.5 miles the route is suitable for everyone - so grab your grandparents, challenge your colleagues, scoot with your pals, club together with classmates, rally your running club or parade with your pooch - as long as you have fun and raise money,

we don't mind how long it takes you! Signing up to this fun-filled event will make a real difference to the special care we give to patients at The Hospice of St Francis, so we would encourage you to please raise as much sponsorship as you can."

Kick off is at 10am and entry is just £15 for individuals, £5 for children or you can enter the whole family (including the dog) for £35. Entry fee includes a medal, Santa suit and tasty treat at the finish line.

Adds Emma: "We would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal sponsors at Riverside for all their support again this year."

For more information contact Emma Day



Volunteers dressed as Santas

on 01442 869555 or email fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk

Closing date for entries is 30th November.

All the money raised from this event goes towards supporting families and patients living with life limiting illnesses. The Berkhamsted based Hospice of St Francis is the only inpatient unit with special facilities that allow patients to be cared for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It also helps patients who are seriously ill at home and in day hospice but needs to raise more than £3.3 million every year. See www.stfrancis.org.uk for more information. VB

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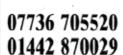
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A trip to Tring Brewery

Dan Parry and John Gerry raise a glass to our local brewery

It doesn't happen often, it's true, but should you find yourself parachuted into an unidentified high street it might be a while before you knew where you were. Chain stores have made our high streets so anonymous they all look pretty much the same - until you walk into a pub. The moment you laid eyes on the Wife of Bath, a cheeky Gold Muddler or even an Eve-Opener all would become clear, for you would at once know where you were (just in case...that's Canterbury. Hampshire and Wiltshire). Who could fail to realize they were in Dorset the moment they caught sight of a Spanked Monkey? Local beers are nothing if not dripping with local character. Here in our corner of Hertfordshire, a barrel full of local flavours and traditions indelibly leave their mark on the endless range of products flooding out of our very own Tring Brewery.

Berko's eminent historian the late Percy Birtchnell wrote that at one time many of the town's pubs maintained the ancient tradition of brewing their own beer. Then national and international producers and distributors took over - as with everything else, using benefit of scale and marketing muscle to impose profitable uniformity on to us all. Who can forget the infamous Watney's Red Barrel? But the worm began to turn in the 1960's and 70's with the advent of CAMRA and a gradual recognition that mass production and distribution had forfeited distinctiveness and taste. More recently the independent microbreweries have proliferated and are

holding their own; the impression given by Tring's Ben Marston is that for them at least things are going from strength to strength.

Tring has quite some history of local breweries, notably in the 19th century when the labour force digging out the railway cuttings and the canal reservoirs provided a thirsty market for their wares. The Second World War saw the end of local, commercial beer production for around 50 years until the modern Tring Brewery commenced operations in 1992. From the outset the directors realized the importance of local traditions and history in developing a distinctive local identity. Its very first beers were called Ridgeway Bitter and Icknield Ale, whilst more recently our local heritage has been brought to mind by Jack O'Legs (the county's local giant of yore), Side Pocket for a Toad (an old Hertfordshire saying) and Colley's Dog (a reference to the huge black dog that's roamed the countryside ever since one Thomas Colley encouraged a mob to murder an elderly couple in Marston in 1751). Forthcoming

(continues on page 12)



continued from previous page

month specials will recall local people, notably Percy's Toppler (after the above mentioned historian and the fate of the shop associated with him), and The Sapper, in memory of Corporal David Barnsdale, a local member of 33 Engineer Regiment who was killed in Afghanistan in October last year.

Whilst it is fascinating to track our local heritage through brand names, the main reason why Tring Brewery has stepped up its production from 450,000 to 1.6million pints a year is the quality of the brew. At a recent East of England championship run by SIBA (Society of Independent Brewers) Side Pocket and Colley's Dog won silver and gold awards and have progressed into the national final. Awards are not uncommon at the Brewery however they say pride for them comes from producing a product that continues to generate an ever growing loyal customer base.

