

*the magazine for town and parish*

# *your* **Berkhamsted**



**Win dinner for 6 at Brasserie Blanc!**

Raymond Blanc interview

News from around town

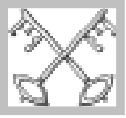
Sport in Berkhamsted with Peter Drury

Residents Parking Scheme

April 2012

50p

## *From the Editor* April 2012



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

### **Welcome to the April issue of *Your Berkhamsted*.**

After a great deal of speculation about just what was taking over the former site of Magoo's, this month sees the opening of Brasserie Blanc on the High Street. Joanne Lloyd Evans recently spoke to Raymond Blanc about the new venue, and you can read their interview on pages 9 and 11. Brasserie Blanc has very generously donated a fantastic competition prize to celebrate the opening of the Berkhamsted restaurant. See page 14 for information on how you could win a three course meal and wine for six.

There's also lots more in this issue. As always we cover a wide range of topics, including local news, nature, sport, recycling, charity, residents parking and litter!

As I mentioned in March's issue, in late May we are publishing a special edition of *Your Berkhamsted* which will celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and also compare Berkhamsted in 2012 and in 1897, during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who has information or photographs/illustrations of Berkhamsted during late Victorian times.

**Ian Skillicorn, Editor**

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## *Your Berkhamsted Leader* by Fr Michael Bowie



**I** suspect we're all ready for some good news. It's been a difficult few years for many people across a wide spectrum of society,

from those struggling to find or keep work (or even afford further education), to those whose pensions have been hit by the financial downturn.

I'm not going to claim that none of that matters, but Christians believe that faith puts those things in a different perspective, a perspective which is about the deep meaning of life – meaning which goes deeper than our financial circumstances and which relates to life itself, rather than the externals we all get caught up in. In the competitive accounting mentality of the world, the meaning of our lives is often defined by their span, and therefore by our death. But if, instead, we measure our lives by their quality we can start to identify a proper focus on life, which is not limited by 'success' or 'achievements'.

Christmas falls at the darkest time of the year: it is a feast of potential good,

of forward-looking hope, of new light coming into the world with the birth of Jesus, a fragile light shining in the darkness.

Easter, in the spring, is a much more robust celebration. It celebrates Jesus' defeat of death at the same time as new life returns to the natural world. Easter is the great feast of life, 'The Crown of the Year' as Austin Farrer called it. We keep it in spring so that the seasons of the church are seen to hallow the seasons of the world around us. It is a reminder that our priorities need not be set by the number crunchers.

May this Easter bring you joy in your relationships and in your times of rest, recreation and creativity.

**yB**



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## Around the town

The latest news from around Berkhamsted

### Events presented by the Cowper Society

*Sunday 1st April:* 7.00pm: CONCERT: Chiltern Chamber Choir with Bridgewater Brass, directed by Adrian Davis. Tallis Spem in Alium; Scarlatti Stabat Mater and motets by Tallis, Byrd, Victoria, Gesualdo, Lotti. Tickets: £12 / £10, U18s free from Cole Flatt, 124 High St, Berkhamsted, choir members and at the door, St Peter's.

*Tuesday 1st May:* 6.15am: MAY MORNING MADRIGALS, sung from St Peter's Church tower. Director: Adrian Davis. Followed by breakfast in the Court House. No charge but The Cowper Society welcomes donations towards the cost of breakfast.

### Berkhamsted Citizens Association events

*Thursday 12th April:* 8.00pm, TALK: The Olympic Legacy, in the Sessions Hall, Town Hall. This talk is part of the Dacorum Cultural Olympiad. Learn more about the Olympic Park development and how the venues and events in summer 2012 will have a lasting impact. Speaker: Anna Wojtowicz, Olympics: Park Legacy and Operations.

*Sunday 15th April:* Spring Walk starting from Berkhamsted station at 10am. Return by 2pm.

Leader: Paul Crosland. Walk undertaken at own risk.

### Oxfam Bra Appeal

25 family and community members dependent on just one salary – that is a reality in the West African country of Senegal. That there is that one crucial

salary however, is thanks to Oxfam's recycled clothing company there, *Frip Ethique*, which employs 40 local women. The company buys eight shipping containers a month from Oxfam's Huddersfield textile recycling depot *Wastesaver*. The women sort and prepare the clothing for sale to street traders and run a profitable business. Waste is almost unknown. One Oxfam visitor saw a small parcel in the manager's office and was told that it contained single socks which someone was going to buy to make glove puppets. Oxfam is always careful not to compete with local industry but this is not an issue in Dakar. The most sought-after items are British bras and Oxfam is launching an appeal this month for any unused items languishing at home to meet the demand. Spring cleaning your lingerie drawer could feed a family in West Africa.

