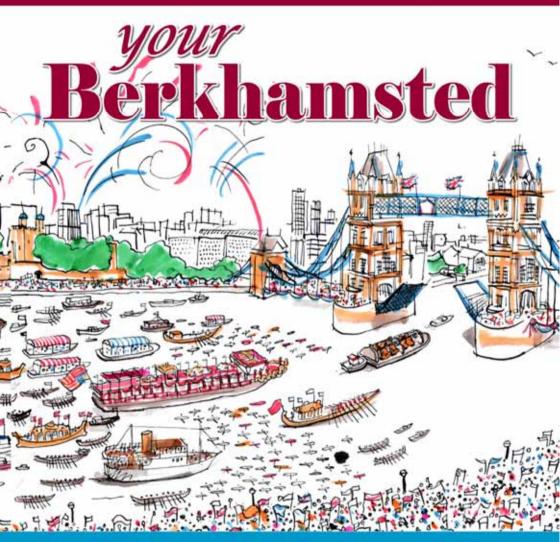
the magazine for town and parish



Special Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Issue



Read about the history of Berkhamsted since Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 to Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee in 2012

May 2012

50p

From the Editor May 2012



The Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted

Welcome to the May issue of *Your Berkhamsted*.

With the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations taking place early next month we thought this was an ideal opportunity to explore the history of Berkhamsted since 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Our colourful cover this month is an illustration of the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant, which you can read more about on page 25. I'm sure you'll enjoy the fascinating articles in this special souvenir issue.

In April we ran a competition with a prize of dinner and wine for six provided by Brasserie Blanc. The competition proved to be very popular and the winner will be announced in June's issue.

This issue will be my last as editor of Your Berkhamsted. Since taking on the role in 2010 I have been fortunate to meet and correspond with many interesting and inspiring people, and have received articles from different parts of the world, from Berkhamsted to the US and India. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to edit the magazine, especially considering it has a history that spans three centuries. I would like to thank all the kind people who have supported and encouraged me in my task, particularly Hilary and Kate in the Parish Office, Dan, Joanne, John, Julian and Sam on the editorial team, and of course the many Your Berkhamsted contributors and readers. I will remain on the editorial team as a regular contributor and am pleased to welcome Helen Dowley as the new editor of Your Berkhamsted from June's issue. I am sure you join me in wishing her well in the role.

Ian Skillicorn, Editor

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Credits

Front cover: Illustration of the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant by Joshua Knowles, courtesy of and © Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. We are grateful for the kind assistance of Nina Glencross and Jenny Sherwood in sourcing photographs and past issues of the parish magazine. Photos on pages 5, 12, 14, 20 and 23 courtesy of and © Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society cared for by Dacorum Heritage Trust Ltd. Photograph of the passenger boat Elizabethan on page 25 courtesy of and © Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

Your Berkhamsted Leader by Fr Michael Bowie



This year the end of May coincides with the completion of the Easter Season, the feast of Pentecost (celebrating the

gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly gathered Christian Church), or Whit Sunday, as it used to be called in England.

Whitsun used to be one moment in the vear when some people came to church out of duty. In the 1950s (supposedly the heyday of Christianity in Britain) many people attended church just three times a year, because the Prayer Book said you had to take communion 'three times a vear, of which Easter shall be one' in order to be a communicant member of the Church. So some came only at Christmas, Easter and Whitsun (we still get some additional worshippers at Christmas and Easter, no doubt in some half-remembered allegiance to this 'rule', but Pentecost has disappeared from the wider consciousness - perhaps because we no longer call it

Whitsun!). This is a good example of why we shouldn't set *minimum* requirements: Christianity is a whole of life faith, not a minimal set of rules. If you believe it, you want to join in, not work out how little engagement will do.

In this context, the Bishop of St Albans wrote to our diocese on the feast of Pentecost in 1960:

'Canon Lindsay Dewar has this to say about the Church:

"There is no thought (in the New Testament) of the Church being a collection of Spirit-filled individuals. It is a worshipping community and its meaning can be fully apprehended only in worship." To understand about gardening, we must study and work the garden all year round and not only mow the lawn three times a year. To understand the Church we must worship regularly, and when we worship on Whit Sunday let us think of the immense generosity of the Father in enriching the Church in all lands with the Holy Spirit."

St Albans Diocesan leaflet, June 1960

That paragraph has almost the feel of Victorian England – the age, no doubt, in which that bishop was born. But the point he makes is timeless. Our faith is about communion (with God and with each other), which requires *community*. We have to worship and work together *regularly and frequently* to be the church community which credibly engages and shares our faith with those around us. VB







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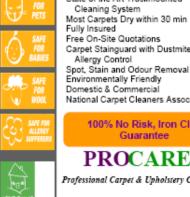
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Just a minute—we're Berkhamsted bound

Julian Dawson takes a look at what was happening in Berkhamsted on key dates in history

One of my annual duties is to update a large leather bound tome which sits in St Peter's vestry. Carrying somewhat portentously the year 1878 on its cover, the book contains the minutes of the church charities, vestry meetings and latterly Annual Parish Church Meetings (APCMs) down through the years. It begins with neat copperplate writing and finishes with my 21st century biro scrawl. So, instead of my ramblings through tortured webs, to mark our Jubilee special I will take a look at the entries within this book and match them up with a wider historical context.

