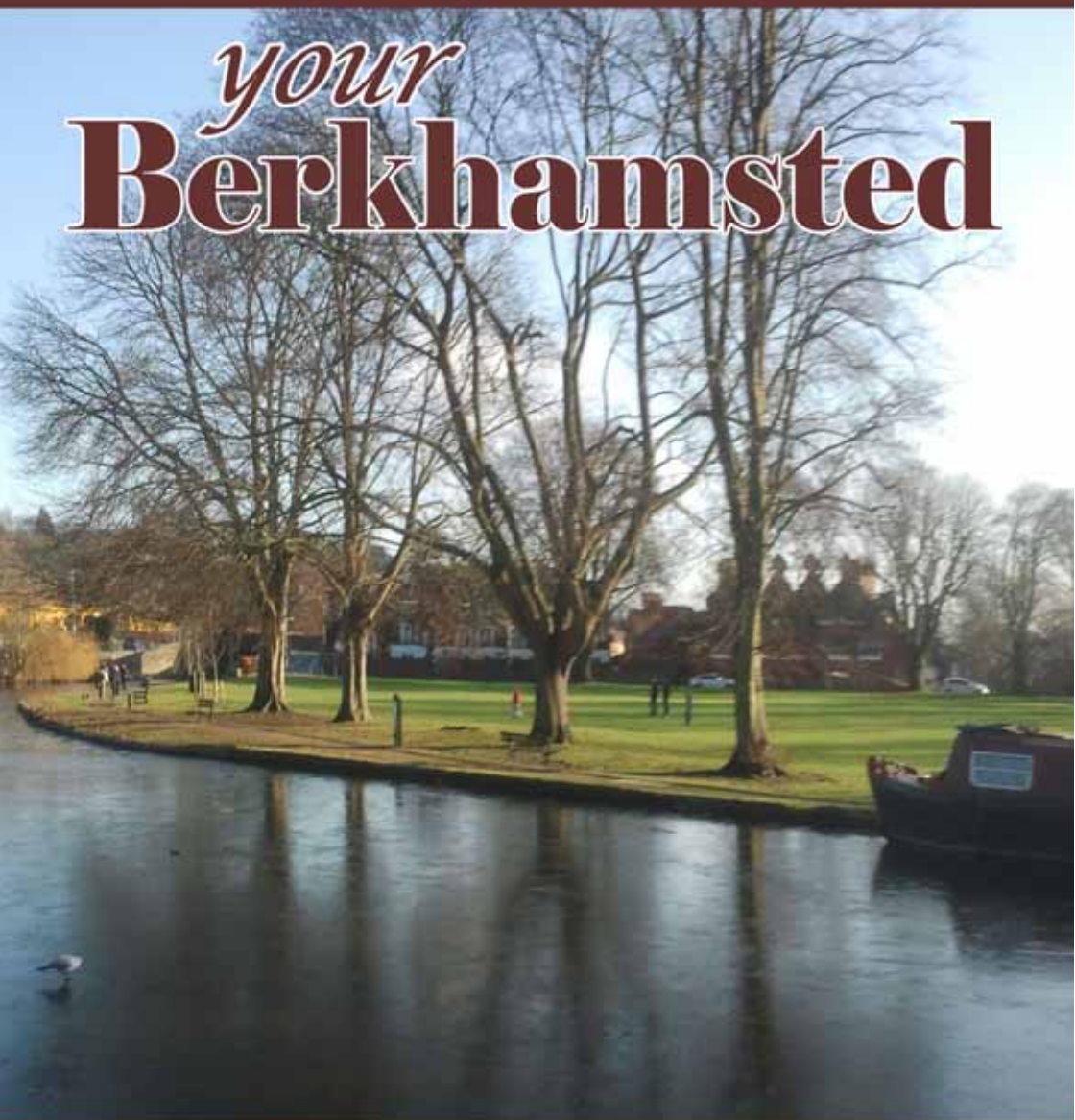


the magazine for town and parish

your **Berkhamsted**



Berkhamsted and the Paralympics
Where does our recycling go?
Local food - grow, it, buy it, eat it
History on the High Street

February 2012

50p

From the Editor February 2012



*The Parish Magazine of
St Peter's
Great Berkhamsted*

Welcome to the February issue of *Your Berkhamsted*.

In this month's issue you'll find features on everything from local food to the Paralympics. We also have a fascinating local history article from Jenny Sherwood, local news and views from Norman Cutting and another seasonal recipe from Joanne Lloyd-Evans. You can also find out what I learned about our recycled waste during my trip to the Hemel Hempstead Household Waste Recycling Centre.

We are always pleased to hear from readers and Julian Dawson continues to receive interesting feedback and information on items from his column. Chris Clegg has written in response to Julian's January column and included a photo too.

This year we hope to publish photographs from Berkhamsted's past as part of a regular feature. Do you have old photographs of Berkhamsted people or landmarks from years gone by? Whether your photos are from the 1980s (which doesn't seem so long ago to many of us) or from even further back, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Ian Skillicorn, Editor

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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.

