your October 2012 Berkhamsted



Lights, camera, action! Filming locations in our local woodland
Ancient relics of Ashridge
Storytelling Cabaret comes to town
50p

From the Editor October 2012



The Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted

Welcome to the October issue of *Your Berkhamsted*.

So, Summer has now passed and this year's was certainly one to remember with the huge number of local, national and international events. As we head into Autumn a quieter time seems to be upon us as we settle into darker evenings and cooler weather, before we begin to accelerate into December - but no more about those events for at least another month.

In this month's autumnal issue we have a wide variety of articles including the regular features on sport, town news, a seasonal recipe, and a history article by Dan Parry which reveals some hidden relics at Ashridge. He also reveals some spooky facts about the dark woods of Ashridge which have been given the Hollywood treatment. For those of you interested in literature we have news of a story-telling cabaret in Berkhamsted this month, and our final page features a lovely harvest poem from a Year 4 child from Victoria First School.

As always, we'd love to hear from you if you have anything interesting that you would like us to include in future issues.

Helen Dowley, Editor

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

Contents Leader by Revd. Penny Nash 3 Around the town 5 Read all about us 7 The Headless Horseman 9 11 Sports news The Blood of Christ 12 Christian Aid Harvest Appeal 14 Mothers' Union 14 Berkhamsted Citizens Association 15 Storytelling at the Kings Arms 16 Parish news 18 Hospice news 20 St Peter's Windows 23 A Practical Answer to Stress 27 Seasonal Recipe 28 Oxfam's 70th Birthday 29 The Last Word 30 Harvest Poem 31

Front cover: *Enchanted Wood I*, by local artist Mitzie Green

Your Berkhamsted Leader by Revd. Penny Nash



Autumn is upon us and during this season of changing colours, I wonder what it is we want to give thanks for. It is usually during this month that many churches and schools

celebrate Harvest festival which traditionally has been a time to gather in the crops and give thanks to God for His provision. But in today's world in the west, times have changed and so that presents us with a challenge over what a Harvest Festival is all about. In churches and schools we tend to think nowadays of Harvest Thanksgiving; offering an opportunity for each one of us to reflect and be thankful as well as reminding us of the responsibility we hold to share what we have. In our consumerist culture being thankful and satisfied for what we have today can be a challenge. We are told through the media that we constantly need to have more, strive for better and spend our lives and money trying to reach perfection. I notice this more than ever whilst working with young people whose lives are most at risk from this pressure. As a parent I find that one of my most important tasks is to try and communicate the fact that we can be satisfied and indeed thankful with what we have today.

GK Chesterton, once wrote 'I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.'

The Celtic Christians were well-known for appreciating and giving thanks for every element of creation. I believe it is within the scope of all of us to look at our landscape with spiritual as well as physical eyes and begin to appreciate it for what it is and the way it influences our understanding of both ourselves and our Creator. A growing passion

for the beauty of the world in which we live and work can lead to a renewal in our attitudes to the mundane tasks that we face day by day.

Many things I know I take for granted, but in amongst the struggles that some days bring, it is good for the soul to find something to give thanks for.

Thornton Wilder, an American playwright and novelist once wrote 'We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.'

Harvest thanksgiving gives us that opportunity in amongst the busyness and stresses of modern day life to reflect and connect with the good things around us. It takes a conscious effort to pause and bring something to mind that we are grateful for. It may be the simple act that we are grateful for the food that God has given us for the day. It may be whilst walking through the woods when we see the sunshine breaking through the trees. It is just a moment, but stopping all the voices in our heads that are demanding so much of our attention for a short time, to notice those good things are opportunities where we are connecting with the Creator and giving ourselves life.

We sow seeds, but we did not create them. We plant them in the ground; a soil we did not form.

The rain nourishes it, with waters we did not produce.

The sun shines, but we are not the source of its light.

The plants grow, whilst we watch.

At harvest time we get to reap this goodness, And are sustained by it as we eat.

These are all gifts.

All grace.

This is the Economy of God, inviting our participation, but providing us more than we ever give.

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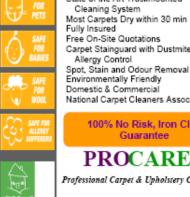
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Around the town

Saturday 3rd November 2012

The Rotary Club Berkhamsted will again hold a spectacular **ALL WEATHER** firework display at the Berkhamsted Cricket Club. The fireworks will be launched by the pyrotechnic company Classic Fireworks.

Gates Open 5.00pm, Early Bird raffle starts 5:15pm, Fireworks 6:45pm

Charity Christmas Card Sale

This year's combined Charity Christmas Card Sale will be taking place in the Court House in Berkhamsted on Saturday 24th Oct, Saturday 10th Nov and Saturday 24th Nov, from 9.30am – 3.00pm on each of the Saturdays. A large number of local charities will be represented, each selling a great range of Christmas cards and small Christmas gifts. We look forward to seeing you there.

Berkhamsted Art Society welcomes artists of all abilities as well as those who have an interest in the arts. They welcome painters in any media and craftspeople who are interested in pottery, sculpting or wood-carving. The Society organises a full programme of events including demonstrations, talks, drawing evenings and workshops. Each year they organise two well-established, week-long, exhibitions of members' work with over 400 items on display and for sale. The exhibition includes framed and unframed pictures, pottery, sculpture and woodcraft. A summary of their programme of events is available at

www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk. Non-members are also welcome at demonstration evenings - £3 per head. Events presented by the Cowper Society at St Peter's Church Berkhamsted
Sat 13th October at 7.30pm – ORGAN
RECITAL Sarah Soularue

RECITAL Sarah Soularue.
Tickets £10 on the door, U18s free.
Sarah Soularue is one of the world's foremost organists. A former student of Maurice Durufle and subsequently *Organiste titulaire* at St Etienne-du-Mond in Paris, she is now Head of Keyboard at Gisors Conservatory. It is of great excitement that such an eminent organist is coming to play for us in Berkhamsted. Renowned for her playing, this is a unique opportunity to hear an organist from the French school on our doorstep, playing on the newly restored organ in St Peter's Church.