So we start in 1897, and Oueen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee officially celebrated on June 22nd; the year that Oscar Wilde was released from prison, Mark Twain's death was somewhat exaggerated and the beginning of the Klondike gold rush. Meanwhile in Berkhamsted the rector of St Peter's, an Arthur Johnson, signed off the Cemetery Accounts to the value of £37 17s 7d. At the Annual Easter Vestry, the seating arrangements clearly exercised some minds, as it was proposed 'that, in view of the present unsatisfactory way of seating the parishioners in the Church, and the large number of applicants for seats, the meeting is of the opinion that the time has arrived with the rearrangement and allotment of seats shall have serious consideration and that a deputation be formed at the meeting to confer with the Churchwardens and Sidesmen'.

Rattling on 38 years to 1935 and it was

George V's Silver Jubilee, which was marked by the London and North Eastern Railway commencing the 'Silver Jubilee'. Britain's first streamline train service. It was also the year Hitler announced that Germany was re-arming in contravention of Versailles. In this year, Amelia Earhart, who incidentally had been born in 1897, became the first woman to fly solo from Hawaii to California. And aircraft were banned from flying over the White House. It is not clear whether the two events were linked. Meanwhile, back to the vestry book, and the APCM took place on 4th March in the evening under the chairmanship of Rev RWM May. The new electoral roll showed a membership of 549, an increase of 23 over the year. For comparison, the 2011 electoral showed a total of 382.

The death of George VI brought Queen Elizabeth to the throne on February 6th 1952, a year in which Britain also announced that it had the Bomb. Lynmouth was devastated by floods, and the Great Smog afflicted London. The APCM took place on 18th April under the Rev Smith, a year that saw the 75th anniversary of the St Albans Diocese. The electoral roll had shot up to 943. Despite this the rector noted that expenditure had exceeded income but collections in church services had fallen. 'He called for a return to worship in the Parish Church and for the people of Berkhamsted to realise their responsibilities with regard to the Church's upkeep'

(continues on page 7)

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Berkhamsted history

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25 years later the Silver Jubilee was celebrated between June 6th and 9th. It was the year that Jimmy Carter was sworn in as President, and that Elvis Presley and Led Zeppelin gave their last concerts. Not at the same time it must be said. The King, by the way, was born in the year of the previous Silver Jubilee in 1935. Biro had already made its first shocking appearance in the Book by the time of the APCM on Friday 25th March 1977. Edward Norfolk was now rector, his flock had fallen to 439, and once again expenditure had exceeded income.

Ten years ago saw the Golden Jubilee

celebrations take place on June 3rd. The Queen's sister did not live to witness the event, dying earlier in the year. However there was a royal newcomer with the birth of the Prince of Denmark. To be, or not to be..... Mark Bonney was Rector at the APCM on 22nd March, at which Judith Limbert of Petertide Fair fame was able to report that the numbers on the electoral roll were 342

As we make these reflections in 2012, it is probably worth saying that St Peter's will need a new book for the minutes sometime in the 2030s. But the next Diamond Jubilee is likely to be a much longer time distant. *y*B



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Lighting up history

Dan Parry reveals the history of Ivinghoe Beacon and its role in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations

A rare historical event is to be recreated on our doorstep, as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations taking place in June. On Monday June 4th, close to 3,000 beacons will be lit across the country - on church towers, village greens or at other improvised local locations. A few will burn on hilltops long associated with the ancient tradition of sending warnings across the country, and these will include our own Ivinghoe Beacon.

Ivinghoe is rich in history, as is obvious the moment you find yourself scrambling over its ancient ramparts and timeless barrows. These mounds lie not only on the open grasslands near the Beacon itself but also in the Ashridge woodland above Aldbury. In the past, to anyone in the vale below or on the hills beyond, the barrows would have stood out against the skyline, their suggestion of wealth and power being obvious to locals and strangers alike.

Who built them? Who were these people who possessed both an interest in power and a desire to flaunt it? And how did they live life in such an exposed position? A study carried out in 2000 using ground-penetrating radar suggested the site was first occupied by Neolithic huntergatherers who may have used it as a seasonal camp. It was then occupied, on and off, for more than a thousand years until around 600BC when it was settled by Iron Age farmers using out-of-date Bronze Age tools. It was these people who fortified the location, building ramparts that are still two metres high in places,

and a main ditch that on the north side was once three metres wide by two metres deep.

A tribe of broadly Celtic culture, they would have farmed the steeply sloping hillsides while avoiding the heavily forested valley bottoms, partly due to a climate that was wetter than ours. These were the farmers who first brought the notion of fields to Britain, borrowing ideas from the continent. It is unlikely that they would have regarded their hilltop as a fort, more a large fortified camp where food could be safely produced and stored, tools manufactured and homes built. These would have been thatched roundhouses whose inhabitants used clayware, loom weights, quern-stones and ate beef, pork and mutton – evidence of all of which has been found at Ivinghoe, along with house platforms and a ceremonial trackway.