Photo credits: Page 13: Sunday School Meet Clare Strange Simon Kaye
Page 17: Piggy Bank M Connors
Pages 23/5: Local food Marion Baker
Page 29: Fenny Stratford 1961 Chris Clegg

Your Berkhamsted Leader by Canon Basil Jones



I am still asked from time to time why I believed that I was called to leave the Bank in the City and go to theological college to

prepare for Ordination as a priest in the Church of God.

My reasons were complex and it took seven years to convince the Bishop of Willesden to agree. I cannot give a satisfactory answer even to myself but I do know that it has given me a full and fascinating life that continues to this day. Doreen was a very strong support and enjoyed her role most of the time. Our three children benefited in some ways but were undoubtedly neglected in others.

What have I got to show for forty seven years in the Ministry? The old Bishop used to remind me that it was much more difficult to be a Christian if you did not have your collar turned round. He was right. I also think that Philip Larkin, the poet, was also right when he wrote “what will survive of us is love.”

Having been brought up in the Church, I was drawn into the ministry at first by the social needs at the time which have not diminished since. I then had considerable voluntary experience of running Christian youth clubs and could see how they were able to change young lives. St. Peter's was my first parish as a curate and I was quickly engaged in the full range of youthful activities which were on offer. I was also able to use my organisational skills which had been honed in the Bank and enabled me to produce the church episode of the Berkhamsted Pageant 1066-1966. We re-enacted the

consecration of St. Peter's in 1220! The Gospel has been spread from here ever since by both clergy and more importantly by laity. St. Luke's, Leagrave and Rural Dean of Luton followed and then St. Paul's Bedford. My time there was short as I was unwell but the family and a long spell in Wigginton enabled me to recover and have time to spread my wings in many other directions. They included the NHS, Scouts in Hertfordshire, Children's Home in Bedford and School Governors including Tring. I was also able to meet some highly gifted young musical talents many of whom have since gone on to international fame.

As you can see I have been very fortunate indeed in the wide range of activities that has come my way. This also included courses with senior Police Officers and short term residences at the request of Bishops in theological colleges in Lincoln and Canterbury.

I will end this little piece by quoting two poets from whom I have learnt much if not always understood by me. Firstly towards the end of Four Quartets by T.S.Eliot,

“We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.
.....a condition of complete simplicity.”

And to finish again with the words of Philip Larkin,

“What will survive of us is love.”

An Arundel Tomb – read it if you are able.

yB

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Around the town

The latest news from around Berkhamsted

Oxfam and Dickens

The Oxfam Book and Music shop at 232 High St will be featuring a special display of books by and about Charles Dickens in February. Marking the bi-centenary of the favourite author's birth, there will be copies of the novels for which he is famous on offer in various editions, including ones which will appeal to collectors. The shop offers an excellent range of classic literature including a splendid selection of children's favourites. Space is limited so, if you do not see the book you are seeking on display in the shop, do ask as it may well be available behind scenes. Oxfam volunteer Audrey Hope has a particular interest in Dickens as her great aunts the Misses Maclean once owned Restoration House, the author's Rochester home.

Events at St Peter's Church and The Court House presented by the Cowper Society

Saturday 4th February - 7:30pm
CONCERT: Gaudeamus Singers The Cuckoo a selection of new folk song settings and original composition, vocal arrangements of Bach orchestral works and two piano pieces by Chris Williams. Directed by Graham Wili. Fei Ren Piano. Tickets £11 Tel: 07703 114123 or through choir members or at the door, St Peter's.

Monday 6th February - 8:00pm
RECITAL: The King of Instrument Organ Recital Series Jean Cooper-Smith (Abergavenny). Free admission – retiring collection, St Peter's.

Monday 13th February - 7:30pm for 8pm
TALK: Cowper Winter Talk - Vivian Watson, Inside Information on the Diamond Trade There will be wine beforehand. Free admission - retiring collection, The Court House.

Monday 27th February - 7:30pm for 8pm
TALK: Cowper Winter Talk - Tony Mehew, The Age of Van Eyck. There will be wine beforehand. Free admission - retiring collection, The Court House.

Thursday 1st March - 1.10-1.35pm
RECITAL: Berkhamsted School Instrument Recital to include piano. Free admission – retiring collection, The Lady Chapel, St Peter's.

Pancakes and Praise

A fun afternoon on the theme Pancakes and Praise is planned for Sunday 19th February at All Saints'. Starting at 3 pm with games and a quiz, tea at 4 pm will be followed by a Praise Service at 4.30 pm. All are welcome.

Day of Prayer

There is to be a Day of Prayer at All Saints on Ash Wednesday 22nd February. The church is usually open between 9am and 7pm.

Women's World Day of Prayer

There will be a service on March 2nd at St Mary's at 1.30pm.