### Local authors in The People's Book Prize Awards

We recently reported on local author Sue Hampton's success in getting through to the final of The People's Book Prize, with her children's novel *Traces*. Sue's fiancé, Leslie Tate, now has a novel up for the same prize, but in the adult fiction section. *Frontliners* has been nominated for the Spring Collection of The People's Book Prize—the last collection before the big vote-off. Whether it goes through to the final, like *Traces*, depends on how many online votes it gets between now and 20th May. Anyone can vote, but you have to register first. However, if you voted for *Traces* and still have your password, you can use it again. To vote go to



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## *Read all about us!*

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

The Berkhamsted Graham Greene connection ensures that our town punches above its weight in the webosphere. Our very own David Pearce, Church Warden, was quoted in an article that appeared on [Americamagazine.org](http://Americamagazine.org), the US National Catholic Weekly, discussing literary pilgrimages to the homes of Catholic writers. David, who is a founding trustee of the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust, explains that to truly know Greene, one must understand the hometown he left, but never really left behind. The piece also goes on to talk about the annual Graham Greene Festival. Graham Greene is one of the more obviously influential people connected to the town. But did you know that Marrillion, the 1980s rock, pop and techno combo, played its first ever gig at the Berkhamsted Civic Centre in March of 1980? A blue plaque beckons. They were signed up by EMI in 1982, and their first album *Script of a Jester's Tear* was released in 1983. Readers of a certain age and musical taste will know the rest and their music will always evoke a time and a place. In an earlier column I reported the appearance of Villagio on the High Street. Villagio is owned by Richoux Group PLC, whose trading statement was recently reported on [Londonstockexchange.com](http://Londonstockexchange.com), amongst others. It states that the Board expects to report a loss for the year up to December 2011, although it is more upbeat about current cash resources. There are two other Villagios, in Hammersmith and Andover, which makes an intriguing geographical triangle. But if company finances makes your eyes glaze over, perhaps you would like to watch water boil. How to boil water.com is a Berkhamsted based cookery school whose cookery videos

have been uploaded to several websites including [videojug.com](http://videojug.com). Look out for a tasty Israeli couscous recipe which would probably go well as an accompaniment to all those barbecues we shall enjoy this summer. Ahem.

Another traditional shop has gone to the wall, with the demise of Hamllins toy emporium. In a web poll on Berkhamsted People 38% of people voting said that they either wanted another toy shop, or another shop for children. It would be interesting to see what Mary Portas would make of it - see Luke Geoghan's piece earlier this year. The regeneration of the high street continues to exercise the minds of property professionals, Sir Stuart Lipton opining in Property Week that local authorities have for too long taken a laissez faire attitude to high street planning, rather than attempting to ensure that the retail developments reflect the local community. In a late development, Hamllins as been reopened by Toymaster, a national association of locally owned specialist shops. So in this instance there is some element of a happy ending.

Finally, a piece on pronunciation. *The Derby Telegraph* ([thisisderbyshire.com](http://thisisderbyshire.com)) considers why Derby, Berkshire and Berkeley are pronounced "ar", but Berkhamsted is pronounced "er". According to the writer, in former centuries "er" used to sound the same as "ar", and indeed Shakespeare made "serve" rhyme with "carve". The same rhyme persists with "clerk" and "dark". Proper names are often slowest to change, so the older sound continues in Berkeley, Berkshire and Derby, but not in Berkhamsted. Makes you think that we might actually be living in "Barko". Barking mad I reckon. Or should that be Berking?

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## *Raymond Blanc*

**Joanne Lloyd Evans** speaks to Raymond Blanc as his new restaurant prepares to open in Berkhamsted

Many Berkhamsted residents will know that we are about to have a new addition to the culinary scene in the form of Brasserie Blanc, which will officially open on the High Street on the 2nd of April. I was recently lucky enough to have the opportunity to interview Raymond Blanc, the owner and well-known chef, who has recently had a BBC2 series called *The Very Hungry Frenchman*.

Raymond Blanc is the owner of *Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons*, a restaurant, boutique hotel and cookery school in Oxfordshire which has held two Michelin stars since 1985. More recently, he has launched Brasserie Blanc, a chain of about 10 restaurants across England. The food at Brasserie Blanc is simpler than at *Le Manoir* and is inspired by his mother, to whom he refers frequently in our interview as “Maman Blanc”. Raymond explains: “The food we give to our guests represents all of my ethics. It is not rich, it’s rustic and wholesome, just like Maman Blanc used to make. It’s free range, seasonal and local – I always care about those issues. We use great local suppliers wherever possible and we are searching (around Berkhamsted) at the moment.”

Blanc grew up in Besancon in eastern France near Dijon. He is a self-taught chef who came relatively late to professional cooking, and he regaled me with a



dramatic tale of how he eventually took charge of his own kitchen at the age of 28. “I wanted to be a chef but I couldn’t get a job. I was offered a job as a cleaner, and I became the best cleaner in town by far. Then I was a glass washer in a restaurant, and I was best glass washer by far. Then I became a waiter, but I got into the kitchen and I would taste the sauces and tell the chef that they were perhaps a bit too salty and that was the wrong thing to do. He broke my jaw and my teeth, and I was exiled to England. I arrived as a very good waiter (at the *Rose Revived Restaurant* in Oxfordshire), but the chef fell ill, and I entered the kitchen disguised as a chef. The frying pan that broke my jaw changed my life.”