Six barrows are associated with the Beacon, mysterious round mounds that have not yet been properly excavated but are likely to be associated with burial rituals. In 1982, weathering revealed a human skull. When another Buckinghamshire barrow, at Gayhurst Quarry near Newport Pagnell, was excavated, archaeologists discovered the remains of at least eight people, some cremated, others buried.

In the nineteenth century human bones were discovered at Gallows Hill, east of Ivinghoe, the site being probably re-used (continues on page 11)

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Berkhamsted history

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for the same purpose in the post-medieval period. Over hundreds of years, the area continued to be used for more peaceful activities, as the Beacon's name suggests. Local parish records dating from around 1720 confirm the exposed position was used as an ancient signalling station in times of national danger or celebration. At that time a "kettle and other materials belonging to it" were still in Ivinghoe's church, where today there remains the beacon's old iron frame.

For hundreds of years beacons announced royal weddings, coronations, or relayed warnings of danger. From Ivinghoe. warnings of trouble approaching from the north were sent to the only beacon in Hertfordshire, at Woodcock Hill, and from there south to Hampstead Heath and then to London. In 1897 beacons were lit to celebrate Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, and in 1977 and 2002 they marked our own Oueen's Silver and Golden Jubilees. Perhaps most famously of all, in 1588 news of the Spanish Armada was sent by beacon along the south coast and then north to London. The Armada's destruction was again marked by beacons and it is likely that Ivinghoe took part in this event.

From 10pm on the evening of June 4th, the Beacon will once again mark an event of national importance, thanks to permission given to Pitstone Parish Council from The National Trust, English Heritage and Natural England. For those who want to watch, the council's advice is to go to the Pitstone allotment site where there will be a clear view, along with refreshments and a BBQ. They ask people

not to go up onto the beacon itself, (in fact the Pitstone celebrations will begin on the 3rd, with a huge 'Jubilee Party' on the recreation ground from 1pm featuring performances from local bands, a real ale festival, barbecue food and entertainment for children). All the beacons across the country will be lit within a half-hour period, culminating in the National Beacon in London, which will be lit by the Oueen at around 10.30pm. The Neolithic farmers may have long gone from Ivinghoe, and Gallows Hill is definitely quieter these days, but for a few minutes at least there will be a rare opportunity to relive a moment from history, when the country comes together as the Beacon once again lights up the night sky.

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Step back in time—Berkhamsted in 1897

Jenny Sherwood takes us on a tour of Berkhamsted at the time of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee

This year, 2012, our Queen, Elizabeth II celebrates her Diamond Jubilee, sixty years on the throne. In 1897, 115 years ago, Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee. We know from photographs that the town was decorated elaborately for this occasion, but what sort of town was Berkhamsted then?

A study of the 1897 Ordnance Survey map tells us immediately that it was very much smaller than it is today, that there was industry right in the town centre and that a number of large houses with substantial land also stood within the town's perimeter or very close outside.

If we were to approach Berkhamsted from Bourne End, or Broadway, as it was known then, you would see on the left hand side the extensive grounds of the

Hall and its rather austere forbidding frontage very close to the road. Had you entered the house and gone into the gardens at the back you would have had a more attractive aspect. Before you passed the Hall you would have seen on the other side of the road a smaller but more attractive house, New Lodge, used as a Dower House for Ashlvns Hall, and very close to the Lodge the

Lower Mill, still grinding corn. Beyond the Hall on the other side of the road just before the row of cottages, still there today, a little lane led up the hillside, later to become Swing Gate Lane. Opposite the cottages was Pocock's smithy, to meet the needs of the many horses used on the canal and in the town.

Past the Queens Arms we come to Highfield Road, formerly Prospect Street, already developed, especially on the left-hand side, and at the top of the hill Highfield House, one of the smaller large houses in the town, in the grounds of which later some of the first council houses were to be built. We pass the Poplars and Victoria Road, already developed, and the Goat. A little further is Egerton House, a fine Elizabethan house, where the Rex Cinema was later to come.



Laying the foundation stone for Victoria School in 1897

Berkhamsted history

Opposite is the Baptist Church, Holliday Street with Thompson's Row and Sills' sawmill leading down to Provident Place. A large part of this area, with room for further expansion, is taken up by William Cooper and Nephews' extensive chemical works. Ravens Lane and Manor Street lead down to Chapel Street, with its little Infants' School, where so many began their schooldays. Leading from Chapel Street was Bridge Street with its weighbridge at the end by Castle Wharf. All these roads were developed when Frederick Miller sold off much of Pilkington Manor land. This rather severelooking building on the High Street is already divided into three separate houses.

Then we come to Gordon Cottage and Castle Street, dominated by the Grammar School and on the right hand side by the enormous Congregational Church, which gave Chapel Street its name. The Grammar School already has its magnificent chapel and lych - gate, but the Library and Deans' Hall are yet to come. Returning to the High Street we pass St. Peter's Church and the Court House in Back Lane, where the National School is becoming increasingly crowded.