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

I start off this month's merry jape at the Police Station. Or rather, at the now vacant premises on the High Street. Hemel Today reveals that the site has received no fewer than 17 offers. Clearly the interior layout is highly desirable. I'm intrigued by how the 17 prospective occupiers might use the cells. I wonder if they will be carpeted? Which leads us nicely and swiftly on to another report on the same website on a brand new floor at Lagley Meadow, which is part of a £35,000 programme of works to improve what they call the community hub. It is unclear from the accompanying photograph what the floor is actually made of, but I don't think it's marble or Axminster. The same source, definitely on a roll, reports on the demand of the Herts Fire and Rescue Service for double yellow lines to be painted in front of Clunbury Court in Manor Street. Apparently parked cars caused a problem for a fire tender attending a fire at the premises. A bit worrying that the problem was only identified after a real live incident. An intriguing post on the Digital Spy forum discusses the vagaries of FM reception for local radio stations. Apparently Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead has its very own wavelength for BBC local radio to account for the hilly nature of our local terrain. And intriguingly, FM reception is very much



Thieves on the Common

better in a car. I do find sitting in the car so much more felicitous than sitting on a cosy sofa in front of a roaring fire. Talking of broadcasting, Hiddenwires.co.uk, an online trade magazine, reports that Aquavision Distribution has opened a new operation in the town. Remarkably they manufacture waterproof televisions. I suppose they anticipate demand

from the nearby canal dwellers. And those living by the canal might be aware of Simon Murray Garden Services, who have been busily blogging about their work in town. They keep a stretch of the waterway clean and tidy, and are presumably busy dredging for waterproof televisions blocking the locks.

On a more sombre note, the archaeology-in-europe blog bemoans the thieves who are stealing our heritage and are using metal detectors to locate valuable artefacts after dark. Berkhamsted and Northchurch Commons are particularly targeted by these so called night hawkers.

Which makes ukuleles sound positively wholesome and upbeat. So you will be pleased to hear that the town is home to the Berkhamsted Ukelele Random Players Club (work out the acronym for yourself). Gotaukelele.com is happy to promote their charity bash on 3rd March. If there are any closet strummers out there we'd love to hear from you. Turned out nice again...

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100 marathons in 100 days!

A devoted boss and friend will take his first step on a gruelling challenge - to run one marathon every day for 100 consecutive days from Portugal, through Europe and finishing in London at the London Marathon on April 22nd.

Funds raised by Matthew Loddy, a 46 year old director, from Warners End, Hemel, on the 2TonRun event will fulfil a promise to Phil Latham, a friend and colleague for over 20 years, who died in April 2010, aged 36 from stomach cancer.

It was around five months before he became seriously ill that Phil planned to walk from Portugal to London with Matthew to raise money for cancer charities. But after his throat started to hurt when he swallowed, Phil realised something was wrong. During an operation, doctors discovered that he had cancer. It eventually spread to his stomach and Phil was admitted to the hospice in April last year. He fought the disease for two years before he finally died at the Berkhamsted based hospice.

"At one point it looked like Phil might pull through and we talked about doing something to raise money for young cancer sufferers," said Mathew, who has never run in an official marathon before. "We thought of a sponsored walk to The Algarve where

we've both had some great holidays. Then, when he was in the hospice and knew he would not recover, we joked about me having to do it myself and I said I'd run it."

Phil was a devoted husband to Karen. The pair met at school where they were childhood sweethearts and would have celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary this year.

(continues on page 11)



Herts 10x 2011 ©SussexSportPhotography.com

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continued from page 9

"Phil was a very dedicated family man, a very hard worker and enjoyed doing up our first house. He enjoyed clay pigeon shooting, football and horse riding. The girls, Holly now 10 and Evie aged 5 came along and life was busy and fun," she explains. "Matthew and Phil had known each other for over 20 years and he was there by Phil's side continually when he became so ill. He helped us make some big decisions about Phil's care and he's always been there for us. He helped make the decision for Phil to come to the hospice with me. As soon as we looked around the hospice we knew he had to go there.

"Phil came to the hospice at the end of January 2010 and was there until the end of April. We all moved in, that's what it felt like, it was our home. As they tried to come to terms with Phil's illness, the family still made time for each other and the hospice tried to help. Karen and Phil's family and friends have campaigned to raise money for the hospice since last year, raising more than £10k.

Adds Karen: "Phil was the love of my life. When we lost him last year after his brave battle against cancer, the Hospice of St Francis were amazing in their care for Phil, me, Holly and Evie as well as the rest of our family and close friends.

"The girls and I still have counselling now, which they provide for us, and we continually get support from the supportive care team at the hospice. We have a lady called Angela come to the house and she does work with the girls

about our memories and all the good times we had together.

"I will never be able to thank them enough for what they did and still do for us. We're trying to help raise as much money as we can for the hospice to give them something back for the amazing support they gave us during this heartbreaking time."

Says Matthew: "This '2TonRun' perversely reflects my faults more than any great love of athletics.

I'm no fan of running long distances but do love proving people wrong. I can't resist a dare. 'Bet you can't' is like a red rag to a bull. A 2TonRun is such a big thing, so unreasonable, such a first that it motivates me to train like a demon and will grab attention for good causes close to my heart like

The Hospice of St Francis and Teenage Cancer Trust."

Training has meant a juggling home-life in Kings Langley, charity work and his Berkhamsted based scaffolding business, Framework (Specialist Works) Ltd.