*(continues on page 11)*

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*continued from page 9*

The other Brasserie Blancs are in much larger towns or cities, so I wondered why he has chosen Berkhamsted for opening his next Brasserie and was surprised by the enthusiasm and knowledge he had of our town. "It may be small, but it's aesthetically beautiful and has a fantastic history. From an economic perspective, it is wealthy and has a good catchment area. But also you have the oldest market place in the whole of England and it received a royal charter from Henry III in 1216, which is really special. Gastronomy starts in the market place. Sadly, the market is not open on a daily basis, but we are hoping that we can work with small local producers to start opening on some weekdays as well."

After searching for a venue in Berkhamsted for three years, he professes to be very pleased with the result. "We are very happy with our position in a Grade II listed building right near Waitrose. It is really lovely, we have a glass roof to get lots of natural light. There are wooden floors and it's cosy and relaxed. We'll have al fresco dining on the terrace in the warmer months."

The refurbishment and extension of the building that was formerly Magoo's Wine Bar seems to have taken an extremely long time. I had heard a rumour about town that the delays were due to workmen finding a Roman mosaic underneath the building that had to be preserved and moved. I have to confess that I passed that rumour on to quite a few friends, so now feel the need to set the record straight and let you know that this is not true! It seems that someone on the building project joked that they

may as well have found a Roman mosaic and that was how the rumour started.

Blanc stresses several times that he sees the restaurant as somewhere he expects that customers will return frequently and for all sorts of different occasions, from a weekend breakfast, to a coffee after the school run, to a celebration dinner with friends. It is also family oriented: "Families should never feel under pressure not to come to the restaurant because of their children."

He has advice to offer young people looking for a career in the food industry, and warns that they should not be fooled by the glamour surrounding celebrity chefs. "You need passion in your heart. You see all that glamour on TV but it is lots of hard work and hardship and team work. If you are going to be a great professional, don't do it for a job, do it because you really love it and are passionate."

Brasserie Blanc opens on April 2nd. For reservations call 285480.

**Win a 3 course dinner with wine for six people at Brasserie Blanc! See page 14 to enter. *yB***

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## *The Three Peaks Challenge*

**Richard Murray** takes on the gruelling challenge to raise funds for Petertide charities

**N**ot known locally for his sporting prowess, Rick Murray has stepped up to the physically demanding challenge and will be undertaking the Three Peaks Challenge at the end of May.

The Three Peaks Challenge involves climbing the UK's three highest peaks in 24 hours, starting with Ben Nevis in Scotland, then taking in Scafell Pike in Cumbria and finishing with Snowdonia in Wales. As the challenge has to be completed in less than 24 hours at least one of the peaks will be attempted in darkness and after a lack of sleep. As soon as Rick realized the enormity of the challenge he was quick to enlist the help of local doctor, Matt Size, who will also be doing the walk.

Rick will be raising money for this year's Petertide charities – the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, part of Iain Rennie Grove House Hospice Care ([www.irhh.org](http://www.irhh.org)) and the Nepali Children's Trust ([www.nepalichildrenstrust.org](http://www.nepalichildrenstrust.org)). IRHH helps to care for patients with life threatening illnesses in their own homes, as well as offering support to their carers. The Nepali Children's Trust ([www.nepalichildrenstrust.com](http://www.nepalichildrenstrust.com)) is raising money to provide much needed

equipment, education and medical treatment for a new home for disabled children in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Rick, who has roped in a number of his work colleagues to run for the same cause and provide some moral support on the gruelling trek, comments, "Obviously my wife, Pru, is Petertide chairman this year

so there was a little bit of arm twisting to do this for the Petertide causes but I didn't take much persuading once I understood more about the charities! One of my grandparents required hospice care and our family was extremely thankful for the support we received. Nepal is one of the world's poorest countries with 82% of people living on less than \$2 per week so even a small amount will really help the Nepali Children's trust make a difference to the

lives of disadvantaged children. As well as raising a significant sum of money I'm also hoping that come June, I will have actually lost a few extra pounds myself with all the training I have planned!"

Please consider supporting Rick. There will be a sponsorship form in church from the end of this month or you can donate via [www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/](http://www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/)



## Christian Aid Week

**Margaret Burbidge** invites us to be part of Christian Aid Week in Berkhamsted

**H**ave you ever felt hungry; really hungry, trying to survive on one small meal day after day. In Sierra Leone over half its population have under £1 a day to live on, and providing food for families is a continuing worry. Mary Samuels who lives in Gbap (pronounced Bap), a small rural community, said "... if we had food today, what would we eat the next day?" Sierra Leone, a country where 10 years of brutal civil war damaged communities and infrastructure, is one of the hungriest places in the world. It is hard for adults to work and children to learn if they are always hungry.

With the support of Christian Aid, working through its partner organisation, the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone, a food production group was set up in Gbap. It provided basic tools and seeds, taught farmers simple food production skills, and helped people cultivate the flood plain outside the town to grow rice and cassava. With more food available children have 2 meals a day; they are now happy and growing well.

The benefits are more than just food. The farmers work as a group and share their skills. This sense of unity and commitment enabled the people to think beyond survival. They have successfully lobbied for a new school and an agricultural work centre to house machinery and process

raw produce. This commands a higher price in the market. Lives have been changed, confidence has grown and voices, especially of women, have been heard. Many families feel empowered. Christian Aid speaks of them having "life before death".