Fri 9th Nov at 1:00pm: RECITAL – Anna Le Hair *piano* and Helen Godbolt *cello*. Free Entry. Retiring collection

HOST

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Read all about us!

Julian Dawson looks at varied and surprising references to our town in the media

As I write the London 2012 Paralympics are in full swing, and the town is recovering from the apoplexy of excitement that followed the carrying of the Paralympic Torch through our town. Many of us waited patiently despite the delay and witnessed an event many of us are unlikely to witness again in this town. It is therefore no surprise that this has dominated web coverage and that the local press in particular covered this in detail, including the painful headline 'Olympic Torchure' from the weekly free paper. The event, including the accompanying peal of bells from St Peters, was reported further afield on websites such as the BBC, Huffington Post, the London Evening Standard, Manchester Wired, and somewhat bizarrely Los Angeles Bankruptcy. Go figure.

Those of you eagerly following the fortunes of Richoux Group, which as avid readers of my column will know own Villagio, will be impressed to hear that in their interim report "the Group are pleased to report improved results, having now completed the disposal of the remaining underperforming sites and are continuing to focus on improving the offer at the Group's Dean's Diner and Villagio sites". One has the impression that the dining scene in the town offers a very competitive market and it will be interesting to see how the various newcomers and longstayers perform in the coming months. Which is the longest serving eatery in the town? Answers gratefully received. The Regal Chinese has been here for at least 20 years, but I

imagine there are few longer serving members of the catering trade. As mentioned in an earlier piece, the exploits of the RNLI lifeboat, 'Spirit of Berkhamsted', are regularly reported. The North Norfolk News reports on a rescue in August in which both 'our' boat and its partner Friendly Forester II went on a wild goose chase, only for the recovery tractor to be stuck in the sand when attempting to recover one of the boats. A quiet time for news in East Anglia obviously. The Hemel Hempstead Gazette reports on the campaign of John Waller to install public toilets in Berkhamsted Castle, It would be true to say that this suggestion has proved quite divisive, causing a minor spat with the local MP who believes very few are for the idea. In terms of priorities of public spending this isn't perhaps top of the list, and there are concerns that it would spoil the overall tenor of the site. English Heritage, who manage the property, don't normally provide conveniences for sites that have free entry. Time will tell whether Mr Waller has reason to be flushed with success. And finally to the regular automobile spot. Last month I reported the sighting of a Porsche 911 996 Turbo, which was in fact corroborated by a less than impressed YB editor. This month's challenge for the eagle-eyed amongst you is to find a Red TVR Tuscan reported on the PistonHeads Gassing Station forum - "Lovely colour, lovely lady" was the observation. There was no further elucidation as to whether they meant the car or the driver.



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The Headless Horseman of Ashridge

Dan Parry

With Halloween bearing down on us, one can barely while away a stormy night in the High Street without stumbling over a vaultload of ghosts and ghouls. Perhaps you may feel that the spooks and spiders adorning shop windows don't really do it for you – in which case there's a haunt in our neck of the woods you might be more interested in, though you'd better not go alone. Frithsden Beeches, scene of WW1 training-trenches and one of the least visited parts of Ashridge, has an eerie feel that has given the place a starring role in films from Harry Potter to Sleepy Hollow.

In Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Harry and the Weasleys trudge through Frithsden as they set out for the Quidditch World Cup, and here too they meet Cedric Diggory (Robert Pattinson) and his father. Ashridge is also the location for other Harry Potter scenes, with 'the manky old boot' – a portkey no less – turning up on Ivinghoe Beacon. Beyond Potter, Frithsden serves as the setting for the murders investigated by Johnny Depp in

the film Sleepy Hollow, which involves a headless horseman galloping out of doom-laden mists, just shy of the golf course.

Other corners of Ashridge to be given the Hollywood treatment include Thunderdell Wood, which in 2010 was the setting for a medieval farmstead in Ridley Scott's take on Robin Hood, starring Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett. Ashridge House itself appears as the military prison in The Dirty Dozen, and the estate also provided locations for The Other Boleyn Girl, Henry VIII, Madame Bovary, Alfie, Stardust and Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason. Film shoots can be big business for somewhere the size of Ashridge, generating thousands of pounds a year, and TV too also brings in income, with the likes of Cranford, Jonathan Creek and Spooks all stopping by in recent times. So next time you're out exploring the nearby hills and woodland don't forget to bring fancy dress and some makeup...just watch out for over-bearing directors – and silent murderers on horseback.

If you know of any more famous locations in or around the local area that have been used in TV or film productions then please let us know!

yΒ



The queen beech in Frithsden Beeches, by Roger Jones

Your Berkhamsted Needs You!