"It's an incredible challenge and amazing that someone on our doorstep is taking it on for us," comments Sarah Adjor, community fundraiser at The Hospice of St Francis. "But then you meet Matthew. He fixes you with a wide-eyed smile and the whole enterprise suddenly feels like the only sensible course of action. We wish him well."

Matthew has had medical checks to ensure he's in good shape for the 2,620-mile multi-marathon and is receiving specialist advice on endurance training and nutrition. *JB*

Two anniversaries and their links

Jenny Sherwood explores the history of a familiar part of the High Street

At the end of this month, a year ago, a calamitous event took place in Berkhamsted High Street. The building known as Birtchnell's and associated with the late Percy Birtchnell collapsed and had to be demolished because of its dangerous state. Still bedecked in blue plastic and buffeted by the wind and rain of the early days of 2012 it stands as a forlorn but valiant reminder of that sad event and all that has gone before in 195, High Street. One hundred years ago this year, in 1912, but later in the year, a biplane landed on a field at Durrants Farm, very close to where Westfield School now stands. This caused great excitement, just as the collapse of Birtchnell's 99 years later did, and drew crowds for different reasons. This biplane was piloted by Geoffrey de Havilland, then a little known flying enthusiast, who was later to achieve considerable fame in that field and to be knighted for his services to the aircraft industry. The word of this landing soon got around, without the help of emails and mobile phones, and an excited crowd gathered, among them a number of women, to see the intrepid Geoffrey de Havilland take off in his flying machine. Why and how are these two events linked, you might ask? There is a very positive and interesting link, which is not widely known. In 1912 165, High Street (as 195 was in the old-numbering prior to 1950) displayed in its shop window, or rather its front show room, not men's suits and shirts, or even women's dresses or Girls' School uniforms, as it had done in its days as Sharlands, but motorcycles! At that time the building was the premises of 'C.E. Southey & Co, cycle makers-motor

repairs a speciality: petrol oils and greases always kept in stock, 165, High Street, and garage in Kings Road. Telephone number 29.'

The Berkhamsted Review of April 1968 refers to the firm's catalogue of the 1920s, which explains further the link between the firm in the High Street and Geoffrey de Havilland and the landing of a biplane at Durrants Farm. Southey claims, 'It is not generally known, but we were the first to build motorcycles fitted with what is now known as the Blackburne engine. The engine was designed by Mr de Havilland of aircraft fame in the year 1904 or thereabouts. Southey's records show that the first motorcycle fitted with this famous engine was built in February 1905. The catalogue continues, 'We built several but it was not until 1913 that they were known as the Blackburne, when they were put on the market by us to the order of Messrs Burney and Blackburne Ltd.' whose trading address was Berkhamsted. It is thought that the original Blackburne engine was built in the Elm Grove workshop.

Geoffrey de Havilland, the two Burney brothers, Cecil and Alick, and Major Blackburn all knew each other and had links with Charles Edwin Southey of 165, High Street, as we have seen. Why did Geoffrey de Havilland land his plane on a field at Durrants Farm? Of course, it was outside the main area of Berkhamsted and a reasonably flat area near the bottom of the hill, but there was another more positive reason explained by the 1911 census. The Burney family was living at Durrants Farm, so why not call in to greet friends and perhaps show them a new

St Peter's Sunday School teams up with Paralympian

Jamie Matthews introduces us to the Paralympic star being supported by St Peter's Sunday School

St Peter's Sunday School has teamed up with a Paralympic wheelchair basketball star to help raise money to support her at this year's Paralympic Games in London.

Each week, children attending Sunday School offer a donation which is then given to a chosen charity or a worthy cause. They wanted to choose a cause that was topical, relevant and close to home and so in this coming Olympic and Paralympic year, the surplus from the collection is being used to help support a Paralympic athlete. It also provides a great way to link in some of their sessions over the next 12 months to the many bible stories and accounts of meetings that Jesus

had with those who were disadvantaged, sick or needing healing.

They were delighted when GB wheelchair basketball star, Clare Strange agreed to allow Sunday School to support her in her 2012 quest for a Paralympic medal. Clare has taken part in three previous Paralympic Games, and now has her sights very much on the forthcoming Paralympics games to be held in London in August this year.

Clare also knows Berkhamsted well as she used to train at Berkhamsted Sportspace when she was younger, so it makes it even more appropriate to link with her.

(continues on page 14)



continued from previous page

Helen Nicholls, Sunday School Leader, said “We were fortunate enough to have Clare visit a recent Sunday School session in which the children were able to meet her in person and hear some of stories about how she trains and competes at the world’s top level in basketball.”

Clare is one of Britain's top wheelchair basketball players and a core member of the GB women's team. In September 1997, Clare sustained damage to her back after a horse riding accident left her paralysed from the waist down. Sport has always been a large part of her life and Clare took up wheelchair basketball in 1998.

After the 2004 Athens Paralympics, Clare spent nine months playing for the Italian League Champions. Clare regularly competes at an international level and aims to compete in her fourth Paralympics in London 2012.