On the other side of the road we pass the cemetery, already extended to make room for a growing population, bounded by Three Close Lane and Rectory Lane. Beyond Dean Incent's House we come to Chesham Road, the Swan, with its brewery behind, the Crown and the Kings Arms, where coaches provide a service between the Station and the town and to Chesham, which has no railway connection. By the Kings Arms a little track leads through to Butts Meadow, generously given to the town by Mrs Lionel Lucas of Kingshill. Opposite we have Water Lane, the Wilderness with the

Gas Works and 'slum' cottages and we come to Mill Street with the Upper Mill dating back to the 9th century.

Before we travel further west we return to look at the little 'industrial community' of Sunnyside, sandwiched between the canal and railway. George Street is largely developed, with a smithy and the Mission Room, the forerunner of Sunnvside church, and little shops. A house in George Street proudly displays a plaque commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, Ellesmere Road and Paxton Road are also developed, but little side roads were yet to come Beyond the railway are White Hill and Millfield House and a few houses, such as Rosebank, Ella Matta, later Netherfield, approached along the track by the railway. In what was later to be called Ivy House Lane stands the Tin Tabernacle, below the present church. Above stands a solitary house, Bodilly, to become The Hill House, where now four houses stand.

We return to the town centre with its Town Hall and water works and police station, the building, which was to stay until 1972. Tucked in before that is Red Lion Yard, a tiny space in which many had their home. Opposite is the comparatively new road, Lower Kings Road, built by public subscription in 1888 to provide a quicker route to the station for the early commuters who lived in the new villas built on the Kingshill and Kitsbury Estates. Just beyond Lower Kings Road is the former Bourne Charity School, whose pupils now attend the National School. The building still a school, is occupied by the girls of Berkhamsted High School.

(continues on page 14)

continued from previous page

As we proceed westwards we see that Kings Road is developed up to Butts Meadow and Clarence Road also. The first six houses above Charles Street. opposite the Meadow are already there. Elm Grove is built. Cowper Road and Torrington Road too. but Park View Road has still to come. At the bottom stands the Board School, later to be known as Park



The town was decorated for Victoria's Golden Jubilee

View School. It stands on the site of the first workhouse. Where Park View Road will later be built is 'Nursery' land. Extensive acres of land are so marked on both sides of the High Street and stretching up the hillside, since this was Lane's Nurseries' territory. On the north side of the town by the little Bulbourne are a number of watercress beds, another flourishing industry.

The upper part of Boxwell Road has houses but the lower part is the garden of Boxwell House. Close to Boxwell Road stands the workhouse. Montague Road is there but not North Road. The area between Boxwell Road, Kitsbury Road and Cross Oak Road are already intensively developed and Middle Road and Hamilton Road are both there. Above is yet more nursery land and Greenway Common. All Saints Church and the first few houses opposite in Shrublands Road are newly built.

On the north side of the High Street just past St John's Well Lane are six large semi-detached houses and the Methodist Chapel. We then reach Park Street with houses on the right hand side. Opposite is nursery land. This road leads to the Park, extensive land belonging to Berkhamsted Place.

We now reach the hamlet of Gossoms End with its two schools, East's saw mill and the Crooked Billet. The lane, now Billet Lane, fords the river, with a little footbridge for those wishing to keep dry feet!

From the end of the 18th century onwards the Grand Junction Canal played a vital part in Berkhamsted's life. All along its banks, especially in the Castle Wharf area, stood wharves for loading and unloading. A constant traffic of horse-drawn barges made its way between London and Birmingham.

Berkhamsted history

Apart from decorating the town what more permanent memorial remains of Oueen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee? Two memorials both set up in 1897 remain in Berkhamsted today, Victoria School and the Town Hall clock. We have already mentioned the overcrowding in the National School at the Court House, Mrs. Lionel Lucas, who had donated Butts Meadow to the town, also donated a site for two schools at the end of Prince Edward Street, to be built in memory of Oueen Victoria's Jubilee. The foundation stone for the Boys' School was laid by Thomas Halsey, MP for West Hertfordshire, on 13th July 1897. The Victoria Girls' School was completed in 1903. In subsequent rebuilding in the early 1970s part of the Boys' School was destroyed, but the Girls' School remains today.

The setting up of the clock on

Berkhamsted's Town Hall was a memorial, erected in the Diamond Jubilee year but with no direct connection with that event. Thomas Read was an eminent and well-respected Berkhamsted non-conformist, the Town Surveyor and also Berkhamsted's representative on the County Council. A timber merchant, he was described as 'the most remarkable man in Berkhamsted, the most successful man of business...the most prominent example of a self-made man.' He died on 16th March 1897 and almost immediately a fund was set up to provide a clock in his memory.

Although Berkhamsted in 1897 had a representative on the County Council it was not until 1898 that the Berkhamsted Urban and Rural District Councils came into being. In the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Berkhamsted was still governed by the Vestry. VB

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.



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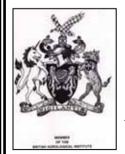
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Local sport through the Jubilee years

Matthew Dawson kicks off a summer of sport with a look back at sporting events in Jubilee years

In this article I will be looking at what happened to our local sport through the jubilee years.