Life-giving transformations are possible because of the commitment of 15,000 churches in Britain and Ireland in Christian Aid Week. They organise many fund-raising activities and house-to-house collections. Large, red envelopes are dropped through letterboxes and collected later. Be part of Christian Aid Week in Berkhamsted. Make donations in the red envelope or online. Visit the stall in the market on Saturday 19th May. Our small actions give the poor communities of Sierra Leone the tools to make change happen. [www.caweek.org](http://www.caweek.org) **JB**



Sierra Leone—tools for work



## ***Brasserie Blanc Competition***

We are delighted to offer our readers the chance to win a 3 course dinner with wine for six people at Brasserie Blanc. The food and wine will be selected by the restaurant team and will include a glass of champagne on arrival.

To enter the competition, please provide the following answer, either by email to [editor@yourberkhamsted.com](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.com) or in an envelope to the Parish Office, labelled as “Your Berkhamsted Brasserie Blanc Competition”.

***Question: Who inspired Raymond Blanc’s cooking?***

**Entries must be received by 30th April**



*Natural World*

## ***Secret Britain: A photographic journey through nature***

Better known for its annual Herts Open Studios event, Herts Visual Arts is hosting a photographic tour on Tuesday 17th April, at The University of Hertfordshire, with wildlife photographer Andy Sands. Andy will take you on a photographic journey through the various and somewhat strange habitats of the British Isles, focussing on the more elusive, rare and extremely small creatures that can be found amongst the British flora and fauna.

The interesting talk gives insight into the elusive and often intricate lives of tiny insects, rarely seen nocturnal mammals, as well as rare and less often seen birds. The photographic images will be accompanied by an informative commentary by Andy, as well as occasional sound bites from the natural world.

Andy has had several exhibitions of his work, and his pictures are now marketed via the Nature Picture Library. You will find that his work is widely published.

This lecture is open to all HVA members and is free to enjoy, for non-members there is a small fee of £3 payable on the door, this allows you to enjoy an interesting and insightful lecture by one of the counties leading wildlife photographers. The evening also includes light refreshments.

Doors open 7pm sharp for 7.30pm, at The University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield – room A161 of the Lindop Building.

More details at [www.hvaf.org.uk](http://www.hvaf.org.uk)

**Jenny Timms     JT**

## **Your Berkhamsted Team**

Editor: Ian Skillicorn, 862628, [editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk)

Advertising: John Gerry, 07774 850508, [advertising@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:advertising@yourberkhamsted.org.uk)

Circulation: Joanne Lloyd-Evans, 865417, [joanne.lloydevans@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.lloydevans@gmail.com)

Features: Julian Dawson, Dan Parry

Layout: Sam Limbert

## **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](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk).

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# Bye Buy Childhood

**Margaret Burbidge** on how the Mothers' Union is working to let children be children

Childhood is precious, but it is being undermined by pressures from the media, retail and advertising to persuade children to become young adults. The commercialisation of childhood leads to new young, and sometimes very young, consumers.

The Mothers' Union, aware of this increasing trend, launched its Bye Buy Childhood campaign in 2009. Last year the Prime Minister asked the MU Chief Executive, Reg Bailey, to look into this, and what has become known as the Bailey Review, or "Letting Children be Children" was published in June 2011. The review drew up recommendations for good practice following consultations with bodies from the media, advertising and retail industries. So has progress been made since the Bailey Review hit the headlines?

The Mothers' Union argues that it has. With representatives and regulators from the areas involved, it attended a summit called by the Prime Minister to update him on developments. The internet providers now have more advanced technology to protect children online; systems that can only be activated by parents. The British Retail Consortium has produced guidelines for responsible retailing of clothes to the under 12s. Outdoor advertising on billboards, at bus stops or close



to schools, is to take notice of public opinion and the Advertising Standards Authority has new guidelines as to what is acceptable. There is much more, and more recommendations from the Bailey Review are to be addressed this year.

This is a far cry from the issues confronting The Mothers' Union 50 years ago, but the protection of children in society has always been of fundamental importance. In the 21st century technology can help bring controls, but it only plays a part. The continued vigilance and responsibility of parents in a fast-changing world remain crucial if children are to be allowed to be children and childhood is to be regarded as precious.

For further information:



## *Bringing London to Berkhamsted*

**Beatrice Limbert** looks forward to bringing a piece of musical London to Berkhamsted

St Peter's Church is at the centre of a thriving music cultural scene that sees many varied concerts, recitals and worship supported by a full choir. I have had the privilege of being a part of that musical tradition by singing with the St Peter's choir for much of my childhood. When I set out on my university adventure two years ago, one of the things I knew I would miss most was my weekly routine of singing great choral music. It is not only a good way to meet and socialise but a fantastic "stress-bust".