Clare has received significant critical acclaim and was the recipient of the Sunday Times Inspirational Sports Woman of the Year award in 1998 and the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, Best Newcomer in 2000. In 2007 she won Individual Female Achievement - Wheelpower Sports Awards for her performance at the European Championships.

Clare enjoys coaching basketball and supporting the sport's development. Her positive attitude has been instrumental in generating support for GB wheelchair basketball where she has been a core fundraiser for the team.

Helen Nicholls adds “The money we raise will be going towards some ‘sport psych support’ (which is helping her get in the right frame of mind to win a medal) to help her preparation and performance for London 2012.”

We are going to be tracking her training progress throughout the year next year as Clare and her team mates prepare to take on the world and go for gold this year! Good luck Clare from all of us at St Peter’s Sunday School and Your

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.

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.

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

Your Berkhamsted Team

Editor: Ian Skillicorn, 862628,
editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

Advertising: John Gerry, 07774 850508,
advertising@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

Circulation: Joanne Lloyd-Evans, 865417,
joanne.lloyddevans@gmail.com

Features: Julian Dawson, Dan Parry,
Joanne Lloyd-Evans

Layout: Sam Limbert

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We are currently seeking volunteers who could deliver Your Berkhamsted to subscribers in or near their own street. Please contact Joanne Lloyd-Evans if you would like to know more.

We are always happy to hear from readers who would like to suggest articles for Your Berkhamsted, or to contribute news features or photographs of local interest.

yB

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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.

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

Arts and culture

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

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Lent Group

I hope that many of you will be able to join one of the ecumenical Lent groups which we will be running again this year in Berkhamsted, Potten End and Little Gaddesden. So far we have eight groups arranged with a leader and a venue and I am hoping there will be two more to add to the list. The groups will meet for five weekly sessions, beginning in the week after Ash Wednesday, on Monday February 27th, and ending in the week before Holy Week so that you are free for Holy Week services at your own churches.

All but one of the groups will be studying this year's York Course, 'Handing on the Torch, Sacred words for a secular world'. Each group member will be given a booklet with material for each week of the course, which you would read beforehand. The weekly material includes a long list of possible discussion questions. There is also a CD on which three leading church thinkers have recorded their comments on some relevant questions for that week. On the CD you will hear Archbishop Sentamu; Clifford Longley, RC journalist and broadcaster; and Rachel Lampard, responsible for the Methodist Church's engagement with political issues. Christianity is the largest movement our world has ever seen. It continues to grow at an immense pace – especially in Asia (including China), Africa and Latin America. At the same time, Christianity in the West struggles to grow and – perhaps – even to survive. In this course we consider some of the reasons for this and what it might mean for individual Christians, for churches and for Western culture, in a world where alternative beliefs are increasingly on offer. The five Sessions have the titles: A Christian

Country? A Secular Society? A Beleaguered Church? Competing Creeds? Handing on the Torch.

One group will be following this year's Bishops' Course, 'Transforming Life', which is a six week course written by the Bishops of the diocese. It helps explore the second strand of the 'Living God's Love' journey - Transforming Communities. The course is based on the Old Testament lectionary principal Sunday readings for Lent. It will form part of a wider Lent initiative under the heading 'Transforming Life'. This will include an opportunity for individuals to receive daily suggestions for reflection, prayer and action. See www.livethechallenge.co.uk for more information.

Signing up sheets will be available from the beginning of February. Please indicate on the sheet if you can manage more than one different time; this allows flexibility in adjusting the size of the groups. As always you will be given a list of all the groups so that if in one week you cannot get to your own group, you can arrange to join a different one.

In addition there will be a course on the Sunday afternoons of Lent at St Peter's Church, led by Father Michael Bowie, which some will be taking as confirmation preparation. If there is anyone in your churches who would be interested in a fairly intensive Christian basics course, using Jeffrey John's 'This is Our Faith' as a backstop rather than a 'textbook', they will be welcome to attend. It is a crash course in Biblical Studies and the Church in six weeks. It would be helpful if anyone who is interested would let Father Michael know that they expect to attend.

CAP Money

By **Mike Wallis**

Black Monday takes place at the end of January when everyone gets their credit card bills and then realises just how much money they spent over Christmas they could not afford!

The good news is that Christians Against Poverty is here to help people get their finances back on track and they are holding a further **FREE** money management course starting 23rd February for three weeks.

Attendees to the courses are offered teaching on good money management skills, budgeting tips and overall advice on how to curtail expenditure. The course will be run at Make Believe Ideas, Berkhamsted and is open to everyone, whether Christian or not.

If you would like to join a course, or know someone who would benefit, then give me a ring on 07891 760244 or send an email to capmoneyberkhamsted@yahoo.co.uk to confirm details.

For those who are unfortunate enough to already be in a crisis situation and need counselling there is a free debt counselling



resource already available through a CAP Centre in Hemel Hempstead. To book an initial appointment there all you have to do is call **FREE** on 0800 328 0006 and a local debt coach will visit you. A realistic budget is worked out at CAP HQ by prioritising essential bills and negotiating affordable payments with each creditor and stopping unfair interest and charges where possible.

