

the magazine for town and parish

December 2012

your **Berkhamsted**



Christmas events around the town
Festive gift ideas
Love in the King's Arms

50p

From the Editor December 2012



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

Welcome to the December issue of *Your Berkhamsted*.

Like me you probably can't believe that we have almost come to the end of another year. 2012 seems to have been one major event after another: the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, and the Paralympics, to name just a few.

To end 2012 we feature the first part of a story from local lady Nancy Lawrenson entitled *A Century In and Out of Berkhamsted*. The story begins in 1912 and takes us through to the present day and will be featured as an ongoing instalment in the magazine.

In this special festive edition we thought we'd have a bit of fun, so there's a Christmas Word Search to try if you find yourself with a few minutes to spare and a quiz to guess which members of St Peter's clergy are hiding behind the Santa disguises! There's also the beautiful story of *The Little Match Girl* to enjoy over a nice warm drink and a mince pie.

As this is the last issue of the year, I'd like to thank the people who work on the magazine and give their time voluntarily every month. Your work is greatly appreciated.

I hope that we've helped to get you into the spirit of the season and that whatever Christmas means to you, it is a happy and peaceful time.

Helen Dowley, Editor

Contents

Leader - Fr Michael Bowie	3
Around the town	5
Read all about us	7
The Little Match Girl	8
Sporting Christmas Gifts	11
Love in the King's Arms	12
All I want for Christmas..	16
Parish news	18
Hospice News	20
Festival of Light	21
A Century in and out Of Berkhamsted	23
Postcards: the text messages of the 1900s	25
Festive Recipe	28
Christmas Poem	30
Festive Fun	31

Our front cover this month was specially designed for us by local artist Katy Leigh. You can see more of her work at the Civic Centre Christmas Fayre on Sat 15th December and on her website at www.katyleigh.co.uk.

Your Berkhamsted Leader by Fr Michael Bowie



We're all well used to working with a number of calendars simultaneously: the calendar year, the financial year, the school year and the church year have all

altered and moved in and out of sync with each other over the centuries.

So it is just another case of multi-tasking as we begin this December with both the first Sunday of Advent, looking forward to Christmas at four weeks' distance, and, on the same Sunday afternoon, celebrating our Town Festival of Light in which Christmas is very much already with us.

St Peter's is once more hosting a service at the end of the Festival in which several churches will take part, and I have again been asked to bless the town as part of the festivities; we're also going to move our usual pre-Advent children's workshop (which would usually happen the previous day) to that Sunday afternoon, so that there will be an opportunity for our children to share the *Christian* Christmas message with other children of the town and their families.

Cycles of time are only a language which helps us to remember and mark significant things. Like the customs that attach to them, some cycles are part of the natural rhythm of the world, others are chosen to help us keep a sense of perspective on it. The important thing for us is to remember, and gently remind our neighbours, that whenever and however we celebrate it, Christmas comes for the whole world: Jesus is born to give every person a new family, to make us all brothers and sisters, children of God, connected not just to our blood relatives or our (historically accidental) nation states but in relationship with all the other remarkable people on the planet, with their joys and sorrows, sufferings and celebrations.

I hope many of you will join us for the Festival of Light service and also for Midnight Mass or Christmas morning Eucharist. Whether or not you do that, let Christmas be a time of looking outwards to the needs of all the world, for which Christ was born, and died and rose again.

MB

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Around the town

Oxfam at Christmas

One way to help give something back this Christmas is to buy charity Christmas cards and gifts. Oxfam's exquisite handmade individual cards are sourced from an organisation in Bangladesh called Swajan which employs 850 embroiderers. One widow was able to put her son through college from her earnings. And of course for the person who does not need any more soap, bathsalts, ties or socks there is always the interesting range of Alternative Gifts.

Oxfam is currently working in some 25 emergency situations around the world and urgently needs the funds.

Events presented by the Cowper Society at St Peter's Church

Sat 8th Dec, 7:30pm: CONCERT – Berkhamsted Choral Society *Christmas Concert*, including Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass* and carols for choir and audience with Philharmonia Brass. Conductor Graham Wili. Tickets: £13/£11 U16s FREE from 07500 431643, Cole Flatt, 124 High St, Berkhamsted and at the door.