I will start off with Berkhamsted Town Football Club, who during Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee year, 1897, managed to win an impressive treble in only the club's second season. They became League Champions and were also victorious in the St Mary's Cup and the Apsley Charity Cup.

During the year of George V's Silver Jubilee, 1935, Berkhamsted were successful again, winning the Bucks Charity Cup after a 2-0 victory over Maidenhead in the final. In the 1952/53 season, the years of the Queen's accession and coronation, Berkhamsted Town triumphed in the Herts Senior Cup with a 4-2 victory over St Albans. One of the scorers on that day was the late Maurice Cook, who went on to play professionally for Watford, Fulham and Reading as a centre forward.

Berkhamsted Tennis Club was established in 1897, as a private members club and at the time was officially named 'Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club'. In the year before George V's 25 years on the throne, 1934, a bowling green replaced the croquet club. In the winter of 1977, the Queen's Silver Jubilee year, a new fifth squash court was added, with a glass back and a viewing area.

Berkhamsted Golf Club is another long-

standing sporting institution that has seen developments over the Jubilee years. In 1937, the year of King George VI's coronation, the Committee of the golf club agreed that the Ladies' Hon. Secretaries should pay no subscription during their time as secretary. Also in 1937 a plague of rats broke out around the back areas of the club house and the surrounding properties. The club organised a joint 'rat-hunt'. In 1977, a meeting was held to discuss a proposal that a watering system be put in place using 'pop-up' sprinklers installed around the golf club. This seemed to be a good idea seeing as it would usually take 6 days to water all 18 greens with a handheld hose. However by the early 1980s it was found inefficient for Berkhamsted. The main difficulties were the leakages due to the fact that the land of the common gradually shifted its level over the years.

One of the most prestigious events held at the golf course is the 'Berkhamsted Trophy' which has become the traditional curtain raiser to the English amateur golf season. In 1977 it was won by Sandy Lyle who went on to play Walker Cup and Ryder Cup golf for his country. He also went on to win the 'Masters' and the 'Open' championships. Sandy has also been awarded with an MBE.

This year in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Berkhamsted will be hosting its very own 'Berkhamsted Games' which I will be explaining more about in my next article.

yВ

Welcome to the new curate for St Peter's

We welcome **Thomas Plant** and his wife Nao to Berkhamsted

Thomas Plant was raised in rural Worcestershire and Stourbridge. Although of Black Country stock, he found and nurtured his inner Scot at the University of St Andrews, where he read Classics and drank whisky. During his studies he also

served for five years in the Territorial Army. After serving a sabbatical year as Vice President of the Students' Union, he fled politics and office life to teach English in Kochi City, Japan. There he practised various martial arts and, somewhat more importantly, met his wife to be, Nao (pronounced like "now").

Until he went to Japan, Thomas had been a militant atheist, but there he encountered and was impressed by Buddhism. On returning to England, he taught Latin at Exeter Cathedral School, and it was there that he began to take the Christian faith seriously for the first time. This led to baptism and confirmation in 2005 and a Master's degree in theology at Bristol University in 2006. Meanwhile, Nao trained as a Primary teacher.

In Exeter, for the first time, Thomas met

clergy who were under retirement age even some, like him, as young as their mid-twenties. Inspired by their example, he began to suspect that God might be calling him to the same priestly ministry. Nao found a teaching post in Barnet, so Tom tested his vocation by taking part-

time teaching work at
Merchant Taylors' School in
London and spending two days
a week volunteering in the
parish of St James, West
Hampstead.

After two years in the parish, he knew that ministry was for him. He went through the Church's tortuous selection process and began training in

2008 at Westcott House, Cambridge. Alongside practical training for the priesthood, he has been studying for a PhD comparing ancient Christian and Buddhist philosophy at Selwyn College, Cambridge, while Nao studies for a PhD in child psychology.

Both Thomas and Nao look forward to moving to beautiful Berkhamsted and getting involved in the life of the parish. So, if you see a bald man in a black dress or his cheerful Japanese wife, please do



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Regular Church Activities	
3rd Mon	Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534
Tue	Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10-11:30am. All Saints Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981
Tue	St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15-6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 875674 or Jean Wild 866859
1st Tue	Tuesday Club, 7:30pm 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

St Peter's

Regular Services

Regular Sunday services

8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Sung Eucharist with crèche, Sunday school and Pathfinders

6:00pm Evensong

Regular weekday services

Morning Prayer: Monday – Friday 7:30am, Saturday 9:30am.

Eucharist: Monday 6:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road;

Wednesday 8:00am; Thursday 12:30pm; Saturday 10:00am

Evening Prayer: Monday 5:45pm, Tuesday – Thursday, Saturday 5:00pm

All Saints' May

May 6th Fifth Sunday of Easter

10am Holy Communion

Revd John Kirkby

May 13th Sixth Sunday of Easter

10am Morning Worship

Christian Aid Service

Katie Breedyk

May 17th Ascension Day (Thursday)

8pm Holy Communion

Revd Rachael Hawkins

May 20th Sunday after Ascension Day

10am Morning Worship

Revd Bill Murphy

May 27th Pentecost

10am All Age Holy Communion Revd Rachael Hawkins

4pm Healing Service Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Tracy Robinson, and

Audrey Cox

Baptisms

26th March Oscar Milo Moffatt

Mia May Moffat

Weddings

17th March Oliver Charles Francis & Victoria Sian Taverner

Funerals

5th March Mrs Winifred Mary Proudfoot

10th March Mrs Jean Evelyn Lembo

14th March Baby Joshua Gore

24th March Mr John Harold Gould Cook

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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

Turning the pages of history

Ian Skillicorn leafs through the pages of past parish magazines and finds that the more things change...