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

Local groups

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

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Watford Ladies to play in Berko

Matt Dawson

I'm sure many of you would have watched London 2012 and hopefully would have been inspired to take up something new. One successful team that you may have been inspired by was Team GB's women's football team. Despite not winning a medal, ladies football was put on the map by their heroic displays at the Olympics which saw them reach the quarter-finals where they were knocked out by Canada. If you didn't get a chance to see the women's football and want to get a taste of the action, then here is your chance, as Ladies football comes to Berkhamsted for the 2012/13 season! Watford Ladies team are going to be playing their home games at the home of Berkhamsted FC — the Broadwater ground — throughout the current season. Although Watford Ladies team does not feature any of Team GB's heroes it will be a great chance to see what the women's game is all about.

Watford's Ladies team play in the FA Women's Premier League National Division in which they finished 7th in the league last season with 17 points from their 18 games. The Hornets won 5, drew 2 and lost 11 of their games during the 2011/12 season in which top scorer, vice captain and Welsh international Sarah Wiltshire grabbed 8 out of the 16 goals that were scored in the League for Watford.

The girls have got off to a great start this season though as, at the time of writing this article, they are currently placed 2nd in the League behind Sunderland. They've put in good displays to beat both Cardiff



and Aston Villa 2-1 at home and away respectively.

This month, October, the Ladies will be playing home matches at Broadwater against Sunderland and Manchester City on Sunday 7th and Sunday 21st. The Hornets will be playing all their home games there this season and for a full fixture list check out their website: *watfordladiesfc.com*.

Watford's games so far have been brilliantly attended and have gone over three figures which manager John Salomon seems to be delighted about, saying 'The support since moving to Berkhamsted has been brilliant and I hope we can continue to encourage more and more fans to come and support us''. So everyone get down there, keep up the good support, and cheer on the Watford Ladies team at Broadwater!

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The Blood of Christ and the long lost church of Ashridge

Dan Parry

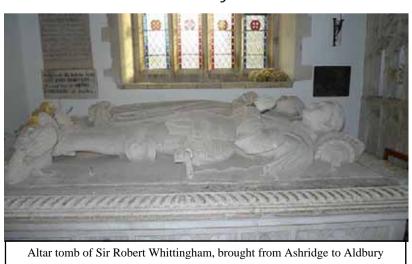
 ${f I}$ n 1301, the future Edward II stood beside the splendid monastic buildings of Ashridge. Accompanied by a gathering of priests and nobles, he looked on as an ornate casket was carried into the impressive church of St Mary, where it was placed alongside the Blood of Christ. The casket contained a human heart and like the True Blood, and other relics, it was later to attract pilgrims from across the country. Demolished by 1576, the remaining remnants of the church, hidden beneath gardens, were lost for centuries – until last year. Last month, archaeologists returned to Ashridge to discover more about St Mary's, its long-lost relics and the owner of the heart in the casket. In 1269 the Blood of Christ happened to be in Germany, some of it at least, where it was discovered by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, second son of King John, owner of Berkhamsted Castle and King of the Romans. Richard was accompanied by his son and heir Edmund, who bought the Precious Blood and decided to preserve it in grand surroundings following his father's death four years later. Edmund one of the richest men in England owned estates across the country but he chose to build a monastery near his castle at Berkhamsted where he could house and protect a portion of the Blood (the rest of it went to Hailes Abbey in Gloucestershire). In 1283 Edmund founded the College of Ashridge, dedicated to study and prayer, and which was so sumptuous he chose to live there. The college's fine church was built of the local Totternhoe stone. Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Sacred Blood in 1286, it was accompanied by the usual collection of domestic monastic buildings - chapter house, cloisters, dormitory, and so on – which were home to the Order of Bonhommes. The brethren (just seven at first) wore long grey habits and followed Augustinian doctrine, in a regime that was strict but not austere, at least by the standards of the time. They ate twice a day and, unlike the brethren of other orders. were not 'forbidden the use of linen for their undergarments'. Perhaps it was this that led them astray, as their actions were occasionally called into question. In 1519 Bishop Atwater observed that the younger brethren were given to idleness, sport and drinking, and that the rector was heard to 'sometimes use bitter and opprobrious words in the exercise of discipline'. When Edmund died at Ashridge in 1300, parts of his body were buried at Hailes but early the following year his heart was carried into the extensive chancel of St Mary's. Most churches are dominated by their nave, which must be big enough to accommodate the congregation. But St Mary's was more about possessions than people, and the chancel housing the relics was a third longer than the nave. Edmund wasn't the only person to give their heart to Ashridge, though not everyone took things as literally as he did. Edward I held a parliament here and endowed the college with the manors of Little Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead and elsewhere. The Black Prince also gave extensive land and riches including a 'great table of gold and silver' - so that by the sixteenth century the College owned a great estate.

Berkhamsted History

Following the dissolution of the monasteries, in 1535 Henry VIII took control of Ashridge and the monastic buildings became the home of his children. In 1552, Elizabeth I – who spent eight years of her childhood here - was at Ashridge when she was arrested under suspicion of treason. Although the domestic buildings were maintained, St Mary's itself was no longer required, and after falling into disrepair the church was demolished in 1576. Masonry from the building was used in the construction of the manor house at Little Gaddesden, and at the same time the Verney tombs, and others, were taken to the church of St John the Baptist in Aldbury. The ornate monument commemorating Sir Robert Whittingham, killed in the Battle of Tewkesbury, was also brought to Aldbury and today it provides a tantalising clue to the lost splendour of St Mary's. The remaining buildings were sold in 1604, they were demolished by 1804, and were replaced by the house still standing today - though the site of the church itself was largely left untouched. Over time, its foundations were slowly swallowed by the rising level of the ground until they vanished altogether as if St Mary's had never existed.