Mon 10th Dec, 8:00pm: RECITAL – *Rejoice Greatly*, seasonal music for Soprano and Organ

Jon Lee *organ*, Christine Kinsella *soprano*. The programme will include Handel, Warlock, Michael Head and more. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

Sun 23rd Dec, 7:00pm: CONCERT – Chiltern Chamber Choir GF Handel *Messiah* with Bridgewater Sinfonietta, leader Stuart James and Lucy Hall *soprano*, Jeanette Ager *mezzo soprano*, John-Colyn Gyeantey *tenor*, Piran Legg *bass*. Director Adrian Davis.

Tickets: £15/£13 U18s FREE from Cole

Flatt, 124 High St, Berkhamsted, all choir members & at the door

Christmas Fayre, Civic Centre, Sat 15th December, 10am-1pm

For more present ideas this Christmas pop along to the town's Christmas Fayre. Our front cover designer, Katy Leigh, will also be there so you can see more of her original work.

Berkhamsted Festival of Light

The town's Festival of Light will be held on Sunday 2nd December, 3.30pm – 6.00pm. Service at St. Peter's at 6.00pm.

More information on page 21.

Christian Aid Big Sing. Come and sing carols on Saturday 15th December between 10.00am and 12.00pm outside Tesco. Join voices to help the world's poorest communities lift themselves out of poverty. Telephone Margaret Burbidge 01442 862139.

Ashridge events

Sunday 2nd December - Ashridge at Christmas, 10am-4pm, Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, Monument Drive, Ringhshall, HP4 1LX. Original gifts from local craftspeople and producers. National Trust shop and Brownlow Cafe open all day. Free parking and entry.

Thursday 27th December - Ashridge Estate Christmas Walk for all the family, 10am - noon, starting and finishing at Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre. Wine/soft drink and mince pie at the end. Booking essential - 01442 851 227 before 21 Dec. Friends of Ashridge members £6, all other adults £7, under 16s £5.

yB

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Read all about us!

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

The annual Graham Greene festival in our town has its fair share of national press coverage, and 2012 was no exception. I was interested to read Jonty Langley's piece on Huffingtonpost.co.uk. In ***Fifty Shades of Green(e)*** he describes two festivals that exemplify what is best about Britain. Firstly Greenbelt, which some of the young from our parish attended in August. He describes it as a festival that is *Christian without being obnoxious or dull.... Greenbelt is a celebration of God, human goodness and artistic bravery, its tolerance of different beliefs and encouragement to find common ground exemplifies the best of Britain's intellectual culture.* He then contrasts this event with the Graham Greene International Festival which despite featuring *no bands, no drum-circles and no massed choirs, ...it still manages to be one of the most exciting events available in Britain. One of the events that make Britain great.* And in a side swipe states that both events are *a wonderful celebration of things that those who often shout loudest about Britain's greatness couldn't possibly hope to appreciate.* There has been controversy in archaeological circles over the discovery of a horde of 40 Roman gold coins near St Albans. This was made possible by a rookie's use of a metal detector bought from a Berkhamsted store. The discovery was reported on numerous websites, and saw Berkhamsted's debut on the CBBC website. Some readers might recall Br. Geoffrey Tristram's sojourn in this town. He is now the superior of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE), an Episcopal religious

community in Cambridge Massachusetts. On the society's website (ssje.org) in a piece on Martha and Mary available as a podcast he recounts watching the longboats on the Grand Union, compares a journey through a lock to our own relationship with faith. *We seem to have stopped, but slowly and imperceptively, God is raising and lifting us up to a new height, a new plane.*

And continuing the ecclesiastical theme, the Irish Archiseek.com website has uploaded a glorious plate illustrating a proposed decorative scheme for the east end of Little Gaddesden Church, published in *The Building News*, July 7th 1871. It contains a definite nod to Arts and Crafts and the pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. The architect was E.W. Godwin. Perhaps some of the church architecture aficionados amongst you can tell me whether it actually came to fruition.

Badgers also make their debut in this column. You will have been familiar with the controversial attempts at culling. It seems that they have taken a liking to the Castle grounds, with the *Hemel Hempstead Gazette* reporting that the green sward has more the appearance of Flanders Fields than Kitchener's, the nocturnal amblers having upturned much of the turf. Of course there is nothing English Heritage can do, as badgers are a protected species. And in any case Hertfordshire is not part of the trial government culling scheme. Still, perhaps they could employ the Badgers for earth excavating if it is agreed to provide a public convenience on the site.