So what's their secret? Naturally Ben's a little cagey. We'd expected to see essence of unicorn or mermaid's scales stacked in jars, but it turns out it's all down to varying the quantities of hops and malt, enhanced by alterations in the brewing process before the beers are left to spend time fermenting and cooling. How much time? Ben says he could tell us but then he'd have to kill us. We'd thought of brewing as a science, but Ben was clear that to produce a top quality beer was also a work of art. To achieve the perfect colour, smell, consistency and taste requires a balance of technical input and human skill



Tring Brewery is very much a local entity. Its products are distributed within a 30mile radius (although it does occasional beer swaps with other independent breweries further afield). All but two of its staff live in Tring, and since 2009 it has run competitions locally to find new and relevant names for its new brews. This is not an unimportant task as, amazingly, Tring launches a beer each month. These beers are then withdrawn unless exceptional demand forces them to be added to the core product list, (such a fate befell the strongest beer produced in the brewery, namely Death or Glory, a 7.2 alcohol by volume tipple remembering the Charge of the light Brigade, launched as a winter warmer one October but turned into a year-round seller by popular demand).

So what does the future hold for Tring Brewery? Fortunately it has so far been little affected by the current economic malaise. Is it tempting to ask how many more pints it could sell if it extended its 30-mile limit? Or would that risk what is possibly its key asset, its very localness? We suspect that both its management and its loyal consumers would like to see it maintain its roots in Hertfordshire tradition. \(\mathcal{VB} \)

12

Spirit of Berkhamsted

Wally Finch, Chairman of Berkhamsted & District Branch RNLI, on a boat with a special local connection

The Berkhamsted Branch of the RNLI was formed in 1947 by a small group, fundraising for the Institution.

We have since improved our image and fundraising culminating in the raising in the year 2000, with the help of the townspeople, of the sum of £22,000 to purchase the "D Class" Lifeboat "Spirit of Berkhamsted". She is stationed at Happisburgh in Norfolk. The year 2003 saw the boat being named on The Moor. This was the first time a boat had ever been Christened at an inland location, within the history of the RNLI.

During her service life she has covered many and various Shouts (call outs) from saving seven divers to rescuing dogs distressed on the beach. This is our reason for being an active Branch; we are not strong in numbers but very dedicated and would welcome more members and helpers.

We hold a number of events, stalls at various Shows, open gardens and street collections, and help for just one hour would increase our funds collected.

The Institution operates 300 Lifeboat Stations, and many Lifeguards on beaches around the country.

The whole structure of the Institution is funded by voluntary contributions with nothing being given by the Government. I would like to quote one line which we use "Save one, save many". Our aim is to raise funds - if you feel you can help telephone me on 01442 864152 or Evelyn Ford on 01442 864561. Thank you. \(\nslant \mathbb{P}\)



News and Views

Oxfam Christmas

November – and our thoughts turn to Christmas. (Remember to buy your Advent calendars and candles in good time.) Oxfam is offering a splendid range of reasonably priced gifts and cards this year, not forgetting its popular Festive Food.

Children are especially well catered for with toys such as the delightful eco zoo animal torches (no batteries), pirate kits, the ever-popular fairies, robots and growkits. The vintage style cup and ball at £1.99 is an ideal stocking-filler. The minicrackers will be popular for children's parties or to decorate the Christmas tree.

For adults there are natural organic toiletries, attractive accessories and jewellery and staples like notecards, diaries and calendars.

An interesting Make and Mend selection has ideal gifts for the home craft enthusiast. And of course there is recycled rollwrap and a wide choice of Christmas cards.

Buying your presents at Oxfam makes your money go twice as far – a gift for

your family and friends and needy families overseas as well. **Audrey Hope**

Fun and Friendship

Nothing to do after school? Fed up with the prices at local cafés? Want to hang out with your friends? Want to experience a Christian community? We would like to invite all those in Year 7 and above to join us at our After-school club in the Upper Room of the Court House (next to St Peter's). It's an open house so come along with your friends and chill out. Subs are 50p per week and tuck can be brought for 10p per item (max 2 items per week). A Place to hang out, football table, pool, PS2, ipod dock, comfy sofas, cheap tuck shop!