In 2010 The Berkhamsted and District Archaeological Society was asked to investigate the site. Following work carried out in 2011, and in April and September this year, they managed to identify the probable location of the church. The foundations of solid flint walls, more than a metre wide, were identified as forming part of the eastern end where the chancel would have stood. The archaeologists excavated a series of trenches but had to quickly fill most of them in to stop the loss of both the ruins and the wedding guests who were keen on peering into them. One trench revealed further massive masonry foundations, which would have supported a wall of one of the two semi-transepts. Above it once rose a tower that would have dominated many miles of the local landscape and would have been the most distinguishing feature of a splendid church long lost to time, until now.

νB



Action for Hope—The Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal 2012

Harvest is thought of as a time of plenty and thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth. Even in this difficult summer for gardeners, some crops have done well, while others failed. In some countries crops can fail regularly, and it is generally accepted that climate change contributes to this, as floods and hurricanes happen more severely and regularly.

This year the Bishop of St Albans' Harvest Appeal is focussing on Christian Aid's work with communities in the Caribbean, helping them to adapt to the effects of a changing climate. Not only are crops at risk, but lives too as heavy rains cause rivers and creeks to burst their banks

The project in the Dominican Republic helps people improve their farming techniques and trains them to know how to react when floods threaten. This work is bringing hope to communities and individuals as they learn to manage the effects of climate change. Please support this project through this website: www.harvestappeal.org

yΒ

Mothers' Union

In a year when large-scale natural disasters have not hit the headlines, it should be remembered that relief continues to be needed as communities in some of the poorest countries of the world meet with adversity.

The Mothers' Union knows this well. In South Sudan, drought or floods have caused crops to fail. Drought meant Mariam struggled to feed her family with only one meal a day. In other areas heavy rainfall caused people to lose their homes, crops and livestock. Food, tools, plastic sheeting and utensils have been provided by the MU Relief Fund. Around 3,500 women and children have been helped. Longer term solutions are also being sought so families can cope with an everchanging climate.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo man-made disasters result in severe

hardship as communities are caught up in civil conflict. Massacres have killed thousands of people, injured many more, women have been raped and buildings destroyed. Thousands more have fled the fighting and crowded into towns and cities and even travelled, or probably walked, as far as the neighbouring countries of Rwanda and Uganda. These are vulnerable people and their only support in some areas comes from agencies like The Mothers' Union, MU members have been able to distribute emergency food supplies of rice, beans and oil and items like soap and salt for displaced families.

The money for this aid comes largely from Mothers' Union members in this country, who fund-raise for the Relief Fund. However anyone can make donations through the MU website:

Berkhamsted Citizens Association Programme 2012-2013

The Berkhamsted Citizens Association (BCA) – the organisation with the town's largest subscription-paid membership – will be holding a series of talks and other events during the coming months. With the exception of the rambles, all events are held at Berkhamsted Town Hall, Sessions Hall starting at 8pm. The AGM is held in the Great Hall.

On Thursday October 11th, Tim Amsden and Mike Bass of Tring Local History Society will be giving an illustrated talk entitled '*The Story of Tring: the Tring Local History Museum Project*'.

In a talk held over from earlier this year due to a combination of illness and bad weather, on Thursday November 8th, Nancy Reid, the Warden at College Lake Wildlife Reserve, Bulbourne (near Tring) will describe how a former chalk quarry was transformed into a thriving wildlife Reserve.

The BCA's traditional New Year's Day Ramble will start from Berkhamsted Station at 10.30am. After a four mile morning leg, lunch will be taken at Aldbury where we are usually entertained by the Morris dancers, then three miles back to Berkhamsted in the afternoon. The walk leader will be Paul Crosland. The walk is undertaken at your own risk.

As a term-time precursor to the 'main sports event' of the summer, the 'Berkhamsted Games 2012' involved local first and middle schools in Olympic-themed events. On Thursday, February 7th, one of Berkhamsted's own Olympians, Louise Collins, will give an illustrated talk on how the event evolved

and what it achieved for the children of the town.

The BCA's Annual General Meeting, Environment Awards and Open Forum is scheduled for Thursday, March 14th. Speaker to be announced. Great Hall.

Thursday, April 11th. A Berkhamsted personality will give a talk on his professional experiences - subject to his (or her) working schedule! Details will be posted on the website (see below) nearer the date.

Sunday, June 30th is the date for the BCA's Summer Ramble. Meet in front of Berkhamsted Station at 10.30 a.m. for a circular walk of 11 miles to the south-west of the town, with a stop for lunch at 'The Full Moon', Cholesbury. The leader once again will be Paul Crosland. The walk is undertaken at your own risk.

With the exception of the rambles, which are free, there will be a charge of £2 for non-members of BCA, which is deductible from £5 annual household membership. For holders of the Dacorum Card, the charge is £1.

The Berkhamsted Citizens Association is a member of Berkhamsted Arts Trust, which is financially supported by Dacorum Borough Council. For further information on the BCA and its work, visit www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk. The Chairman is Katy Brookes-Duncan (tel: 386974) and the Membership Secretary is Christopher Talbot-Ponsonby (tel: 865882). VB

Storytelling cabaret comes to Berkhamsted



The Kings Arms is hosting a unique evening of storytelling to celebrate this year's National Short Story Week. Berko Speakeasy, billed as a "cabaret of short stories" will entertain guests with tales from writers including Hanif Kureishi, Adele Parks and *Dr Who* scriptwriter Robert Shearman, all brought to life by a company of professional actors.