For more information visit
www.capmoney.org

yB

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, 7:45pm 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
- 3rd Sat ABC Prayer Breakfast, 8am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.

Sunday Services	St Peter's	All Saints' February
	Please see the pew leaflet for service times.	5th Third Sunday before Lent 10am Holy Communion Revd Rachael Hawkins
		12th Second Sunday before Lent 8am Holy Communion Revd Rachael Hawkins 10am Morning Worship Jenny Wells and Tracy Robinson
	The pew leaflet is available from St. Peter's or from the website at www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk	19th Sunday next before Lent 10am Holy Communion Revd John Kirkby 4.30pm Praise Service. Tracy Robinson
		26th First Sunday of Lent 10am Morning Worship Revd Barrie Allcott

February Parish Diary

Sat 4th	7.30pm	Cowper Society presents: Gaudeamus Singers Choral Pieces by Chris Williams
Mon 6th	8:00pm	Cowper Society presents: Organ Recital: Jean Cooper
Mon 13th	8:00pm	Cowper Society Winter Talks: ‘Inside Information on the Diamond Trade’ by Vivien Watson in the Court House.
Tues 21st	8.00pm	PCC Meeting in the Court House
Mon 27th	8.00pm	Cowper Society Winter Talks: The Age of Van Eyck by Tony Mehew in the Court House
Thurs 1st March	1.00pm	Cowper Society Lunchtie Recital: Berkhamsted School

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

Registers	Baptisms
	25 December Benjamin Dae Hahn Patrick Suh Ledwidge, All Saints’
	<i>There were no baptisms, weddings or funerals at St Peter’s in December</i>

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

Where does our recycling go?

Ian Skillicorn finds out what happens to our recycled waste

Have you ever wondered what happens to the recycling waste you carefully separate into different bins, boxes and baskets each week? I have, which is why I jumped at the chance of a tour around the Hemel Hempstead Household Waste Recycling Centre, which is the first port of call on a renewing journey for some of our household rubbish.

Environmental Awareness Officer Sheila Chauhan kindly showed me around the different parts of the Centre, answering all of my questions and giving me a crash course in local recycling efforts.

Here in the borough of Dacorum we currently recycle 47% of our waste, which compares favourably to the national average of 39% for 2009-2010. Dacorum aims to get this up to 50% this year, which will be well ahead of the deadline for legally binding future targets. The EU Waste Framework Directive requires the UK to recycle, compost or reuse 50% of waste from households by 2020.

The more cynical among us may have wondered if the contents of our recycling boxes end up as landfill anyway, or are shipped off to some distant land with less stringent environmental laws, where they are buried out of sight and out of mind. I have to admit to having entertained this suspicion, so it was reassuring to learn that most of our waste is recycled here in England, with the destination furthest afield being one of our nearest European neighbours (who then send it back to us anyway!). It was also encouraging to learn that the Council visits the various recycling plants before selling material to them, so that there is an audit trail of where our waste goes.

So just where does our recycling go?

Aluminium and steel

Our baked bean cans and the like go to a plant in Manchester, where they are mainly recycled into more cans or parts for the car industry. Discarded steel, meanwhile, goes to London, where it can be made into anything from paper clips to bridges.

Plastic

Plastic waste is sent to Lincolnshire, where it is separated out even further and then sent on to different markets within the UK.

Glass

Wine and other glass bottles go to a reprocessing plant in Yorkshire, where they are recycled into new glass bottles and jars. The reason



why bottle banks require you to separate your glass bottles by colour is that they go on to be made into new bottles of that same colour. Some of Dacorum's glass is also turned into sand and aggregate for road building.

Paper

Our waste paper has the longest journey of all. It is sent to Belgium by ferry, where it is turned into reels of paper for newsprint and then sent back to us. This newsprint is a mixture of virgin and recycled paper. In order to be recycled, paper has to be of good quality, clean and dry, which is why it needs to be separated from other recycling.

Green waste

The Recycling Centre's bay of green waste is an impressive sight; as you can see in the photo it is literally steaming! In fact it can only remain at the Centre for one day before being sent to a composting facility in St Ives, Cambridge. From there it is sold to farms as certifiable compost.

Splashes and smells!

In one part of the Centre a small army of men stand at a conveyor belt, where they sort out the recyclable material. This was the most striking part of my tour, as you can see the result of residents not washing out their jars and tins before they are collected for recycling. The floor was wet and sticky with splashes of assorted liquids, and the smell was at times overpowering. It's something to bear in mind when feeling too tired or busy to give containers a quick rinse under the tap before popping them in the recycling box.



Bay 13

Spare a thought for the poor residents of Bay 13. This is the refrigerated storage place for local road kill including, sadly, beloved pets.

Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle, Dispose

When trying to deal with the amount of waste we produce there are other measures we should consider before recycling. Sheila Chauhan explained to me that recycling should only come after reducing, reusing or repairing goods. If that's not possible, they can be recycled and only as a last resort should they be completely disposed of.