I am lucky enough to study at the Courtauld Institute which, as it is part of the University of London conglomerate, meant I could audition for the University of London Chamber Choir (ULCC). Gaining a place in ULCC was not easy with such a large number of young choral talents choosing to study in London but I was determined to succeed. I soon became a full member of this small but very diverse group of singers although surprisingly, with a change in voice part! The ULCC is a choir of 27 enthusiastic students from all across the university and is lead by conductor Colin Durrant. The choir has sung in some exciting venues in and outside London, including trying the beautiful acoustic of the Lady Chapel at Ely Cathedral. We also recorded a CD last year entitled 'Simple Pictures' with a mixture of favourites from our repertoire. I had immense fun taking the role of designer for the CD cover and inserts,



spending time drawing designs with 'Sharpie' marker pens.

Over the past few years the annual Petertide fair has been joined by other fundraising initiatives during the year such as fantastic events and concerts; all raising significant sums of money for the Petertide causes. I am thrilled that ULCC is coming to perform in St Peter's to support this year's chosen charities; the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home (IRHH) and the Nepali Children's Trust.

ULCC prides itself on tackling a large range of music from early church music to traditional madrigals to pieces by contemporary composers, so we shall be singing an interesting selection of sacred and secular music including Eric Whitacre's exciting work 'Leonardo Dreams of His Flying Machine'. The concert will be held in St Peter's on Saturday 26th May with a retiring collection for the Petertide charities. I am very much looking forward to bringing a piece of London to Berkhamsted so please come, listen and support! **JB**

# *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, 7:30pm 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	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.
1st Sun	Sundays Together Lunch 12.30pm Court House. For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Liz Jackson 864381

## **Regular Services**

### *Sunday services*

8:00am Eucharist  
9:30am Sung Eucharist  
6:00pm Evening Prayer  
Sunday 11th March 6:00pm Choral Evensong

### *Weekday services this month*

Morning Prayer: Mon – Fri 7:30am, Sat 9:30am.  
Eucharist: Mon 6:00pm; Tues 9:30am at All Saints’ Shrublands Road; Wed 8:00am; Thurs 12:30pm; Sat 10:00am  
Evening Prayer: Mon 5:45pm, Tues – Thurs, Sat 5:00pm

St Peter’s



<i>Easter Services</i>	<b>St Peter's</b>  1st April Palm Sunday 8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist – starting in churchyard 6:00pm Evening Prayer 7:00pm Chiltern Chamber Choir Palm Sunday concert: Tallis Spem in Alium, Scarlatti Stabat Mater Motets by Victoria, Byrd & Palestrina 5th April Maundy Thursday 8:00pm Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper, followed by vigil 6th April Good Friday 12noon – 3pm Three Hour devotion concluding with 2:00pm Liturgy of Good Friday 7th April Easter Eve 9:00pm The Easter Vigil 8th April Easter Day 8:00am Holy Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist 6:00pm Choral Evensong	<b>All Saints'</b> 1st Palm Sunday 10am Morning Worship with Holy Baptism Revd Rachael Hawkins 2nd 8pm Monday of Holy Week Meditative Worship, David Williamson 3rd 8pm Tuesday of Holy Week Service for Holy Week (Friendship Club) Revd Rachael Hawkins 4th 8pm Wednesday of Holy Week Meditative Worship, Tracy Robinson 5th 7pm Maundy Thursday Meal with Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins 6th Good Friday 11am Service for Good Friday, Revd Rachael Hawkins 8th Easter Day 10am All Age Holy Communion, Revd Sally Long and Tracy Robinson 15th Second Sunday of Easter 10am Holy Communion, Revd Barrie Alcott 22nd Third Sunday of Easter 10am Morning Worship, Jenny Wells 29th Fourth Sunday of Easter 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins 10am Morning Worship with Holy Baptism, Revd Rachael Hawkins

*Parish Diary information can be found at [www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk)*

<i>Registers</i>	<b>Baptisms</b> 26th February      Toby Alexander Richard Amlot Edward William George Amlot
	<b>Weddings</b> None <b>Funerals</b> None

## *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](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk) and at [www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk)

# Sport in Berkhamsted

As we look forward to a new regular sports column, Berkhamsted resident and ITV sports commentator **Peter Drury** celebrates sport in our own town



**H**ere follow the evangelical ramblings of a very mediocre sportsman who talks a good game, loves every

game, watches any game...and - middle-aged child that he is - just wants to play!

"Belong!" That is the one-word motto which I would apply both to our community and to sport. An instinctive sense of belonging is, for me, the principle attraction of this town and, I would argue, it is the very point of sport.

At its best, Berkhamsted can feel like a wonderfully inclusive club. Your membership of it might naturally fall via the church, or the pub, the school-gate, the mother-and-toddler group, the amateur dramatic society or the cubs/brownies/scouts/guides. However, few (if any) aspects of Berkhamsted life unify us more satisfactorily than sport.

Travel - by foot, bike or car - across Berkhamsted on any Sunday morning between September and April and challenge yourself to keep count of the number of blue-and-black striped shirts you spot. These are the shirts of "Berkhamsted Raiders Community Football Club" to which more than 600

children (boys and girls aged 6 to 18) currently belong. Some of them are extremely talented, some - to be honest - are pretty ropery, and most fall somewhere in between. But ALL of them are, for at least a couple of hours every week, engaged in their community, involved in healthy activity, challenged physically and mentally. They have a purpose. They belong!