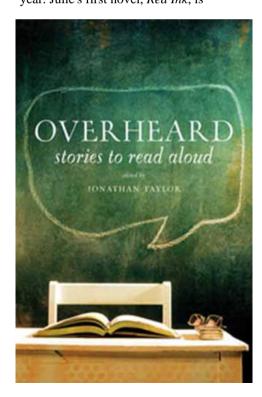
The stories have been chosen from a new anthology, *Overheard*, being published by Salt Publishing to coincide with National Short Story Week.

Appropriately, Berko Speakeasy will be held in The Greene Room which, of course, was named after local author Graham Greene, who used to frequent the Kings Arms. Berkhamsted residents Julie Mayhew and Ian Skillicorn, who are organising the event, promise an evening of stories, entertainment and prizes. In keeping with the "speakeasy" name, there will be specially created "bootleg" cocktails available from the bar.

Ian says: "We've chosen a real variety of stories. There will be some to make you laugh, and others that will make you think. Our protagonists include brides-to-be, war photographers and school children. It promises to be a lively and enjoyable evening, quite unlike anything seen in Berkhamsted before."

As Julie and Ian both work in the arts they are particularly pleased to be

bringing this event to their own town. Julie is a writer and actor, whose work has been performed on the stage and broadcast on BBC Radio 4. Her radio play *A Shoebox of Snow* was nominated for a BBC Audio Drama Award earlier this year. Julie's first novel, *Red Ink*, is



published next February. Ian is an audio producer and digital publisher, who has produced audiobooks, story podcasts and literary programmes, and recently started an ebook imprint, which has published a well-received short story collection and a best-selling novel, *The School Run*. He founded National Short Story Week, here in Berkhamsted, in 2010.

Julie adds: "We are really excited about bringing these great stories to a local audience. If you think literary nights are too stuffy or serious, we'd urge you to come along. It's going to be stylish, theatrical and a lot of fun."

The Berkhamsted Speakeasy company includes local actor Mark Kane, Anna Savva and Elizabeth Bower, best known for playing Dr Melody Bell in *Doctors*.

The anthology *Overheard* will be available for purchase on the night, courtesy of Waterstone's. Salt Publishing describe *Overheard* as a unique and diverse collection of stories: "From village storytellers to nineteenth-century serialisations, from pub anecdotes to dramatic monologues, storytelling is an enduring art form. This collection of short stories reconnects storytelling with its oral and performative roots."

Berko Speakeasy is at The Greene Room, The Kings Arms, High Street, Berkhamsted on Wednesday 14th November (7pm for 7.30pm start).

Tickets £8, available from The Kings Arms, Waterstone's and by emailing tickets@shortstoryweek.org.uk

Your Berkhamsted Needs You!

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

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

Features

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

Local groups

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

Arts and culture

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

E-mail editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

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 01296 632263 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 01296 632263 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 864382	
	St	St Peter's	
	8:0 9:1	Regular Sunday services 8:00am Eucharist 9:30am Sung Eucharist with crèche, Sunday school and Pathfinders 6:00pm Evensong	

vices

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

October Diary

All Saints' Services

Oct 7th – 10am: Harvest Festival - All Age Morning Worship with Holy Baptism, Revd Rachael Hawkins and Penny O'Neill

Oct 14th – 10am: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity, Holy Communion, Revd Iain Ogilvie and Tracy Robinson

4pm: Memorial Service for the bereaved, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Oct 21st – 10am: Twentieth Sunday after Trinity, Morning Worship, Revd Rachael

Hawkins and Ceri Lindo

Oct 28th – 10am: Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity, Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

St Peter's

Cowper Society present:

Sat 13th Oct, 7.30pm: Organ Recital – Sarah Soularue,

Sun 14th October: Choral evensong

Baptisms

12th August Amber Beatrice Bowyer (St Peter's)

Weddings

25th August Richard Hugh John and Julie Nilsson (St Peter's)

25th August Alan Patrick John Kelly and Virginia Anne Hodnett (St Peter's)

Funerals

6th August Michael Brian Stirrup (St Peter's)

8th August Sydney Charles Smith (Chilterns Crematorium)

20th August James Lancelot Railton (St Peter's)

28th August Irene Ellen Mansi (St Peter's)

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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

The Bazaar Group of the Hospice of St Francis

Elinor Mumford

The Hospice of St Francis came into being following a vigil of prayer at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted in 1979.

The group now called the Bazaar Group (or the Craft Group) was one of the first organised fundraising groups instrumental in raising money to purchase St Francis House, previously lived in by nuns in Shrublands Road in 1982.

It was started by a group of ladies who ran jumble sales. In those days they met in each other's houses to do craft projects, rescuing zips, buttons and materials from jumble sale donations and turning them into saleable items. A classic example of recycling!

The group was fortunate to have a talented quilter and an expert knitter of Aran sweaters among its number. Soon they had enough items to sell and started by having a stall in the Court House. Having outgrown that venue they moved many years later to the Civic Centre.

The group also rented two shops for six months each, one where Oakley's Estate Agents is now and the other is currently a ladies' fashion retailer in the High Street. There has always been a core group of ten to twelve people over the years, now headed up by Jane Allard. I became associated with it in 2006, just before I retired. Our boast is rarely do we have to buy anything to make our handcrafted goods. We are now given most of what we need by kind people who think of us when clearing out unwanted possessions. Sometimes we get off cuts from people who make curtains professionally. Now we have a large stash of materials and wool to choose from. Many of us, like me, learned to knit, sew and/or crochet at our mother's knee and have turned our hobbies into cash for charity. We also have jam, marmalade and chutney makers whose wares are in constant demand.