Regular readers will know that when I became editor in 2010 the then editorial team and I decided to change the name of the Berkhamsted Review to Your Berkhamsted, to signify a new chapter in the magazine's life. This actually followed a tradition going back throughout the history of our magazine, which since its first issue in July 1872 has also been called The Dawn of Day, Berkhamsted St Peter Parish Magazine and The St Peter's Parochial Review. I recently spent an interesting day at The Museum Store in Berkhamsted looking at past issues of the magazine and learning that although there have been big changes in the town over the years, we still have some things in common with residents of times gone by.



Unfortunately we weren't able to find any issues from 1897, to tie in with our Diamond Jubilee special, but I was fascinated to come across a June1886 issue of *Berkhamsted St Peter Parish Magazine*. Do you notice something missing from the line drawing of St Peter's? There was, of course, no war memorial at that time, and it was sobering to hold the cover in my hands and reflect that it was printed well before two world wars led to the deaths of millions, including residents of Berkhamsted.

If we fast forward to 1952, the year Elizabeth became Queen, there is a full set of issues of the *Berkhamsted Review*, which contain snippets of local information in the wonderfully named

column "Parochial Paragraphs". George Street has been in the news recently as residents have been discussing car parking issues, but in 1952 it was another problem that vexed those living in the street:

"George Street residents are very rightly objecting to sand from the Recreation Ground sand-pit being deposited through their letter boxes by children. The sand is bad enough, but there is the additional complaint that it is contaminated by dogs, and it as unsuitable for children to play in as it is to be put through letter boxes! The Council have instructed the Sanitary Inspector to inspect and report upon the matter."

I don't know if George Street residents have a problem with sand in 2012, but we could all certainly do with a Sanitary Inspector today to inspect and report on dog mess on our the streets and the canal towpath!

There were rightly complaints last year when we saw a dramatic reduction in the library's opening hours, but looking at the library opening times as reported in a 1952 issue of the magazine, perhaps we aren't quite as badly off as we thought. In that year, the library, in Prince Edward Street, didn't open until 2.30pm on Mondays and Fridays, closed at 1pm on Thursdays and was also closed for two and a half to four hours each afternoon four days a week. And, just like today, it was closed all day on Tuesdays.

Now we move on to 1977, year of Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee. The June 1977 issue of the *Berkhamsted Review* reports on the Berkhamsted Walk, in aid of what

was then known as The Church of England Children's Society. 35 years later and this month's *Your Berkhamsted* also has an article on the Berkhamsted Walk, although there have been some changes. In 1977 there was only one route, of 18 miles, and it was said that "Two five-year olds completed the course, and two boys ran all the way, completing it in two and a half hours." They were a sturdier lot in the "old days". That year 249 people took part in the walk, raising £1,628. Last year's walk made over £5,000 for the charity, and let's hope they top that figure this year.

Also in 1977, local historian "Beorcham" (Percy Birtchnell) reflected on how previous royal occasions had been celebrated. While our own canal celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee sadly had to be cancelled, in 1897 it was a different story:

"Sunnyside was then in the parish of Northchurch, and children under ten and men and women over fifty were conveyed to Billet Lane by horse-drawn boat, accompanied by Tring Brass Band. Young and old disembarked and made their way to Durrants Farm, where 2,000 Northchurch people were given a meal in a meadow. Later on, five or six women entered for a race, the prize being a pig. But the poor creature escaped, and 500 people then joined in the race!"

They certainly knew how to enjoy themselves in those days, and I hope you all enjoy our own local celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

yΒ

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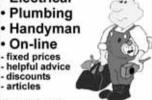
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Victorian School Days

Barnaby Fishwick, a pupil at Victoria First School, tells us what life was like for a school child in Victorian Berkhamsted

In Victorian times not everybody could go to school. Many children had to work in factories at the age of five or sweep chimneys. But for the children who did go to school it wasn't much better than working in factories. But for these children it was a huge opportunity to learn and get a better future. The parents had to pay for their children to go to school. It wasn't the law to go to school until 1880 and even then you could leave at age 10.

Going to school in Victorian times was very different to going to school today. If ever a teacher walked past the classroom every single person had to stand up as a sign of respect to the teacher. And if you didn't you would get the cane. In later times this was a slipper. If you were naughty you would get the cane. The cane is a kind of stick and the teacher would

either whack you across the hand or on your backside. It hurts a LOT! The teachers were definitely more strict than the teachers we have today even if you think your teacher today is very strict!