As the father of three Raiders, the mood around my Sunday lunch table is often dictated by that morning's results. Generally, however, the vicissitudes of the week-by-week results make considerably less impact than the mud ground into the carpet. Rather, the lasting impressions are of the friendships made, the personal achievements, the character-building moments of triumph and despair. Sport is an education in life.

Between April and September, cricket is my game. That is to say I love it; it certainly doesn't love me! However, it is the highlight of my week to turn out for whichever of the Berkhamsted CC XIs can accommodate my limited "skill-set". Every week, I dream that "this might be the day" when I finally blossom into a latter-day WG; every third or fourth week, I might make something approximating to a positive impact on the game; generally, I find myself patting others on the back! Little matter. I belong!

Cricket's belonging is particularly pertinent in a community like ours. It

utterly obliterates all social divisions. As a fully-paid up member of the "middle generation", I am currently able to play cricket with lads who are 30 years my junior, in the same team as old lags who are 20-odd years older than me. Within the same dressing-room, we might have a student, a solicitor, a postman, a company director, a musician, a pensioner and any other "type" of person you might care to dream up. We have, on the face of it, almost nothing in common, except the love of the game and our sense of belonging.

In my job, I am fortunate to watch very high level, professional sport. I witness at

first hand the excellence of its practitioners under immense pressure. It is a great privilege.

However, the supposed "importance" of the Champions League/the Test Match withers, in my mind, by comparison with the health-inducing, community-enhancing, truly bonding experience which is "Sport in our town".

Whether your game is football or cricket, hockey or tennis or squash, darts or snooker, running or cycling, I would urge you to use it as your ticket for membership of the "Berkhamsted Club".

Belong! **JB**

## *Meet our new sports reporter*

### **Matthew Dawson**



**H**ello, I'm Matt and I have been asked to write a monthly article about sport in and around the town. I am a very sporty person and have been throwing and kicking a ball since before I even learnt to walk.

My main sport is football and I am one of the many children playing week in - week out for Berkhamsted Raiders CFC. I also enjoy playing cricket for Northchurch CC, having previously played for Langleybury CC. For many year I have also been coached at tennis on a regular basis at Berkhamsted Tennis Club, and have progressed through the different stages of tennis.

I am 15 years old and am currently in the middle of doing my GCSEs at Ashlyns, where I also regularly take part in sport, including my current GCSE P.E course. I also play for my school teams and I won the 'District Cricket League' with my previous school, Thomas Coram. I also reached the 'District Football League' Cup final with my current school.

As you can probably tell, sport is pretty much my life and I have agreed to take it upon myself to tell you about all the sporting opportunities around the town and the surrounding areas. As well as my own input into this new section of 'Your Berkhamsted', I will hopefully include interviews with players, managers and coaches of the game to give their views on the sport around the town and the particular sport/club they are involved in.

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# *Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle*

**Ian Skillicorn** has some ideas for getting the most out of our possessions

In February's issue I shared my experiences of touring the Hemel Hempstead Household Waste Recycling Centre. One of the points Environmental Awareness Officer Sheila Chauhan was keen to make was that recycling is not the only way to deal with unwanted goods. In fact, she taught me the "Four Rs"; that is reduce, reuse, repair and recycle. Here are some very simple ways in which we can all follow the Four Rs, waste less and even save money into the bargain!

## **Reduce**

According to the website [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com), in the UK we throw away 7.2 million of tonnes of food every year, most of which could have been eaten. For the average family with children that means £50 worth of food goes straight from the shopping basket and into the bin every month. Love Food Hate Waste has lots of advice for wasting less food and saving money. There are even tips from top chefs on how to make tasty meals from leftovers.

Supermarkets give away 17.5 million plastic carrier bags a year, most of which end up in landfill. Cloth or hemp bags are a practical and durable alternative to plastic. It's surprising how many shops in Berkhamsted will automatically put even the smallest of purchases into a plastic bag (sometimes after you've already said you didn't want one, so automatic is the action!). Next time you are out shopping why not say no to plastic bags?

If you're tired of scooping up unwanted junk mail from the mat and putting it straight into the recycling bin you could stop it from coming through your door in the first place. Sign up with the Mailing Preference Service or Royal Mail's Door-to-Door Opt Out

scheme. See [www.stopjunkmail.org.uk](http://www.stopjunkmail.org.uk) for more information.

## **Reuse**

There are lots of opportunities for someone to get more use out of the things we no longer need. If you have old pairs of spectacles you no longer wear you can donate them to Vision Aid Overseas. The charity sends millions of pairs of unwanted spectacles to people around the world who couldn't afford to buy a pair themselves. Go to [www.vao.org.uk/spectacles](http://www.vao.org.uk/spectacles) to find out more.

If you're upgrading your pc or laptop there are plenty of others who could benefit from your old one. Visit [www.computeraid.org](http://www.computeraid.org) or search online for "donate a pc to charity". There are even many charities that would be glad of used postage stamps. There's a list of such charities at [wasteconnect.co.uk](http://wasteconnect.co.uk). Look for "Stamp Out Waste" on their website.