The weather this year has not been kind to the Hospice. The Summer Fete in Ashridge College grounds had to be cancelled and we will not be holding the Christmas Fayre in the Civic Centre this November either. This will mean a loss to the Hospice of at least £20,000.

You may be interested to know that records kept from 1988 to 2011 indicate the Bazaar Group raised £110,708.58. We regularly make £6000 a year.

The fundraising staff have asked the Hospice volunteers to think of ways of fundraising to make up the shortfall so, since the Bazaar Group is set up to sell, and due to Ashridge being cancelled we have cupboards stuffed with goodies, we are organising extra selling events.

With the kind permission of St Peter's Church we are running a Coffee Morning and Craft Stall in the Court House on Saturday 3rd November from 9.30am to 12.30pm. We will serve Spring Garden Coffee, (the Hospice's own brand) and Fairtrade tea with a selection of homemade cakes, scones and biscuits. Chris Took the Hospice chef has kindly agreed to bake a few things for us, and his reputation is legendary! All profits from the sale of refreshments and craftwork will go to Hospice funds.

Don't forget – Saturday 3rd November 9.30am to 12.30pm. Coffee, tea, refreshments and an early opportunity to buy your Christmas presents. Do come and join us and support your local hospice.

The Co-operative Bank pitches in at the Hospice of St Francis

Green-fingered staff from The Co-operative Bank have transformed an area of the gardens at The Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted.

Staff from The Co-operative Bank Corporate Banking Centre (CBC) on Victoria Street, St Albans, spearheaded an initiative to transform an area of woodland into a tranquil space for visitors and residents of the hospice.

Since the St Albans centre opened a year ago on September 7th 2011, the team have taken part in various community activities and in recognition have been nominated for the Corporate Social Responsibility Award at the Community Business Awards organised by the St Albans Chamber of Commerce. In all, 35 staff from The Co-operative Bank's CBCs across the South East spent the day working in woodland behind the hospice digging out weeds, realigning a path and building a new compost bin.

The Hospice of St Francis provides professional support and care for people with a life-limiting illness in Hertfordshire including St Albans. It is a thriving charity with a dedicated base of volunteers who tend to the gardens every Tuesday.

Senior Manager at the St Albans Centre, Richard Crook, said: "It's been a hard day of manual labour to clear the area and create a pleasant place people want to visit but it's amazing how much has been accomplished in a day. At the start of the day the woodland area was dark, overgrown and under-used but now it's a beautiful peaceful area for the residents and visitors.

"As part of The Co-operative, we're encouraged to get involved in the community and help deserving causes. The hospice provides essential support and it's a privilege to help them."

Charlotte Minoprio, corporate fundraising

manager at The Hospice of St Francis, said: "The woodland area is an area where people can take time out and get some peace and quiet. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful gardens and are delighted when companies such as the Co-operative Bank so generously give up their time to support us. This is the largest group of volunteers from a company to help us which is why we were able to undertake a big project. We are thrilled with the result and I know that the patients and their families will truly appreciate the wonderful view.

The hospice supports adult patients and their families affected by any life-limiting condition in the 12 beds at the hospice and throughout the community in people's home and care accommodation. All care is provided free of charge and in order to carry on their work the hospice needs to raise £3.7million per year.

The St Albans centre handles business accounts for clients throughout St Albans, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted, Hatfield and further afield. VB



The team at The Co-operative Bank's St Albans Corporate Banking Centre organised this initiative to transform the gardens at The Hospice of St Francis. (left to right) Chris Harris, Nicola Johnstone, Arthur Deacon (from the Hospice of St Fran-

cis), Dan Seeby and Richard Crook

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Have you ever wondered what stories lie behind the stained glass windows of your local church?

In this interesting list of facts, **Christopher Green** invites us to take a tour around St Peter's to find out more

The stained glass at St Peter's provides examples of work by several of the most renowned companies supplying stained glass to churches in the Victorian era. The only pre-Reformation glass is in the form of fragments in the lancet windows in the old chancel, now the vestry. This includes two royal coats of arms and the arms of Henry Chichele, the Archbishop of Canterbury between 1414 and 1443.

Great West Window

The great west window is another by Heaton, Butler and Bayne. It shows various saints and biblical scenes. It was exhibited at the Paris Exhibition in 1867, before being put in place in St Peter's. It won a Bronze Medal.

North Aisle

The three windows in the North Aisle are described in the brief notes provided in the Church and there is a separate description of the etched glass in the most westerly window.

North Transept

In the North Transept/Lady Chapel there are two plain glass and two stained glass windows. The two stained glass windows are both by the Whitefriars Glass Company owned by the Powell family and noted for the production of pressed glass for use in church windows, with part of the decorative effect being achieved by a

pattern moulded in the glass. The north window in the North Transept is a memorial to members of the Dorrien family and was put in place in 1852. The stained glass window in the east wall of the Lady Chapel was originally the east window in the chancel and was moved to its present position when the present east window, a memorial to the poet William Cowper, was introduced in 1872. The Cowper window is by the firm of Clayton & Bell, one of the most prolific and highly esteemed producers of stained glass in the second half of the 19th century.

Catherine Chapel

The windows in the Catherine Chapel were put in place between 1890 and 1909, the period during which the chapel was being restored. Before this the chapel had housed the organ and the vestry. The east window which celebrates Holy Baptism, Holy Orders and Holy Eucharist is by another very successful Victorian stained glass firm of Heaton, Butler & Bayne. The more easterly of the two windows in the south wall shows St Christopher and is by Curtis Ward & Hughes. The other window in the south wall shows St Francis and was donated by the Sunday School teachers and children in 1901. It is also by Heaton, Butler & Bayne.