JB

The Little Match Girl

Hans Christian Andersen

The Little Match Girl



by Hans Christian Andersen — illustrated by Rachel Isadora

blue from cold. She carried a quantity of matches in an old apron, and she held a bundle of them in her hand.

Nobody had bought anything off her the whole livelong day; no one had given her a single farthing. She crept along trembling with cold and hunger - a very picture of sorrow, the poor little thing!

The flakes of snow covered her long fair hair, which fell in beautiful curls around her neck; but of that, of course, she never once

Most terribly cold it was; it snowed, and was nearly quite dark, and evening - the last evening of the year. In this cold and darkness there went along the street a poor little girl, bareheaded, and with naked feet. When she left home she had slippers on, it is true; but what was the good of that? They were very large slippers, which her mother had hitherto worn; so large were they; and the poor little thing lost them as she scuffled away across the street, because of two carriages that rolled by dreadfully fast.

One slipper was nowhere to be found; the other had been laid hold of by an urchin, and off he ran with it; he thought it would do capitally for a cradle when he some day or other should have children himself. So the little maiden walked on with her tiny naked feet, that were quite red and

now thought. From all the windows the candles were gleaming, and it smelt so deliciously of roast goose, for you know it was New Year's Eve; yes, of that she thought.

In a corner formed by two houses, of which one advanced more than the other, she seated herself down and cowered together. Her little feet she had drawn close up to her, but she grew colder and colder, and to go home she did not venture, for she had not sold any matches and could not bring a farthing of money: from her father she would certainly get blows, and at home it was cold too, for above her she had only the roof, through which the wind whistled, even though the largest cracks were stopped up with straw and rags.

Her little hands were almost numbed with cold. Oh! a match might afford her a world of comfort, if she only dared take a single one out of the bundle, draw it against the wall, and warm her fingers by it. She drew one out. "Rischt!" how it blazed, how it burnt! It was a warm, bright flame, like a candle, as she held her hands over it: it was a wonderful light. It seemed really to the little maiden as though she were sitting before a large iron stove, with burnished brass feet and a brass ornament at top. The fire burned with such blessed influence; it warmed so delightfully. The little girl had already stretched out her feet to warm them too; but - the small flame went out, the stove vanished: she had only the remains of the burnt-out match in her hand.

She rubbed another against the wall: it burned brightly, and where the light fell on the wall, there the wall became transparent like a veil, so that she could see into the room. On the table was spread a snow-white tablecloth; upon it was a splendid porcelain service, and the roast goose was steaming famously with its stuffing of apple and dried plums. And what was still more capital to behold was, the goose hopped down from the dish, reeled about on the floor with knife and fork in its breast, till it came up to the poor little girl; when - the match went out and nothing but the thick, cold, damp wall was left behind. She lighted another match. Now there she was sitting under the most magnificent Christmas tree: it was still larger, and more decorated than the one which she had seen through the glass door in the rich merchant's house. Thousands of lights were burning on the green branches, and gaily-coloured pictures, such as she had seen in the shop-windows, looked down upon her. The little maiden stretched out her hands

towards them when - the match went out. The lights of the Christmas tree rose higher and higher, she saw them now as stars in heaven; one fell down and formed a long trail of fire.

"Someone is just dead!" said the little girl; for her old grandmother, the only person who had loved her, and who was now no more, had told her, that when a star falls, a soul ascends to God.

She drew another match against the wall: it was again light, and in the lustre there stood the old grandmother, so bright and radiant, so mild, and with such an expression of love.

"Grandmother!" cried the little one. "Oh, take me with you! You go away when the match burns out; you vanish like the warm stove, like the delicious roast goose, and like the magnificent Christmas tree!" And she rubbed the whole bundle of matches quickly against the wall, for she wanted to be quite sure of keeping her grandmother near her. And the matches gave such a brilliant light that it was brighter than at noon-day: never formerly had the grandmother been so beautiful and so tall. She took the little maiden, on her arm, and both flew in brightness and in joy so high, so very high, and then above was neither cold, nor hunger, nor anxiety - they were with God.

But in the corner, at the cold hour of dawn, sat the poor girl, with rosy cheeks and with a smiling mouth, leaning against the wall - frozen to death on the last evening of the old year. Stiff and stark sat the child there with her matches, of which one bundle had been burnt.

"She wanted to warm herself," people said. No one had the slightest suspicion of what beautiful things she had seen; no one even dreamed of the splendour in which, with her grandmother she had entered on

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Ideal Sporting Christmas Gifts

Matt Dawson

Struggling to find a suitable Christmas present for that sporty child or adult in the family? Then look no further than this article as I'll be telling you all the essential sporting gifts one could want this Christmas!