## **Repair**

How many of us bother to repair old clothes or electrical goods these days? I admit to being as guilty of this as the next person. However, when the filter on our kettle broke recently I was swayed from buying a brand new kettle and instead we got a brand new filter from an Ebay seller for just £3.90 including postage and packing!

## **Recycle**

In an ideal world we would only recycle after having already reduced, reused and repaired. So, once you've read your copy of Your Berkhamsted why not "reuse" it by passing it on to a friend or neighbour who doesn't usually buy the magazine, before its final destination in the recycling box?!

**JB**





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# *Residents Parking Schemes*

**Norman Cutting** proposes a solution to current parking schemes

**R**esidents near the centre of the town are polarised on the question of residents parking schemes. You either don't want to have any scheme introduced that might affect you and you don't see why you should pay for a permit anyway, or you think it's a good idea to stop commuters who park in your road meaning that you cannot park outside your home when you want to. The Town Council is responding to complaints that residents find it almost impossible to park anywhere near the town centre, by trying to find a compromise to keep everyone happy. So what choices are there?

There are actually three choices: A, introduce a residents only parking scheme; B, introduce a series of one way routes in the affected areas or C, do nothing. Each idea has been tried elsewhere, each idea has been proposed in the past and each has been considered or introduced in other parts of the Borough. The main problem is that we live in a democracy and so you need the support of the majority, and if you add that little difficulty to political will then believe me, not a lot will happen.

So, as usual, I've been working on the problem and come up with a plan to resolve the parking 'problem', that might upset residents but should revive the town centre. If residents parking was introduced around the town centre then life would be easier, so let's consider including all the conservation area as a block. I can hear your brain ticking over and the first thing is how to pay for the enforcement. That's an easy one.

Everyone in the conservation area has their council tax band upped one band. Now we get to the difficult bit. You are not going to be able to reserve a spot outside your house, you will have to pay for permits for additional vehicles, tradesmen will need to be accommodated within any scheme, the rules will need to be clear and simple and enforced by employees of the Council to ensure fairness and accountability. I have even measured the widths of a number of roads that might be affected, and the nasty habit of driving along the pavement, parking on it, or on both sides of the road so that the road is effectively obstructed will not be allowed.

*(continues on page 27)*





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*continued from page 25*

That is Plan A in a nutshell. It's workable, will resolve the problem caused by the town's success, and is fair and affordable. Plan B was considered during the market town by-pass enhancement scheme, but residents soon put that one in the bin. Plan C has a lot of merit and will meet the approval of the majority. I do have a Plan D, if anyone is interested. The Bridgewater Road limited parking works well by stopping all day parking. It is done on a larger scale near Dunstable town centre with different roads having various one hour no parking periods to allow wardens to police fairly easily and it works! Again, the town centre area together with the conservation area would all need to be included as it's surprising how far people will walk to avoid paying to use a car park (assuming a space could

be found). I haven't forgotten my idea of a park'n'ride yet, so there is still time for it to be considered.

I'm sure both I and your local town councillor would be interested in any thoughts you might have on the above, but remember the population will be increasing over the next few years with 'The Lodge' and maybe the 'South Berkhamsted Concept' being developed and complying with Part M of the Building Regulations (disable friendly), there could be far more cars having to fight for town centre space. Naturally, the Town Council are making a decision as to whether or not to undertake final formal consultations on two controlled parking zones and one 'commuter ban' waiting restrictions just after the copy date deadline for this article. **JB**



# *Rhubarb sponge pudding with rhubarb fool and ginger caramel sauce*

Joanne Lloyd Evans



The rhubarb season is quite a long one and is split into two parts. At the beginning of the year, “forced” rhubarb appears in the shops and has a bright pink colour and tender stalks. The forcing process involves mature rhubarb plants being lifted from the soil late in the year and grown on inside warm, dark sheds. From April, the first field grown rhubarb appears and the outdoor season lasts until about September. This is usually a darker colour and the stems may be tougher, but there is a greater depth of flavour. This month, both types of rhubarb will probably be available, so you can judge for yourself. For those who don’t like rhubarb’s very particular flavour, this recipe could be made with other fruits as

well – perhaps apples or pears underneath the pudding and raspberries in the fool. In the autumn, plums could be used both under the pudding and in the fool. This quantity serves four people.

## Ingredients

800g rhubarb  
230g caster sugar  
200ml double cream

## For the sponge:

125g caster sugar  
125g margarine (or ideally half margarine and half Trex)  
2 large eggs  
125g self-raising flour  
1 tsp ground ginger  
2 tbs milk



For the sauce:

50g butter

60g muscovado sugar

100ml double cream

2 tsp finely chopped stem ginger

1 tbsp syrup from stem ginger

1) Pre-heat the oven to 180C. Chop the rhubarb into one inch long segments. Put the rhubarb into an ovenproof dish with the sugar and toss to coat (don't grease the dish or add any water). Cook the rhubarb for about 30 minutes until it is completely soft.

2) Drain the liquid from the rhubarb and put this clear pink liquid into a small saucepan and simmer until it has reduced a little and it is a little syrupy. Purée or sieve between a quarter and a third of the rhubarb pieces and reserve for the fool.