(continued on page 25)



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Window in the South transept depicting the Resurrection of the Dead

(continued from page 23)

South Transept

The very fine window in the South Transept, depicts the Resurrection of the Dead. This is another window by Clayton & Bell, put in in 1873 when the firm was

approaching its greatest renown. Among its most famous windows is the west window in King's College, Cambridge. It was also responsible for the design of the mosaics on the Albert Memorial in London. This window is a memorial to Sophia Curtis and it is said that she is depicted in the third light from the west.

St John's Chantry

Until Berkhamsted School had its own

Kempe window in the South aisle

chapel, the St John's Chantry. where the choir and organ are now accommodated was used by the school as its chapel. Two of the stained glass windows here commemorate people associated with the school. All four windows are by highly

Victorian/Edwardian stained glass firms –

regarded

from east to west the first two both by Heaton & Butler in 1869 and 1865, the next by Curtis, Ward & Hughes (1901) and the most westerly by Clayton & Bell (1874). The most easterly window commemorates Caroline Bartrum, wife of Edward Bartrum, Headmaster of the school 1864-1889. She is depicted in the top quatrefoil of the window with her young children.

She represents Charity. The other lights of the window depict Faith & Hope. The next window commemorates John Crawford. Headmaster of the school 1850-1864 It shows the Sower and the Good Shepherd and in the quatrefoil King David. The



Westlake window in the North aisle

two remaining windows both depict the Annunciation and show a clear contrast of styles that reflects the 27 years that separate them.

South Aisle

In the south aisle there is only one window, dating from 1880 and by yet another of the great Victorian masters of stained glass, Charles Kempe. It shows St Augustine of Canterbury, the Archangel Michael, and St Alban, the patron saint of the diocese. In the head of the window are shields bearing the arms of the Dorrien and Drake families. This is older glass that has been re-used in the Kempe window. VB



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A practical answer to stress

Trevor Allan Davies

Berkhamsted has been my home since 2004, when I returned to the UK after 7 years in Canada. Since then I've reestablished my career as an actor and musician for BBC Radio, the Chichester Festival, fringe and national touring productions and the West End.

For the past 21 years, though, there's been another very important element in my life, which has been an enormous asset to me personally and professionally. That's what I'm writing about today. I hope that it will be of use and interest to you.

In our complicated world, tension and anxiety are commonplace. Health and financial worries, pressures at work and family problems are among a host of contributing factors. The physical effects range from unpleasant sensations to chronic ailments.

Some (like back pain, migraine and arthritis) have reached epidemic proportions. We may sense some vague relationship between stress and these ailments, but often mistrust our intuitions. Some drug treatments aim at the emotional or mental aspect, others at the physical, but many of us are unhappy about dependence on either treatment in the long term.

Most know from painful experience that their ailments thrive on *stress*. If this is so, how do we halt the hopeless downward spiral of stress and ill health?

Well, from my own personal experience I can say that if we learn how to take a fresh look at ourselves, an objective methodical look, we can start to recognize the harmful patterns of poor movement, balance and posture that result from stress. These patterns are at least as harmful to

health as a junk food diet. And like diet they can be changed.

For well over a hundred years the work of FM Alexander has been studied and practiced all over the world. It's been a major part of training at our most prestigious academies of performing arts and is practiced by many sportspeople. Any activity where balance and coordination are critical will benefit. Golfers and equestrians take note! The Technique can be practiced by virtually anyone, at any age or level of fitness and including those with disabilities. The teacher uses verbal instruction, gentle physical guidance, example and their own trained awareness of harmful movement, posture, and coordination patterns to show you how to help yourself. Many come to the Alexander Technique with intractable health problems. My pupils' doctors are usually surprised at the dramatic improvements in their patients. These include improvements with arthritis, chronic back pain, headache, fibromyalgia and ME, speech impediments, addictions and Parkinson's disease. It can also be vital in recovery from accidents or surgery.

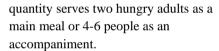
Feel free to telephone me at the number below for more information. Trevor Allan Davies has been a student of the Alexander Technique since 1984 and a certified teacher since 1991. He is the author of "An Examined Life", and teaches internationally, both privately and for corporations and institutions. He can be reached at 01442 862843. Further information is also available at

<<u>www.stat.org.uk</u>> **y**B

Butternut squash and feta warm salad

Joanne Lloyd-Evans

Butternut squash comes into season during autumn and is a delicious way to get some variety in your vegetable intake. This is a very nutritious salad, as it also contains red onions, spinach and walnuts, so it contains a wide range of different vitamins and minerals. This





1 medium butternut squash, peeled and cut into chunks

2 red onions, cut into eighths

1 large sprig of rosemary, chopped

2 tbsp olive oil

1 tbsp balsamic vinegar

50g walnuts

1 tbsp honey

100g baby spinach leaves

100g feta cheese, chopped into small cubes

1. Preheat the oven to 180C. Put the butternut squash, red onions, chopped rosemary, olive oil and balsamic vinegar into a roasting tin and toss well to coat the vegetables. Season with salt and



pepper if desired. Roast for 50-60 minutes until the butternut squash is tender but not mushy. You want the chunks to hold their shape, rather than collapse into mash.