The ideal gift for any football fan, providing they don't have it already is EA Sport's FIFA 13, this is the latest version in EA's long series of FIFA games. This game is available on all consoles for around £39 on Xbox 360 and PS3. Another video game which would be great for any football fan is Football Manager 2013. This is the best football management game around and is great for that son, dad or even daughter if they want a taste of what real life management is like. This game is available on PC and PSP and costs £27.90 and £19.52 respectively.

For all you F1 fans, another great video game is F1 2012; this is a hugely realistic game and is a great Formula 1 simulator in which you can feel the drama of what driving a real F1 car is like. This game costs £34.99.

Now, looking back at the 2012 Olympics, here are two fantastic gifts which will give you the chance to relive every moment from this year's amazing Olympic and Paralympic games in our home country! The BBC has released their own DVD of London 2012 which contains the Opening Ceremony, highlights from each day of the games and the Closing Ceremony – this fantastic DVD costs £19.99. Meanwhile Channel 4 have released a DVD of their coverage of the Paralympic games and although it doesn't contain as many highlights as the BBC's DVD, at £8.99 it's a good buy if you want to relive the achievements of Great Britain's 'Superhumans'.

Now for some good sporting books and staying with the theme of the Olympics, two that capture the moments of London 2012 are *London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games: The Official Commemorative Book* and *The Official Photographic Day by Day Celebration* book.

There are many autobiographies and biographies that have just been released that may take your fancy such as *Bradley Wiggins: My Time* and Seb Coe's *Running My Life*. Staying with the Olympic theme once more, there is Jess Ennis's *Unbelievable - From My Childhood Dreams to Winning Olympic Gold*, and written by Mark Hodgkinson *Andy Murray: Champion: The Full Extraordinary Story*. These are all amazing sportsmen and women but another incredible story is an autobiography from Fabrice Muamba, the footballer who collapsed during a football match whilst playing for Bolton and you can read his story in his book *I'm Still Standing*. Some more sporting books are the *Match Annual 2013* and the *Match of the Day Annual 2013*.

Meanwhile if you're just looking for a simple gift for friends or family, then a good idea is to buy merchandise for whatever football team they support, such as a hat and scarf, clothes, mugs, season reviews from the previous season or an annual or calendar. You could also get a water bottle, a sports watch, a bag or there is also the classic Wimbledon towel for both men and women.

I hope I've suggested some good gift ideas for you and have a great Christmas!

Prices are from Amazon.co.uk and are correct at time of writing article.

yB

Love in the King's Arms, with the King of France

Dan Parry

When Louis XVIII, otherwise known as Louis-Stanislas-Xavier, the Bourbon King of France, King of Navarre and comte de Provence, took up with Polly Page, daughter of the landlord at the King's Arms, the relationship was described in less than flattering terms. Polly fell for the king, who at the time was living up the road, the king had fallen on hard times and between them they helped Berkhamsted slip into a maelstrom of European history revolving around intrigue, scandal, high politics and the French Revolution.

Born in the Palace of Versailles in 1755, Louis developed an unbridled appetite for his mistresses, his books, his wine cellar and his games – losing 10 million livres in gambling debts, paid for by his elder brother the king. He never exercised, ate enormous amounts of food, and when he married at the age of 16 he was already obese. Once the new Countess of Provence, Princess Marie Joséphine of Savoy, settled in at Versailles, she and Louis swiftly set about loathing each other. She was considered ugly, tedious and ignorant of the court, she was said to never brush her teeth or pluck her eyebrows, and apparently never used any perfumes. It was said that Louis's unwillingness to sleep with his wife was due to her poor personal hygiene, and ultimately the marriage was childless.

For nearly 20 years the couple lived, awkwardly, in decadent splendour – until the summer of 1789, when revolution swept through Paris. Louis remained at Versailles but was forced to flee to the



Netherlands in 1791. Any hope he might have had of a swift return to his homeland was cut short with the abolition of the monarchy, the execution of the king emphasising the point. Louis finally acceded to the throne in 1795, though the political situation forced him to remain in exile. He moved to Verona, then to Prussia, then modern-day Latvia and then to Sweden, before settling in 1809 in a house near Aylesbury.