3) For the sponge, cream the caster sugar and margarine and/or Trex, and then beat in the egg. Fold in the flour and ground ginger and gently fold until combined. Gently stir in the milk, and add in a little more if the dough seems too stiff.

4) Select a cake tin – you want a cake tin of a size and shape that will give you a relatively thin cake and has enough surface area for you to be able to stamp out four circles with a biscuit or pastry cutter (see photo). Grease the tin, pour in the mixture and bake at 180C for about 30 minutes, but the timing will depend on the size and shape of your tin, so start checking after 25

minutes.

5) To make the fool, whip the cream until it is soft, but not at all stiff. Gently fold the rhubarb puree into the cream, and then the reduced rhubarb juice. Do not completely combine it as you are aiming for a pretty rippled effect.

6) To make the sauce, gently heat the butter and sugar in a saucepan. When the butter has melted, stir vigorously to combine the butter and sugar and then add the cream, stem ginger and syrup. Whisk until smooth and then take off the heat, but keep warm until serving.

7) When the cake is out of the oven and has cooled a little, take a biscuit cutter and stamp out four circles from the cake.

8) On your serving plates, arrange the remainder of the rhubarb in a circle (you can use the same biscuit cutter to help you get a neat shape), then place a circle of sponge on top. Spoon some fool onto each plate and serve with a jug of the sauce.

**JB**

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## *The last word* by Hilary Gardener

*Keeping the High Street alive*

I have lived in and around Berkhamsted all my life and it has always had an array of wonderful shops and small businesses built up by local entrepreneurial people. Sadly these times of recession will inevitably affect even the "Berkhamsted Bubble" and what a travesty it would be if our High Street was left void of its personality, with all its unique stores. The "big boys" can hold their heads above water without the continuous support of us local residents, but surely it is worth paying just a little extra to keep in business the little guys that make Berkhamsted the place we all know and love. Already we have seen the demise of Hamlins Toy Shop (now re-opened by Toymaster), which can only be down to us Berkhamsted residents choosing to save the odd pound here and there by travelling outside Berkhamsted or ordering on-line. Costa Coffee is always buzzing while some of the fantastic little local cafés would love the custom, and they make just as lovely coffee...Sadly I have to hold my hands up to being guilty on all charges myself at times.

I have always been an avid advocate of maintaining community spirit and supporting each other. Many will know me as the daft woman who set up "Ladies and Lads with Ladders" window cleaning



round 5 years ago. There have been a fair few occasions when we have turned up to clean someone's windows and ended up running customers to the doctors or getting some shopping in when they are ill, simply because that's what being part of a community is all about.

Recently, I fear, I crossed the line from slightly daft to totally eccentric though. I have invested in a Vintage Ice Cream Van called Elsie. I took one look at Elsie and fell in love immediately. I just hope that she now becomes a Berkhamsted resident that everyone else grows to know and love. Elsie is a socialite who likes to attend weddings, fêtes, fairs and any private social functions. She will even pop to children's parties dressed in her best bunting and playing her traditional ice cream tunes.

Elsie will be serving traditional scoop

style ice cream and obviously I needed to source a wholesaler. I gained quotes from all the mass producers but eventually I decided that I would rather pay that bit extra to support our very own SCOOPS of Berkhamsted. I approached Mike Garraway, the proprietor of Scoops, and was a little apprehensive that he may see me as competition. Mike couldn't have been more supportive though. He has just invested in the technology to start manufacturing his own range of Italian

style Gelati ice cream, and he will be supplying Elsie with the delights of this totally fresh, made to order, range. In these times of recession it is so important to support each other, and support small local businesses, so I was thrilled that Mike felt the same and wanted to support me in my new venture. Incidentally, SCOOPS serves a mean cup of coffee and a very nice sandwich too! [www.elsies-ices.co.uk](http://www.elsies-ices.co.uk)

**JRB**

## *The last word* by Sheila Newland

*Litter Pickers*

About two months ago when I walking along the path by St Peter's Church (in what used to be the churchyard) I was annoyed to see a large collection of empty cans and bottles thrown beneath the (fairly new) memorial seat which is situated under one of the lovely trees behind which is the old Berkhamsted Boys School building. Unfortunately, I was laden with shopping and unable to do anything about it at the time, but felt sure that *someone* would be equally irritated and get rid of the mess.

I was, therefore, extremely annoyed when on my way to the town nearly one week later (using this same path) I saw that the rubbish was still there! Fortunately, I had some spare plastic bags and gloves with me and was able to gather up the cans and bottles. The problem then was finding a suitable receptacle. Fortunately, the Court House was open and a very helpful lady

in the kitchen provided me with a large black plastic bag and relieved me of this unpleasant collection.

We came to live in Berkhamsted with our two young daughters forty six years ago and I never tire of walking along the canal towpath and around the other interesting parts of our lovely old town. But I do tire of the litter! In order to fight this almost obsessional anger which I feel, I have joined Colin Garrett's team of Litter Pickers and I now have two roads for which I am responsible. *I think* this is helping to lower my blood pressure!

**JRB**

### **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.*

<b>Copy Dates:</b>	6 April 2012	4 May 2012	1 June 2012
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Dormouse by Andy Sands. See page 14 for details of his wildlife photography event