- 2. Meanwhile, coat the walnuts in the honey and grill or cook them in the oven until they have started to caramelise. This will probably take 5-10 minutes, but keep an eye on them as they can catch and burn quickly. When they've cooled down, break them up into small pieces if they have become stuck together.
- 3. When the butternut squash is ready, toss through the spinach leaves, feta cheese and walnuts. The heat from the oven will help wilt the spinach and slightly melt the cheese. Add more balsamic vinegar or seasoning if desired and then serve.

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Oxfam's 70th Birthday

Audrey Hope

Life in Greece may be difficult today but there is no comparison with conditions in the enemy-occupied country in 1942. In Oxford, in October 1942 a group of Quakers and academics heard of the plight of the starving population and resolved to help. Thus Oxfam was born as the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief. A plea to lift the allied naval blockade to enable food aid to reach the stricken country fell on deaf ears but funds were raised which were eventually channelled through the Red Cross. And a tradition was born which continues to this day.

Later this month Oxfam will receive the Freedom of the City of Oxford in recognition of its work and long association with the city. In the aftermath of war the plight of millions of displaced people across Europe led the charity to set up collecting points for clothing to relieve the desperate needs of the homeless and dispossessed. Sometimes gifts were given which were not suitable for sending overseas but could be sold to defray expenses. Over time this grew into the chain of shops familiar on many High Streets today. Among the donations sold by Oxfam's first shop manager, the legendary Joe Mitty, were a houseboat and a donkey. Oxfam's work in Berkhamsted was again started by Quakers. I do not know the date it began but there was a well-established weekly clothing collection in 1962. The sacks were transported into London on top of the cement lorries from Pitstone. A number of individuals ran pledged gift groups whose members donated the price of a loaf of bread to the charity each month and in the mid-60s a lady called Margaret Hole invited the organizers to a film evening and the Berkhamsted Oxfam Group was founded. Events such as Hunger Lunches and Christmas Card sales followed and in the early 1970s a temporary shop raised funds

for three weeks before Christmas. This was followed by a six-month shop in rent-free premises and a permanent one opened in Lower Kings Road in 1979, moving to the present premises in 1989.

Soon after it opened the appalling story of the Killing Fields of Cambodia came to the world's notice and the first Blue Peter Bring and Buy sale gave a huge boost to the expanding network of shops. Oxfam was the first charity to bring relief supplies to the desperate population.

Although Oxfam's name is frequently associated with famine relief such as the Ethiopia famine of 1984, highlighted by Michael Buerk, the charity has always sought to find longer-term solutions by enabling people to support themselves rather than depending on handouts.

Over the years Oxfam has developed particular expertise in water and sanitation and is the leading charity in this vital field. Clean water is one of the most urgent needs in a disaster situation. It is all too easy to be in a position where there is "water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink" or at least fit to drink.

Oxfam was born as a campaigning organisation and continues to campaign today. Based on its experience in the field, Oxfam supported initiatives such as Make Poverty History which persuaded the G8 to increase aid and cancel debt.

Oxfam would like nothing better than to work itself out of existence but in the face of rapidly rising world food prices that is unlikely in the foreseeable future, making its work more necessary than ever.

In another 70 years who knows? But for now Oxfam will continue its life-saving work.

Every year, the debate regarding the change in assorted education courses and qualifications raises its ugly head. Anyone would think it's the first time it has happened....

Norman Cutting

Many, many years ago, I was studying for a qualification known as the Ordinary National Diploma / Certificate (OND/ ONC). Naturally I started by taking the S1, S2 and S3 years. After I passed the S2 vear, someone, somewhere decided that the whole thing should be revised, modernised and become OND1 ('equal' to S2) and OND2 ('equal' to the S3). Not only that, but Dacorum College decided that not all parts of the final year would be done on that site and I ended up trying to leave Hemel at 6pm and get to the George Stephenson College in Watford by 7pm for the 'missing' part. In order to actually make the time, I foolishly decided to move to Watford as they did the whole lot in one place.

What I did not realise was that each college organised their own syllabus, that was until on the first morning of the first day when the tutor stood up in front of the class and said "for the newcomers, I will quickly remind everyone what we covered last year". There were a number of us who were in the same boat and we just all looked at each other as we realised that was not what WE did last year! Now you know why I am so stupid and not able to keep up with the world as it whizzes past.

I can only think that the education 'advisors' must have had a similar experience as they seem to have got

where they are, going through a system that actually worked (or they would not be where they are today), but honestly believe that it was not any good, so they must change it – or maybe just trying to justify their existence!

Almost on an associated note, have you noticed how the number of strange "studies have found..." items you get on TV and in the press? Well, for those of you who are as thick as myself, it's because the clever people who get to university have to carry out a piece of research which has not been done before. After umpteen years, they really have to scrape the bottom of the barrel to find something original to publish, so now you know why, for example, ants are having little blobs of paint put on their little bodies to find out what they get up too.



Harvest Time







When it's harvest time golden wheat will grow.

In the dawn at sunrise harvesters will harvest all the golden wheat.

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So, if you are a farmer you can grow things too.

And at the end it's time to say thank you, for our food today.

Thank you God for a wonderful harvest.

Catrin Williams, aged 8 Victoria First School



We would love to include more short stories and poetry as a regular feature in the magazine from both children and adults alike, so if anybody out there feels inspired to write then please get in touch: editor @yourberkhamsted.org.uk.

Children's Short Story Competition Look out in November's magazine for details on how children can enter our short story competition!!

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.

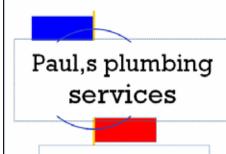
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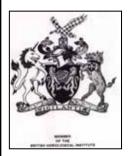
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