Hartwell House, in the Buckinghamshire village of Hartwell, was the quiet retreat of Sir Charles Lee. When Louis descended on the place, he brought with him dozens of once imperious courtiers, now as impoverished as him. The Prince Regent

granted Louis permanent asylum and gave him generous allowances, but even so, Louis and his entourage found themselves farming chickens and struggling to maintain the tattered ways of the *Ancien Régime*.

The route to Hartwell from London passed through Berkhamsted, and in stopping to change horses on journeys to and from the capital, Louis came to know Polly Page, the daughter of the landlord, John. The Pages were comparatively comfortable and were well known locally, John serving as the town's postmaster. In 1801 one of his employees, James Snooks, discovered on one occasion that the mail bags contained much cash. Ambushing the mail boy in Boxmoor on a Sunday evening in May, Snooks stole the money, but was later caught in Hungerford. Taken back to Boxmoor he became the last highwayman to be publicly executed in England.

Ten years later John Page had moved on from public executions and was cashing in on the fashionable parties enjoyed by the wealthy families of Berkhamsted. During the height of the Georgian age, music, dancing, and clothes were shaped by the fashions of the London season. Describing the King's Arms at this time, the 19th century historian George Lipscombe wrote that: "Splendid assemblies have been much encouraged at this place, which, if I mistake not, have sometimes been honoured with the presence of royal visitors." Polly organised refined parties, filling the public rooms of the inn with Regency splendour. In 1815, *The Morning Post* wrote that "the arrangement of the Ball and supper-rooms, which was highly nouvelle and elegant, does great credit to the taste of Miss Page". Flirting during a change of horses was one thing, but it was

at these events that Louis and Polly developed their relationship. The *Post* describes guests dancing in the evening before enjoying a sumptuous supper at 1am, and then dancing again – until sending for their carriages at four in the morning.

Louis's agility, in dancing or anything else, was limited by his weight. A year after arriving at Hartwell, Queen Marie Joséphine died in November, and that same winter Louis suffered a severe case of gout, a recurring problem for him, and he had to be put in a wheelchair. By the time Napoleon abdicated in 1814, Louis was finding it increasingly difficult to travel. After accepting the crown of France in the library at Hartwell, in May he was finally able to return to his kingdom. Polly stayed behind, the dancing continued but it would be many years before royalty returned to the King's Arms.

The inn continued to remain at the forefront of life in Berkhamsted, hosting protest meetings about plans for a railway and other locally important issues. Victoria stopped briefly en route from London while the horses were changed, though she did less dancing than Louis. Over the centuries the building's ancient beams and brickwork have hosted many events, but some things never change. Today there are fewer carriages and Regency frocks, but human emotions remain the same – the weekend partying continues and it's not hard to imagine Polly and Louis seeking each other out among the guests.

JB

Dacorum Foodbank



Dacorum Foodbank launched in September 2011 as a project within DENS and in our first year we have helped feed 1961 people with our emergency food boxes. 972 vouchers have been issued by supporting agencies and this represents 1,252 adults and 709 children that otherwise would have gone hungry. Benefit delays and low income are the two highest cited reasons for needing help.

We also provide the day centre with approximately 45% of the food they use and the night shelter approximately 20%.

We are very well supported by our local churches, businesses and individuals throughout the year and a lot of schools

donate their Harvest collections to us. We also hold regular collections at local supermarkets where we ask customers 'to buy one, give one free', we then collect the food as they leave the store. Since we launched we have

received 27,673kg of food and given out 21,590kg.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers who regularly give their time to help at the foodbank.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us over the last year, your donations make a big difference to those people we help. We would like to reassure you that we follow Trussell Trust's procedures in distributing the food and have systems in place to monitor usage.

If you would like any further information about our services please do not hesitate to contact us on 01442 250969 or

office@dacorumfoodbank.org.uk. **JB**

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is concerned about violence against women. In this diocese there was for many years, support for the Women's Refuge in Bedford after it opened in 1976. It was one of the first in Britain. More recently MU has drawn attention to domestic abuse and violence worldwide. With members in over 80 countries, in rural and urban communities, the organisation is well-placed to know about the abuse women may experience. It can take many forms and includes physical, sexual and emotional abuse, forced marriage, forced prostitution, genital mutilation and rape as a weapon of war. The statistics from the World Health Organisation make grim reading. In some countries up to 71% of women experience violence; in the UK at least 45% of women have experienced at least one incident in their lifetime. Violence, whether from a spouse, partner, family member,

acquaintance or stranger is never acceptable; neither is violence committed by women against men.