Tuesdays 3.45pm – 5pm @ The Upper Room Contact Rev Penny Nash 865217

Letter

In this King James Bible Anniversary year, when we celebrate the translation of the Bible into the language of the people - it would be great to see more accessible pew Bibles in all our churches.

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Your Berkhamsted Needs You!

The editorial team of Your Berkhamsted is actively seeking new contributors for the magazine.

Did you know that everyone who works on bringing Your Berkhamsted to you each month is a volunteer? We would extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to join us, whether you would like to contribute on a regular basis or just write a one-off article.

Features

We are always interested in discussing ideas for features about Berkhamsted life. These could be about the town's history, interesting modern day developments or local people of note (past or present).

Local groups

Bringing news from local groups to our readers is an important function of Your Berkhamsted. If you belong to a local group please let us know about your latest news and events. Please consider sending us an article about what your group does. Articles should be 500 to 900 words in length.

Fiction

Are you a budding writer of fiction or poetry? We want to showcase local writing and are looking for poems of up to 200 words and short stories between 500 and 1000 words

Arts and culture

Would you like to write a review of an arts event taking place in or nearby to Berkhamsted? Let us know!

The last word

The last word is available for readers to send in approx. 500 words on a topic of their choice, and one that may stimulate debate in further issues

Please email the editor for more details at editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk.

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Sign up for the travelling crib



On Advent Sunday, 27th November, at the morning services at All Saints' and St Peter's we will send a Travelling Crib from each church to begin a journey round the town as reminder of the story of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

They will leave with the first of the families who have offered their homes as a resting place on their journey. Each night they will stay with a different family before returning to church, with the last family, at Christmas.

The figures of Mary and Joseph have been knitted by members of the Mothers' Union so they are very 'child friendly' and no one need have

fear of them being damaged by young children. The figures have a special basket to travel in and each family they visit is asked to prepare a special place in their home for them to rest for the night.

If you would like the

Travelling Crib to spend a night in your home during Advent this year please sign up on one of the lists which will be in churches on Sundays 6th & 13th November and, during the week in between, at Chuckles and Little Fishes. Make a note of the dates and bring your diaries! To avoid disappointment, sign up on Sunday 6th November!

If you have any queries please contact Jenny Wells (870981) for the crib at All Saints' or Kathie Lally (863526) for the crib at St Peter's.

yΒ

Travelling Crib Sign up Sun 27 Nov



St Peter's choir sing joyfully

By Fiona Powell

"Nothing was stirring, not even a mouse."

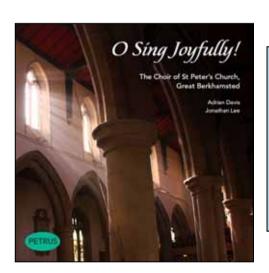
On Saturday 8th October mysterious signs appeared on the doors of St Peter's. The church building was closed, and silence was the order of the day.

Not everyone was silent, however.
The St Peter's choristers were inside, in full voice. The recording equipment was so sensitive, that no noise—aside from those singing—was permitted. Not easy when you realise that around half of the choir are young children and teenagers. How everyone managed to stay quiet during

the recording of the solo's and duets is remarkable. And yet, quiet they must have stayed. Jon Lee, St Peter's organist, has been listening to the output and has confirmed that the recording quality is excellent.

The CD is self-funded, through preorders. To own some enjoyable choir music, accompanied by Jon's expertise on the newly renovated St Peter's organ, you just need to get in touch with the Parish Office, or pick up a form from St Peter's church.