There are some very simple steps we can all take today to reduce our waste, such as taking our own reusable shopping bags to the shops, or buying loose rather than packaged fruit and vegetables. We'll have more ideas and suggestions in next month's issue.

And one final thought, it's only rubbish if you throw it away! yB

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Grow it, buy it, make it, eat it... celebrate it!

Marion Baker celebrates local food and the Dacorum Local Food Initiative

Getting our food from local sources can be good for us and the place in which we live. We can do this in many different ways; we can grow our own in the garden or the allotment, we can visit the markets or local shops to buy food grown or prepared locally, we can encourage local restaurants, cafés and canteens to source as much food as they can from the local area.

So what are the benefits of getting our food from a local sources?

Local food strengthens the local economy, it allows some resilience to increasing fuel prices, it allows us some control over our food security. If we grow it ourselves it will be fresher and we'll know exactly how it was produced. If it comes from a

local grower then we can ask them how it was produced. As a rule local food will have many fewer "food miles", especially if it only has to travel from your garden to the kitchen, or from a field in Gaddesden to Berkhamsted Farmers Market. The price is also likely to be more closely related to the cost of production, so fairer for both the customer and producer.

Stating the obvious, food is key to our survival. By buying local food we can start to have some control over our food security. With all the uncertainties in the current global food markets, this should be important to us. By voting with our feet we can have a say on how our surrounding countryside and soil is cared for, for the production of healthy food and a healthy environment, now and in the future.

(continues on page 25)



$$x^2 - 7x + 12 = 0$$

$$\int x^3 dx$$

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continued from page 23

In February 2011, local food growers, retailers, caterers, community groups and local councillors from Berkhamsted, Tring, Hemel Hempstead and the surrounding villages formed the Dacorum Local Food Initiative. The aim of this group is to promote all aspects of local food and to work actively to strengthen sustainable local food systems. One of our first actions was to compile a list of all the local food places in the Dacorum area.

The details of these food places, in list and Google map form, is now available on the Dacorum Local Food Initiative website at www.dacorumlocalfood.org.uk. Looking at the list or map you'll see that you can get most of your food from a local place with only a small amount of effort. Obviously this is an ever changing list. So if you know of any local food places that

are not yet on the list please do let us know. Email: info@dacorumlocalfood.org.uk

If most of the people in Berkhamsted tried to buy their food from a local source, local growers and food producers would get the message that local food production is a worthwhile and secure business. As a community we can make that happen.

The Dacorum Local Food Initiative is running a one day workshop in partnership with Ashridge Business School on 25th February. The workshop will be designed to identify opportunities for enhancing the local food culture and economy in the Dacorum area. Anyone with an active interest in local food is welcome, places must be reserved in advance. Please see the website www.dacorumlocalfood.org.uk for more details. *yB*





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Seasonal Recipes: February

Joanne Lloyd-Evans continues her series of monthly seasonal recipes

Orange and almond cake with blood orange jelly

February is a good time of year for oranges in the UK, where most are supplied from southern Europe. This dessert uses oranges in two different ways for a delicious vitamin C boost as winter draws to an end. The cake is nutritious, gluten-free and very easy to make. If possible, use blood oranges for the jelly, as it gives it a lovely colour. These traditionally come from Sicily and have a short season in late winter.

Orange and almond cake

Ingredients

2 large navel oranges
5 eggs
250g (9oz) caster sugar
250g (9oz) ground almonds
1 tsp baking powder

Preheat oven to 170°C and grease a round 9 inch cake tin.

Place the two whole oranges in a saucepan and cover with water. Bring to the boil and simmer, covered, for 2 hours, ensuring that the oranges remain covered with water. Drain the oranges, cut them in half and put into the food processor (skins and all) and process until smooth.

Beat the eggs with the sugar until thick, and then add the orange purée, ground almonds and baking powder and mix well.

Pour into prepared pan and bake for about 1 hour. Leave the cake to firm up in the pan for 20 minutes then remove from the tin and allow to cool completely.

The cake will keep for several days. When you're ready to eat, sift icing sugar on top and garnish with orange zest and almonds. Serve with the jelly and some thick cream on the side.

(continues on page 28)

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). Articles should be 500 to 900 words in length.

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



Blood orange jelly

Ingredients

800ml strained blood orange juice (or ordinary orange juice or pink grapefruit juice)
3 tbsp caster sugar (more or less to taste and depending on how sweet the juice is)
2 tbsp gelatine powder

Reserve about 100ml of juice and put the rest in a saucepan to heat. Mix the gelatine into the reserved juice and stir so that it begins to dissolve.

When the juice in the pan is hot, but not boiling, pour in the gelatine and reserved juice. Stir the mixture until the gelatine is completely dissolved, but make sure that it does not boil.

Place the hot liquid into a bowl or moulds. A muffin tray can be used to create individual portions if you like. Place in the fridge and chill until set for several hours or overnight. *JB*

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For more information please email editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk or write to The Treasurer, Your Berkhamsted, Parish Office, The Court House, Church Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 2AX.