Across the world, MU members support women in their communities experiencing violence. In the Solomon Islands members run a home for survivors of domestic abuse, while in Tanzania they take part in a project to raise awareness of violence against women. In South Africa and Cameroon, members have marched in protest. The MU message will be heard at a meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2013. MU delegates and others will advise on the text of agreements that are part of the global campaign to end violence against women.

The Mothers' Union believes it cannot be silent on this issue, for as Christians we are called to love, care and seek justice for one

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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. Articles should be 500 to 900 words in length.

E-mail: editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

All I want for Christmas is... ..



I asked some local school children what Christmas presents they'd most like to receive this year. In contrast I've listed the top 10 presents from

some past decades which I'm sure will bring back some memories for quite a few of you...

2012:

- Ipod touch: Eleanor (8)
- Playdough Ice Cream set: Amelia (6)
- Guinea Pig: Catrin (8)
- Swatch Watch: Bradley (8)
- Ipod touch: Thomas (10)
- Star Wars lego: Ethan (8)
- Thomas train: Oscar (3)
- Skylander Giants: Finley (8)
- Bunk bed: Rory (2)
- Pony: Sophie (8)
- Spygear night vision goggles: Nick (7)
- Barbie princess: Tilly (3)

Top 10 presents for children

1950-1990:

1950s:

- 1. Barbie
- 2. Play-doh
- 3. Frisby
- 4. Tonka Trucks
- 5. Matchbox cars
- 6. Yahtzee
- 7. Skateboards
- 8. Hula Hoops
- 9. Mr Potato Head
- 10. PEZ



1960s:

- 1. Hot Wheels
- 2. Lego
- 3. GI Joe
- 4. Easy Bake Oven

- 5. Etch a Sketch
- 6. Super Balls
- 7. The Game of Life
- 8. Sea Monkeys
- 9. Barrel of Monkeys
- 10. Operation

1970s:

- 1. Atari VCS 2600
- 2. UNO
- 3. Rubik's Cube
- 4. Simon
- 5. Dungeons and Dragons
- 6. Hungry Hippos
- 7. Connect 4
- 8. Star Wars action figures
- 9. Magna Doodle
- 10. Nerf Balls



1980s:

- 1. Cabbage Patch Kids
- 2. Trivial Pursuit
- 3. My Little Pony
- 4. Koosh Balls
- 5. Transformers
- 6. Pictionary
- 7. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 8. Chia Pets
- 9. Jenga
- 10. Star Wars AT-At

1990s:

- 1. Pogs
- 2. Tickle Me Elmo
- 3. Furby
- 4. Super Soaker
- 5. Beanie Babies
- 6. Game Boy
- 7. Buzz Light Year
- 8. Power Rangers
- 9. Tamagotchi
- 10. Pokemon



Have a very Merry Christmas!

yB

The Nepali Children's Trust

Fran McGowan

All of us at the Nepali Children's Trust are extremely grateful for the generous fund raising St Peter's Church has done on our behalf. We have funded a purpose built residential home for The New Life Centre in Kathmandu that offers

loving care, education, medical treatment and rehabilitation for 40 children with physical disabilities. The centre has an excellent physiotherapist who visits every day and a large room dedicated to physical therapy. The money you have raised will replace old and damaged equipment and include new items to help maximise the children's mobility e.g. parallel bars, a static bicycle, a treatment table. Also included will be a soft play area where physiotherapy exercises can be combined with play. The centre will therefore be focusing on exercises that can be transferred to family life in the village. This will not only emphasise the children's abilities, but encourage fun and



The Centre's physiotherapy room

greater participation with others. Many children also need prosthetic limbs. Those supplied by local hospitals are very basic and badly fitted often making mobility difficult and painful. Your funds will help to buy improved limbs which will give the children greater physical confidence and improve their self esteem. Your support will help to transform young lives and change attitudes towards children with disabilities in Nepal.

Thank you so much.