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Regular Church Activities				
3rd Mon	Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534			
Tue	Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10-11:30am. All Saints Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981			
Tue	St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15-6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 875674 or Jean Wild 866859			
1st Tue	Tuesday Club, $7:45 pm$ A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Barbara McKenna 871159			
3rd Tue	Mothers' Union, meet in members' houses at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Lally, 863526			
4th Tue	Mothers' Union Prayer Group, 2:30pm. 17 Shaftesbury Court. Tell us if anyone needs your prayers. Contact Jenny Wells 870981			
Wed	Julian Meeting, meets about twice a month. 11:30am. All welcome. At Jenny Wells, 57 Meadow Rd, 870981 or at Ruth Treves Brown, 1 Montague Rd, 863268			
Thu	Home Group, 8pm on 2nd and 4th Thurs.			
Thu	Bellringing, 8pm, St Peters. Contact Helen Ruberry, 890949			
Fri	Little Fishes Parent & Toddler Group 9:30-11:30am. The Court House. Weekly, with short service on 1st Friday in St Peter's (10am). Tracy Robinson 863559			
Fri	St Peter's Choir, Children 7-8:30pm, Adults 7:30—8:30pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 875674 or Jean Wild 866859			
1st Sun	Sundays Together Lunches, contact Liz Jackson on 864382			
3rd Sat	ABC Prayer Breakfast, 8am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.			

	St Peter's			All Saints—November		
	8:00am	Eucharist	1st		All Saints Day,	
Services	9:30am	Sung Eucharist & Sunday			Holy Communion	
		School	6th	8:00am	Holy Communion	
	6:00pm	Evensong		10:00am	Morning Worship	
Se			13th	10:00am	Remembrance Sunday,	
Sunday	St Cecilia Choral Evensong Sun 20th Nov at 6:00pm				Holy Communion	
			20th	10:00am	Holy Communion	
			27th	10:00am	Morning Worship	
	First Su	nday in month Family Service at 9:30am		4:00pm	Healing Service	

November Parish Diary						
Tue 1st	8:00am	Parish visit to Palace of Westminster, St Peter's				
Wed 2nd	8:00pm	Service: Requiem for All Souls. The choir sings from Fauré's Requiem, <i>St Peter's</i>				
Fri 4th	10:00am	Little Fishes Service, St Peter's				
Fri 4th	7.30pm	Parish Dinner and Entertainment at Berkhamsted School				
Sun 13th	3.00pm	Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance, St Peter's				
Sat 19th	7.30pm	Cowper Society presents Bridgewater Sinfonia concert, St Peter's				
Sun 20th	6:00pm	St Cecilia Choral Evensong, St Peter's				
Sat 26th	2-5pm	Advent Workshop, St Peter's				
Sun 27th	6:00pm	Advent Carol Service. St Peter's				

Parish Diary information can be found at www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

Weddings

November Parich Diam

- **3 Sep** David Burt Round and Morei Evelyn Higgin (St Peter's)
- **10 Sep** Adam Edward Cooper and Amanda Jane Cave (St Peter's)
- **24 Sep** Kevin McDonald and Claire Marie Bradley (St Peter's)

Baptisms

- 11 Sep Amelia Poppy Simpson; Kitty Florence Ewing (St Peter's)
- 18 Sep Amelie Joan Silverwood-Cope; Ellie Grace Davis;

Harvey George Wilkinson (St Peter's)

Laura Ellen Brush Chappell (All Saints)

Funerals

- 1 Sep Marguerite (Peggy) Birtchnell (St Peter's)
- 30 Sep David Harrand (All Saints)

Key Church Contacts

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong and Kate Perera, Court House, 878227. Fr Michael Bowie, 864194 (day off Fri). Team Rector, St Peter's. The Revd Rachael Hawkins, All Saints.

Further information available from our church websites:

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk and at www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk

Internet TV comes to Berkhamsted

Dan Parry meets the creators of DeeTV, a new online TV station for Dacorum

Dacorum is about to become smaller, cosier, easier, friendlier and dare we say, digital, thanks to a new local TV station developed by doyen of local politics Lindy Weinreb. For the last five months Lindy, a former mayor of Berkhamsted, and her daughter Mischke have been developing a website they're calling Dee TV.