Berkhamsted Narrowboat

Chris Clegg responds to Julian Dawson's last Berkhamsted in the news column

As a canal faring reader of Your Berkhamsted, I have investigated the claim in the January 2012 issue about narrowboat BERKHAMSTED actually being AYR. On the Historic Narrow Boat Owners Club website (www.hnboc.org.uk) is a list of ex Grand Union Canal Carrying Company boats, and sure enough under AYR is the statement:

1978: was supposed to be broken up at Bulls Bridge but apparently Berkhamstead was broken up instead by mistake. To cover up the mistake, Ayr was renamed to Berkhamstead, the identity it still carries. (Note, the name on the boat is

currently misspelt BERHKAMSTEAD, but licensed as BERKHAMSTED!).

Signwriters for the GUCCC had a hard time, as some of the boats were given very obscure names by their Boat Naming Committee (imagine being the lucky captain of the pair ORPHEUS and PHAETHON), and misspellings were not unusual. So were mispronunciations by the largely illiterate boaters.

Above is a photo of BERKHAMPSTEAD, as it was then signwritten, at Fenny Stratford in 1961.

JB



The last word by Norman Cutting

Finance and Policy was the last meeting of 2011 by our Town Council and a riveting meeting was had by all. Item 6bii was the second draft of the 2012/13 budget as 'to follow'. It didn't and neither was it in the paperwork for the public to peruse and follow proceedings as I went out in the pouring rain on your behalf to get the lowdown. By the time you read this, the final budget will have been agreed (actually on the 9th of January).

Main highlights from the meeting included a question in the public participation section asking what happened to the Town Council newsletter due out on 1st December. An item suggested for one of the three left (and required to be produced before March 2012), was the difficulty in getting to the hospitals supposed to serve the town. It seems Wycombe General Hospital is a direct bus ride away, but try the Hemel, St Albans or Watford ones and it is very difficult. Indeed, even the free quick shuttle service between said hospitals is very little used due, I suspect, to the lack of public knowledge of its existence.

On the Draft Budget front, DBC has allocated some funding for next year's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. So some money has been put in for that, as well as a bit towards the improvements to the canal tow-path and just in case any of the residents parking zones actually go ahead. Grant money, allotment maintenance and civic functions have been reduced, but there are £2500 additional monies for the Swan Project. It seems that the communication budget has been

untouched and a councillor asked if anything might be going to improve the website as a member of the public had suggested at the last meeting. The Chairman indicated that as £2000 had been saved by not delivering the required 4 newsletters, this money could be used. However, the budget total has been increased, so the excess will be taken from reserves to leave around £185,000 in the revenue account the Chairman said.

The Hertfordshire Police Authority Draft Policing Plan 2012 was on the agenda with an invitation to comment. One member actually thought that the 35% detection rate of reported crime was on the low side. Just in case you are interested, the Police Reform & Social Responsibility Act became law on 16th September 2011 (bet you missed that!) and made provision for Police & Crime Commissioners to replace Police Authorities from November 2012. A Police & Crime Commissioner will be directly elected by the public and although no date is set, by implication, it must be no later than March 31st 2013 as he/she will be publishing a Police and Crime plan by that date. It strikes me that the proposals could have a profound effect on the way we view our law enforcers and we could just sleep-walk into a situation that we, the public, may not want.

I'm afraid I just wonder how much effort, time and money goes into these plans and targets that rarely go into detail on how the blindingly obvious will be achieved. The classic example is the 4 hour maximum wait in A&E at a hospital. As the time starts when admitted, ambulances

just wait outside at busy times or other ‘tricks’ are employed to delay admittance. Indeed, the document admits that it only details key strategic priorities and police will continue to combat all crime types whether they appear in the plan or not. Comments needed to be in by 20th January 2012 and will be ‘launched at an event in April 2012’. More information from Tania Eagle on 01992 555624.

The George Street/Ellesmere Road residents parking scheme has reared its head again. A well attended meeting was held at the Crystal Palace on Monday 19th December to gauge the views of residents and it seems (naturally, when you think about it) most of those who bothered to turn out, (lets say, around 1/3 of the 200+ affected homes) appeared to be against restrictions of any type. Conversely, it seems something ought to be done, but residents really are wedded to the motor car and no practical suggestions were made to separate the two. Residents were urged to make their feelings known to the Town Council. Our MP seems to think it's a good idea, the Town Council have to respond to the concerns of residents who can't find a (illegal!) parking space

outside their front door and garages are left unused in the area.

By early January, the Town Council December newsletter has yet to see the light of day in this household at least, so out of the required 4 a year, just one seems to exist. Not to worry, there is always January, February and March. I wonder if we will get a precept refund and the ‘Quality Mark’ removed as it seems the quality is somewhat lacking.

Finally, most of our street lights will only be on between dusk and midnight with another short burst between 6am and dawn. Just like the old days! *yB*

Write the last word

The last word is available for readers to send in approx. 500 or 900 - 1000 words on a topic of their choice, and one that may stimulate debate in further issues. All opinions are the author's own.

Editor:	Ian Skillicorn, 862628, editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk
Advertising:	John Gerry, 07774850508, advertising@yourberkhamsted.org.uk
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