Every classroom would have a picture of Queen Victoria on the wall. Victoria First school is a Victorian school. A lot of the class rooms were built over a hundred years ago. At that time children didn't write on paper. They had small blackboards and a chalk. If the chalk broke they wouldn't be given a new one. They would just have to write with the small broken bit anyway.

They didn't make lessons as fun as the lessons are today. They didn't do interesting things like design and technology. Maths, English and Geography were the main subjects. Girls had to learn cooking and sewing because if they had children they needed to know how to cook for them and make their clothes.

In conclusion I think going to school now is much better than going to school in Victorian times. ν B



Boys at Victoria School in 1900



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A slow boat to London

Dan Parry on preparations for the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant and new challenges for our canal

It might not always feel like it, but Berkhamsted 50 miles from the sea has long been a key stop for cruise holidays. They might only average 6mph, and lack cabaret acts, but this month some of the scores



of narrowboats making their way along our section of the Grand Union Canal towards London will eventually find themselves taking part in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant. On June 3rd, more than a thousand boats from across the country will accompany the Queen's Royal Barge in one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the Thames.

Given that the Grand Union works its way through the Chilterns on its way from Birmingham to London, our section of the canal has long presented unique engineering challenges. This is as true today as when it was first constructed, due to increasing traffic, ageing infrastructure and above all growing concerns over water management. Moving north, from Boxmoor the canal follows the course of the Bulbourne, through the 'Port of Berkhamsted' just beyond the Boat pub. At Cow Roast Lock the canal reaches the

edge of the three-mile long summit level at Tring, passing through a cutting one and a half miles long and 30 feet deep.

The engineering challenges continue either side of the cutting as in effect boats must move up or down sloping hillsides. Of course, the water must be contained horizontally to stop it gushing downhill. A series of locks (seven near Marsworth alone) allow the movement of both water and boats but these depend on ageing wooden gates many of which leak like sieves. Much of the infrastructure has not been upgraded in years. Indeed some dates back to the time when the canal was originally opened in 1799, 40 years after the country's first canal which was built by the 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, the 'Father of Inland Navigation'. It was in

(continues on page 27)



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Berkhamsted waterways

continued from page 25

his memory that the Ashridge Monument was built in 1832, (it was constructed away from Ashridge House as the Duke's mother wanted "not to see or be reminded of my infernal son").

Despite the elaborate system of locks, each year millions of gallons of water slip all the way down to the Thames. The Tring reservoirs were built to replenish the canal but reservoirs across southern England are currently facing shortages, which is why short stretches of the canal through Berkhamsted were recently allowed to run dry, a feature that may become all too common in the coming months.

Berkhamsted resident Gladys Horne has seen it all before. Born on a narrowboat in 1931, Gladys worked on the canals until she was 36, raising children while ferrying goods back and forth between London and the Midlands. "One time, the ropes froze on my hands," she says, thinking of bygone days when the 'boat people' looked after each other. "We used to bring brimstone to Cooper's Sheep Dip works [which stood on the canal near the Rising Sun]. It was awful stuff. Got down your throat, it turned your brass.....it was explosive too! They wouldn't let you these days." Her family worked the boats for generations and Gladys recalls that her mother was very fond of the horses they used to use before the days of engines. "I would have preferred to have horses myself," she says "they're not as fast as motors...you can do more work below and less steering the boat." She recalls a time in the 70s when the reservoirs began to run dry and tells me that British

Waterways have a job on their hands if they are to stop the same thing happening again.

In fact British Waterways is soon to hand over more than 2,200 miles of canals and rivers to a new organisation, the Canal & River Trust. An aquatic version of the National Trust, the new outfit will become responsible for such things as water regulation and mooring licences. In Berkhamsted winter mooring can cost £800 for five months, and there are local concerns that the Trust will enforce the letter of the law more strictly than before. On the other hand the Trust may also restrict access to the Tring summit thereby conserving water, so that the journey to London will need a little extra planning.

Those boats taking part in the Royal Pageant on June 3rd will be dressed for the part. Decorated with streamers and union flags, the flotilla will also include police and fire boats as well as vessels from the armed forces, in addition to historic boats, some powered by steam. Those who might not have a boat of their own can still take part. More than 30,000 members of the public will be able to watch the event from passenger boats, meanwhile a million people are expected to line the main route. But for a sneaky preview, perhaps the best thing to do is to simply nip down to the canal a day or two before -and wait for the action to come to vou.

More information at: http:// www.thamesdiamondjubileepageant.org/ Default.aspx

yΒ

Elizabeth Jubilee Sponge

Joanne Lloyd Evans



This recipe is a variation on the classic Victoria sponge recipe, which traditionally consists of two sponge cakes sandwiched with cream and jam and topped with a dusting of sugar. This was said to be Queen Victoria's tea time favourite. I think this variation would make a nice contribution to any Diamond Jubilee celebrations as the cream and berry topping has the colours of the Union Jack, giving it an appropriately patriotic feel.

Ingredients:

Sponge

6oz (170g) soft butter

6oz (170g) caster sugar

6oz (170g) self-raising flour

3 large eggs

2 tsp vanilla extract

2 tbsp milk

Filling and Topping 400ml double cream

2oz (50g) caster sugar (or more to taste)

1 punnet strawberries

1 punnet blueberries

Pre-heat the oven to 180C and grease two 7 or 8 inch round cake tins.