When we think of home, chances are we might think of Berkhamsted, or Hemel, or Tring – or wherever home happens to be. For all of us however – that's all of us in Berkhamsted, Hemel, Tring and Kings Langley plus 14 nearby villages – home is also the borough of Dacorum. I for one associate myself with Berkhamsted more than I do with Dacorum, but in visiting Lindy Weinreb at her canal-side home I quickly find that I'd better change my ways, fast. After taking in her bubbling enthusiasm and hearing about months of hard work, I wasn't going to challenge her.

Lindy's home has been taken over by a new idea for something along the lines of a local TV station, and since May she and her daughter Mischke have been doing little beyond eating, sleeping and talking television, 24 hours a day. In my day-job, making documentaries, I can very much appreciate the voracious appetite TV has for time. It takes oodles of time to learn it all from scratch, great dollops of time to arrange a shoot (you might need powersources, lights, interviewees, permissions, and a story to tell) and truckloads of time

to edit it all together. So why do it?

Lindy's passion is obvious. "So many amazing things are going on throughout the borough", she tells me, "that we want to engender pride in the place where we're living." While I drink coffee, scribble notes and wrestle with an eight-week-old kitten I find myself getting genuinely enthused about a project designed to serve as a giant community noticeboard. "We don't like noticeboard," they tell me in unison, "perhaps 'platform' is better".

Mischke picks up the story. "Using industry-standard cameras and Final Cut Pro [professional editing software] I've been out to film local people doing amazing things that the rest of us might not be aware of. By filming them, and putting our films on Dee TV we can encourage people to get involved. Charities seeking volunteers, leisure groups hoping to find new members and community enterprises like our local coffee roaster looking for trade can now do more than just advertise in a newspaper. By going online and taking a look you can actually see what they do which makes it all the easier to contact them. They're more familiar! I know you you've been in my sitting room."

"We want to begin with young people, perhaps they are more likely to take a look online – to see how they and their friends appear on telly. The website format is designed to be suitable for iPads and iPhones. We want young people to share moments with each other, to spread the

word." To me that sounds a little like Facebook, and I want to return to the theme of making the community a smaller, friendlier place but I dare not mention the noticeboard-word again. Mischke tells me that to encourage youngsters, she's been going to schools, explaining about the project and teaching kids how to film things. "Hopefully through projects like ours we can help bridge the gap between the generations", she says.

So what is the structure of Dee TV? "We're a CIC – a community interest company", Lindy tells me. "In the future the idea is that local businesses will buy advertising space, but we're keen to put the money back into the project – to help it grow. You know, so many people just simply don't know what's happening around the community – in making our first films we have discovered so many wonderful things going on in Hemel

Hempstead, in Tring, we believe that in putting them on Dee TV we can develop our local sense of identity, develop a local sense of pride that hopefully might reach beyond whatever town we happen to live in. This is important when it comes to things like HS2 – the plans for the new rail link "

Available at www.deetv.tv, the website promises stories on prominent local people, groups and businesses, up-to-date information about services in the area – from transport to schools to your local council – and the latest from your local MP, local sports and entertainment coverage in the district. But don't just take it from me. Put the kettle on, put your feet up and go and watch some local telly. Or better still, give them a call and tell them what you're up to – you might just find that what you end up watching, is you. \nabla B



Mischke and Lindy Weinreb

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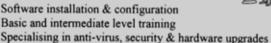
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Chilterns Commons Project

Katy Dunn explains what commons are and why they matter

Commons have been at the heart of communities since the Middle Ages and hold generations of history in their landscape. They're important wildlife refuges, home to many species that cannot survive elsewhere in our intensively-farmed countryside. They're also fantastic natural playgrounds for walking, picnics and playing on.

However, commons are under threat. Today, there is increasing demand for land from agriculture, housing and commerce, but ironically, the biggest threat to commons is neglect.

The Chilterns Commons Project launched on 30th September with £400,000 of Heritage Lottery Funding. The four-year project will help improve the natural environment of commons in the area, spread the word about the value of commons and get more people involved in studying and caring for them.