Fran McGowan
Nepali Children's Trust

yB

Regular Church Activities

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

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– Thursday 7:30am; Friday 8:00am, Saturday 9:30am. Eucharist Monday 6:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road; Wednesday 8:00am; Thursday Holy Communion 12:30pm; Friday 7:30am; Saturday 10:00am Evening Prayer Monday 5:45pm, Tuesday – Saturday 5:00pm

Further information available from our church websites:

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

All Saints' Services

2nd Dec: Advent Sunday, 8am: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am Morning Worship, World Church, Michael King

9th Dec: Second Sunday of Advent, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

16th Dec: Third Sunday of Advent, 10am: All Age Worship (Nativity), Revd Rachael Hawkins, 4pm: Carol Service Revd Rachael Hawkins

23rd Dec: Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

24th Dec: Christmas Eve, 4pm: Crib Service Revd Rachael Hawkins, 11.30pm:

Midnight Holy Communion Revd Rachael Hawkins

25th Dec, Christmas Day, 10am: All Age Morning Worship followed by Holy Communion, Revd Brian Tebbutt

30th Dec, First Sunday of Christmas, 10am: Morning Worship Brian Parsons

St Peter's

Cowper Society present:

Sat 8th Dec, 7.30pm: Choral Society concert

Mon 10th Dec, 8.00pm: Rejoice Greatly! Seasonal Music for Soprano & Organ

Sun 23rd Dec, 7.00pm: Chiltern Chamber Choir concert Handel Messiah

Christmas Services

2nd Dec, 6.00pm: Festival of Light

9th Dec, 6.00pm: Advent Carol Service

24th Dec, Christmas Eve, 4:00pm: Crib Service, 11:30pm: Midnight Mass

25th Dec, Christmas Day, 8:00am: Eucharist, 9:30am: Sung Eucharist

Baptisms

7th October Louisa Charlotte Rose Doyle (St Peter's)

28th October Jemima Elizabeth Brignall (St Peter's)

28th October Joseph Masson (St Peter's)

7th October Martha Grace McEachran (All Saints')

7th October Joshua William David George (All Saints')

Weddings

8th October Christopher James Rees and Samantha Jane Matthews (St Peter's)

Funerals

26th October Matthew Atkins (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'.

Hospice Santa Dash

On Sunday 9th December management and staff at Riverside in Hemel Hempstead will be joining hundreds of Santas of all ages dashing around the streets of Hemel as part of the Hospice of St Francis' 2.5 mile dash.

The annual Santa Dash helps to raise valuable funds for the Hospice, which cares for patients and their families dealing with a life-limiting illness.

Santa outfits are included in the entry fee and can be collected from the Centre Management Suite at Riverside Shopping Centre up until the morning of the race. Riverside will also be providing two hours FREE parking to all entrants who collect their Santa outfits from them as well as FREE parking on the morning of the dash.

David Robinson, Centre Manager at

Riverside commented:
'Riverside has been proud to host The Hospice of St Francis Santa

Dash for the last 5 years and this year we will be showing our support by entering a Riverside team to raise money for this worthy cause. The event is a fun family day and we hope that you can come along to Riverside and support everyone taking part'.

It's just £15 to register for adults, £5 for children, or you can enter the whole family (including the dog) for just £35. You'll then receive your Santa suit or reindeer antlers, a Santa medal and a tasty treat at the finish. Visit

www.stfrancis.org.uk to register today or



Management and Staff at Riverside – David Robinson, Richard Pope, Emma Robinson, Hannah Robinson, Shannon Ellis, Vikki Morrissey, Trina Thompson, Jane Robinson and Wayne Aird

Festival of Light

The Berkhamsted Festival of Light Committee invites you to join the town's annual festive event on Sunday 2nd December. Come along to the High Street for local music and food, and the switching on of the Christmas lights.

This year there will be a diverse range of entertainment to get us in the mood – Rock Chorus will be kicking off the proceedings and we also have Thomas Coram Middle School with their drumming Band, the Association of Berkhamsted Churches Nativity play, Berkhamsted School Big Band, Berkhamsted Strathspey Reel Club, Hemel Hempstead Brass Band and Ashlyns School Samba Band with the always popular 'Father Christmas'!