Cream the butter and sugar together, add the vanilla extract and then one egg at a time, beating between each addition. Fold in the flour gently, then the milk, and mix until combined. Divide the mixture evenly between the two cake tins and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes, until the tops are springy and a skewer inserted comes out clean. When the cakes have cooled a little, remove from the cake tins and leave until room temperature when they will be ready for decorating.

Whip the cream until it forms soft peaks and then mix in the caster sugar. Slice the strawberries into quarters. Spread about half of the cream on top of one of the cakes and arrange half of the strawberries on top. Place the other cake on top and spread with the remaining cream. Decorate the top with the blueberries and the remaining strawberries and serve. VB

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Fiction

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

Arts and culture

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

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).

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

The Petertide Fair 2012

Upcoming Events
University of London
Chamber Choir

Concert—Saturday 26th May
Featuring a selection of sacred and secular music. Free, with a retiring collection.

The Petertide Fair—Saturday 16th June
Enjoy the entertainment,
participate in the tombola or
games, buy something from a stall
or just sit back and watch the
proceedings with a pint of ale, cup
of tea or a Pimms.

Patronal Lunch—Sunday 24th June Lunch or picnic in the church grounds. Further details tbc.

Further information or to offer help—contact Pru Murray—prunellamurray@btinternet.com. www.petertidefair.org.uk



Around the town

Oxfam Royal Window

The Royal display, which will attract attention to the windows of the Oxfam shop in the High St for the Diamond Jubilee, did not come about on the spur of the moment but required months of forethought and planning. Accumulating souvenirs and articles on a Royal theme has taken a long time to achieve and Oxfam's Homewares expert Jayne Harris will be bringing all her considerable artistic talents to bear on setting them out attractively against an appropriate backdrop.

One problem Jayne faces is that Oxfam is happy for customers to buy from the display (that is what it is there for) so it requires constant adjustment and refurbishing. That has the advantage that items not included in the original window will have their day in the public eye.

The Oxfam bookshop will also be supporting the national celebrations with books on an appropriate subject in its window. Buying from Oxfam is a great way to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

Events presented by the Cowper Society

Tuesday 1st May at 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.

Wednesday 9th May at 7:30pm: CONCERT Homage to Schumann.

Alexander Ardakov piano with Betty Makharinsky soprano. £10 on the door.

Saturday 26th May at 7:30pm: CONCERT for Petertide UCL Chamber Choir Conductor Colin Durrant. Leonardo dreams of his flying machine and other pieces by Eric Whitacre plus a selection of sacred and secular music from C16th to C21st. Retiring Collection in aid of the Petertide Charities for 2012.

Berkhamsted Castle Visitor Room

The Castle Visitor Room will be open from 10am - 6pm for the summer season from 5th May until 30th September on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. It will be open additionally on Tuesday 5th June for the Queen's Jubilee.

Guided tours for school and other groups are provided during the week and at weekends, on request, throughout the year. For further details and bookings please contact Jenny Sherwood on 01442 865158 or email KSherw9100@aol.com

The monthly 'Walk Back in Time', guided tours of the Castle and historic sites of the town centre, run monthly from March to October (excluding August). There are tours on 20th May, 24th June, 22nd July, 23rd September and 21st October. Tours begin at 2pm and last approximately 2½ hours. The cost is £3 adults, £1.50 children. For booking please contact Jenny Sherwood, as above. All these are arranged by the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society.

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The Berkhamsted Walk by Kathleen Lally



Walk to help young people who run away....take part in this year's Berkhamsted Walk on Sunday 13th May 2012.

The Children's Society needs YOUR help and support because even in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire an estimated 2,900 children will run away from home this year.

So dust off your walking boots and take advantage of the warm spring weather to get out and enjoy the beautiful countryside around Berkhamsted and at the same time help to raise money to make a difference to the lives of these vulnerable young people. Choose from three different routes to suit your walking ability:

The Fun Walk - 6 miles: starts between 11.00am and 2.00pm at Ashridge Management College HP4 1NS. This is a gentle stroll suitable for all ages, particularly families with younger children, although the route is not buggyfriendly.

The Bluebell Walk - 12 miles and The

Challenge - 18 miles. The latter route is for fit and frequent walkers. These two walks start between 10.00am and 11.30am at the Court House, St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted HP4 2AX.

Pick up a sponsorship form at St Peter's, the Library or The Complete Outdoors at Bourne End or download one from the website www.berkhamstedwalk.com, where you'll also find lots more information about the Walk and the work of The Children's Society. Alternatively pay by donation on the day.

Encourage your family and friends to join you on the walk and help young people who run away. Just £30 could pay for a project worker to give two hours practical help to a young runaway, while £50 could buy a phone for one of our project workers, which a young person with no phone can borrow to call home, their social worker or the police, and £98 would pay for four mediation sessions between a child and their parents to stop the arguments that are making life unbearable at home

Join us on 13th May for a great day out in support of a great cause. VB

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.

Copy Dates: 4 May 2012 1 June 2012 6 July 2012

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