A new Commons Project Officer, Rachel Sanderson, is in place at The Chilterns Conservation Board to advise and support those interested in helping the Commons Project. 'This is a fantastic project that everyone can get involved in,' says Rachel, 'We'll be running training schemes for landowners and committed volunteers to equip them with new skills to help them with practical work for habitat conservation and restoration on commons, or train them in wildlife or archaeological survey techniques.' Funding for professional works to improve wildlife habitats and historic



features on common land is also available as part of the Chilterns Commons Project.

The real value of commons lies in their importance to the public as open green spaces at the heart of communities. We need to use them, study them, cherish them and most importantly, maintain them so that we don't lose these amazing, varied landscapes for good.

Frequently Asked Questions about Commons:

What is a common?

Commons are designated areas of land with restrictions as to what can be done on them. The history of commons goes back centuries and in most cases they were the areas of land that were deemed too poor, too difficult to work or too far from the main estate to be useful to the Lord of the Manor. This land was then given over to certain local residents for use in subsidising their livelihoods – for animal grazing or firewood, for instance.

(continued on page 25)



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(continued from page 23)

Who owns commons?

Commons are not public property and all have an owner. Many are owned by local authorities, some by private individuals or

companies, others by wildlife organisations. In the Chilterns, 25% of common land is owned by the National Trust.



We all have rights of access on foot to common land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Everyone can walk anywhere on a common, but it is against the law to ride a bike, motorbike or quad-bike on a common. We can all fly a kite, build a den from fallen wood or have a picnic on a common, but it is against the law to light a fire or camp overnight. Everyone can pick blackberries or gather mushrooms on a common, but it is against the law to pick flowers, collect firewood or cut down trees.

How many commons are there in the Chilterns?

Today, there are nearly 200 commons in the Chilterns covering more than 2000 hectares. They vary enormously, some covering more than 100 hectares of rolling woodland and meadow, others are no more than a grass verge or a village pond. There are a range of habitats including large areas of open grassland (e.g. Berkhamsted, Chorleywood, and Box Moor).

Why are commons special?



Many commons have special designation for their wildlife habitats because they are home to plants and animals which are no longer common in our countryside. This is because many of our rarer species require low

soil fertility which depends on longestablished habitats and traditional management practices that have disappeared from much of the more intensively farmed and forested land.

Why do our commons need to be looked after?

On most commons, grass, wood and bracken would have been regularly removed with the result that soil fertility remained low. In contrast, modern farmed countryside is high in nutrients as they are added in the form of artificial fertilisers or slurry to boost production. The result is that the intended crops flourish, but a wide variety of flowers and insects cannot survive under such productive systems as they are out-competed by the more vigorous crops. On commons, significant addition of nutrients is far less likely to have happened, so in general a much greater number of interesting species may still survive as long as the competition from dominant grasses, scrub and bracken can be controlled.

If you'd like to find out more about the Chilterns Commons Project, please contact Rachel Sanderson on 01844 355525 or email rsanderson@chilternsaonb.org or write to The Lodge, 90 Station Road, Chinnor, OX39 4HA. VB

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What's in a name?

Joanne Lloyd-Evans concludes her look at the history behind some of our town's street names

Last month I revealed the origins of Berkhamsted street names from Bridgewater Road to Doctors Common Road. This time we look at names from Egerton Road to Shootersway.

Egerton Road: named after the Egerton family, of the Dukedom and Earldom of Bridgewater. Francis Egerton, the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, is known as the pioneer of British inland navigation, and commissioned the Bridgewater Canal in north-west England in the 18th century. The 8th Earl of Bridgewater was also a Francis Egerton, and he was a noted eccentric and was known for giving dinner parties for dogs, where the dogs were dressed in high fashion clothing, even including elaborate miniature shoes.

Gilpin's Ride: named after Cowper's popular comic ballad from 1782, "The Diverting History of John Gilpin", which was based on the story of a real-life draper from London who lost control of his horse while on a journey with his wife and children.

Gravel Path: carters came this way with loads of gravel from the Common.

Hall Park (also Hall Park Hill, Hall Park Gate and Upper Hall Park):

named after The Hall, which was a large, plastered mansion that stood upon this site and was demolished sometime in the 20th century to make way for the houses that now stand there. In the 1901 census, it was recorded that Constable Curtis lived in The Hall with his wife, four adult children, a daughter-in-law, and 11 servants.

Manor Street: the land was formerly part of the Pilkington manor estate and the manor house stood opposite Rectory Lane on the High Street. The grounds of Pilkington Manor once extended to Ravens Lane. The manor was demolished in the 20th century and a block of flats now stands in its place, and has been given the name of Pilkington Manor.

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continued from previous page

Millfield: named for an ancient windmill that was recorded as being on the east side of Gravel Path in the 14th century.

Ravens Lane: takes its name from a family that lived there in the 14th century. One of the family became a henchman for Edward, the Black Prince, who was the eldest son of King Edward III. Berkhamsted Palace was his main residence when he was in England. He died in 1371, a year before his father, and so never became king.

St John's Well Lane: named after a leper hospital that was dedicated to St John and a spring or well that sent water trickling down the lane to join the river Bulbourne. The hospital was located on the site of the Royal Mail delivery centre. The spring was thought to have had special properties that healed sore eyes. It was a popular source of drinking water in medieval times and many took bottles of the water

away for home treatment, but it ceased to flow in the 1930s.

Three Close Lane: this was the way to three "closes" or paddocks where sheep and cattle were penned during the night on the way to the London markets.

Shootersway: it has been known by several related names; Shokersweye in the 14th century and Shukerswaye in the 17th century, and it was believed to have been a robbers' way. It was known as the friendlier sounding "Sugarsway" in the 18th century.

And lastly, although this is not actually a Berkhamsted street name, if you have ever wondered a why Cow Roast is so called, apparently it is a corruption of "Cow Rest". The village used to be on a major drovers route, with cattle being driven to London, and this was one of the sites where there were pens and grazing for the cattle to be held overnight. VB

The local beekeeper

Crispin Baker, local beekeeper and Berkhamsted honey producer, concludes his monthly beekeeping diary

November, and all being well the bees are now hibernating in a well stocked hive full of bee food and a healthy queen able to start laying eggs at the end of the coming winter. It's a good time of year to reflect on the successes and mistakes of the past 12 months and how we can learn to be a better beekeeper.

Beekeeping is not all about donning a veil and collecting honey for tea, there are many pitfalls not least of which are bee diseases.

Healthy bees are happy bees and happy bees make honey, so it is in our best interests to be vigilant to the threat of any disease and act promptly to contain any disease that threatens. There are many diseases ranging from those that attack and kill larva to an almost undetectable underlying viral presence in the adult bees, and this article is far too short to discuss them all except for a salient one or two.

American and European Foul Broods are bacteria that attack larva, and are virulent, fatal and most importantly notifiable, and can result in your hives and contents being burnt on site, they are also very rare.

Nosema is a single celled protozoa that infects the bees gut and their ability to digest pollen (their protein source). Nurse bees are unable to feed larva properly and age prematurely. Low levels of this disease can be found in most colonies and

providing the bees can defecate outside, the presence of the disease can naturally clear up during Spring population build up. However certain strains of nosema have been linked to Colony Collapse Disorder.

The most talked about disease is varroa, a parasitic mite about the size of a pin head that attaches itself to the adult bees and larvae to feed on the haemolymph (bee blood). This itself is not fatal, the problem lies with the viral pathogens carried by varroa that are then transferred to the bees. Varroa is present in every hive all year round and if not checked will almost certainly kill a colony over the winter period.

We treat annually (during August) with an organic remedy that has passed stringent efficacy tests and, an important part of being a responsible beekeeper is your ongoing management of varroa levels.

A good beekeeper is a person who is aware that they are responsible for looking after other living things and acts accordingly. Bees are susceptible to stress as are other animals and should never be handled roughly, resulting in crushed bees, or mistreated with inadequate housing or feeding. Healthy bees are happy bees and happy bees make honey.

yВ

Editor's note: Many thanks to Crispin for sharing with us the annual calendar of a bee keeper over the past year.

The South Berkhamsted Concept

Norman Cutting reports on a meeting about the South Berkhamsted Concept

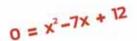
Along with 11 others, I attended the transport and housing meeting of the PR company promoting the 'South Berkhamsted Concept' on 19th September 2011.

We had 2 PR men, 1 'sustainability' consultant, 1 transport consultant, 2 planning consultants and 1 developer (who obviously intended to say little but realised the consultants were losing the battle). Mind you, they were all young enough to be my grandchildren!

We had the usual PR introduction (I'm getting really deaf now trying to hear over the rush of air con) with pretty slides on a screen intended to emphasise their 'green' thoughts by using light green writing on a white background. They admitted they had changed their ideas following the hordes of visitors to the public exhibitions and the comments, suggestions

and ideas that followed.

It now looks as though only a maximum of 800 homes will be crammed on the largest bit of green belt (top of Swing Gate Lane on the left) as the latest idea is to have a new school, two sloping football pitches, rows of houses with the odd allotment (suggesting no real garden) and parking spaces (suggesting no garages). The retail element is still there and a community pub/hall was mentioned. This housing density is about the same as the Victorian homes in the likes of George Street and Chapel Street and would therefore be out of character with any properties in the area. Now it gets interesting. Apparently the number of vehicle movements at the peak times in Swing Gate Lane will rise from 420 an hour to just 534 per hour after the 800 homes have been built, as the intention is that most will use the circular bus provided by others. This bus





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route will be actually both clockwise and anticlockwise. The question was asked about how the buses will negotiate the parked vehicles and County have assured the consultants that routes will be cleared of parked vehicles so that two 8ft wide ecologically friendly buses will be able to pass each other, or roads will be widened. There will be 27 buses journeys a day each taking about 47 minutes to include the Swing Gate Lane, Durrants Lane and Bridgewater schools, the station and town centre. Traffic and parking in the town will therefore not increase due to this provision. A discussion followed questioning on exactly how the new residents were going to be persuaded to use the bus (not free, but part funded by developers for a unspecified period). It appears that the 'model' used in these situations suggests that it will be so. It was later admitted that they are feeling their way as market towns built in a narrow valley complete with a main arterial highway and railway are not 'in the book'. It was asked if they had consulted the national market town organisation (Action for Market Towns) for examples of similar schemes in the country, the answer was the expected 'Action who?' Concerns were expressed regarding infrastructure and it seems the developers have spoken to the various utility companies and at worst they will be expected to contribute towards any additional capacity. It was pointed out that a lot of the homes could well be below the existing sewage pipes and that the existing school already regularly blocked the existing system. There was also a private sewer in Swing Gate Lane which should not be used - it was installed by the Upper Hall Park developers but was sub-standard and never adopted and used by the top houses in Swing Gate Lane.

It has become obvious to me that the consultants really don't know the area or the

little difficulties that hills present. Map reading must also be low on the list of things every 'consultant' should know.

Contour lines are on maps.

Provides a clue to where the land goes up or down. This was not appreciated by the consultants.

Private roads are marked, as are bends and whether single track or not.

Buses are not recommended on this type of road. This was not appreciated by the consultants.

Footpaths are not public highways, but marked on maps along with permissive ways etc. Long Green and Garden Field Lane are public highways. This was not appreciated by the consultants.

Apparently where the new residents were going to find employment hasn't been asked, but it may be that some of the dwellings will be of the home/work design. Facilities will be provided to suit local requirements and when asked if all this was just promises to get the locals on board, the developer stated that everything will be agreed in writing and legally binding on whoever owned the land.

So that's all right then. Only I think the land is legally Green Belt and can't be changed apart from a legal challenge - just as the promised 'contract' could be.

It seems the challenge to the Borough plan and Green Belt designation will be to convince the inspector that their 'concept' (development as locals want it) will be better than leaving the Green Belt designation in place. VB

The last word is available for readers to send in approx. 500 - 800 words on a topic of their choice, and one that may stimulate debate in further issues. All opinions are the author's own.

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