The High Street will be lined with many of our local charities and commercial stalls promoting their goods and games. The restaurants and shops will be open and there will be a host of catering outlets providing hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies, roasted chestnuts, candy floss, a hog roast and much more. The fairground rides will be up and running but just in case you need an extra prompt to attend, the Service at St Peter's following the Festival of Light promises, once again, to be just the thing to get you feeling well and truly Christmassy.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
★ **The Festival of Light is** ★
★ **from 3.30pm – 6.00pm** ★
★ **with the service at** ★
★ **St. Peter's from 6.00pm** ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



- Schedule of events:**
1pm - Closure of High Street
3.30pm - Start of Festival
3.30pm – Rock Chorus (centre of town)
3.30pm – Hemel Hempstead Brass Band (outside St Peter's church)
4pm – Strathspey Scottish Reel Club (centre of town)
4.20pm – Berkhamsted School Big Band (outside Aitchisons)
4.45pm – Thomas Coram School Band (outside St Peter's church)
4.45pm – Association of Berkhamsted Churches Nativity (outside Greggs bakers)
5.05pm – Best-dressed shop window announced
5.10pm – Blessing by Father Michael (from the stage)
5.15pm –Christmas Lights switch on
5.25pm – Father Christmas arrives with Ashlyns School Samba Band
6pm – Festival of Light service at St Peter's church
6.45pm – Road reopens **JB**

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A century in and out of Berkhamsted

Nancy Lawrenson

Local lady Nancy Lawrenson who has lived in the town since 1956 tells us of her family history and her own experiences of life in Berkhamsted. It begins 100 years ago in 1912 with the marriage of her parents. This is the first part of her story...

'Two weddings, two wars and an island or two'

Part 1

In 1912 my father Richard Vercoe married my mother Celia. His best man was Arthur Coombs who was his best friend at St. John's College, Cambridge, where they were students studying Natural Sciences. Richard (Dick) went on to University College Hospital, London to do his MB, BS. Arthur Coombs went to Berkhamsted School to teach science.

When the war broke out in 1914 my father went into the RAMC and the blood and mud of the trenches, and Major Coombs into the gunners and the Big Berthas behind the lines. My father later wrote to him that he was losing more men through trench foot and trench fever in the mud of the trenches than he could retrieve from the shell

holes on the sodden duck boards in the dark of night.

He was invalided out with 'Spanish Flu' in 1917. He did survive but barely. When he got home there was I, born on October 30th 1915 and followed by Rosemary a year and a half later in 1917. Because of his war experiences he decided to go into Public Health and became the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Chelmsford. This included the fever hospitals – scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, mumps, chicken pox (rubella) each in a separate building and only entered with a clean white coat. He also provided maternity and child welfare clinics assisted by his Sanitary Officer.

find out more in next month's instalment...

yB



Photo courtesy of Berkhamsted Local History Society cared for by Dacorum Heritage Trust

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Postcards – the text messages of the early 1900s

John Gerry



Mary has used her vast knowledge of Berkhamsted history to add intriguing slants to many of the postcards like this.

This book would make a great present for anyone interested in Berkhamsted then and now. It is available from Waterstones, Woods, Way-Inn and the

station newsstand.

ps. those in the know will be interested to see a quote from Ed Reardon on the

cover! **yB**

In today's world of instant communication it is all too easy to forget how we used to keep in touch. John Gerry takes a look at a new book by local author Mary Casserley which looks back to a time when people communicated with each other by postcard.

Until I read Mary Casserley's new book, *Postcards of Berkhamsted*. I hadn't known that there were up to five deliveries a day in the early 1900s.

Mary, with her Berkhamsted family dating back to the 19th century, has lovingly assembled hundreds of postcards, all depicting Berkhamsted scenes from c.1900 to c.1950. Adding social history to the pictorial record, she has deciphered all the messages on the postcards, building up a fascinating picture of everyday life 100 years ago in our town.

Interesting titbits abound! Did you know, for instance, that the first headmistress of the girl's school in the 1890s, a Miss Disney, had a liveried footman to carry her books from one class to the next?

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Palace Theatre Pantomime celebrates the British Music Hall – Mother Goose

Andrew Pollard

At the end of a ‘Great British’ year, the Palace Theatre, originally built as a Music Hall in 1908, will celebrate one of the nation’s favourite entertainment traditions - in its new production of *Mother Goose*.

Set in ‘Watfordia’, complete with its very own ‘Watfordia Palace Goosic Hall Theatre’, *Mother Goose* features a cast of talented theatre actors, a live onstage band, and a ballet-dancing Goose, bringing this classic pantomime to life in Vaudeville style, with a contemporary twist. Written by Andrew Pollard (*Jack and the Beanstalk* 2011), the production is directed by the Theatre’s Artistic Director, Brigid Larmour, and welcomes back local star Terence Frisch in the part of Mother Goose.

Mother Goose and Priscilla the Goose are inseparable - but will Mother Goose ever learn the timely lesson that there’s more to happiness than riches, celebrity and beauty, and more to her friend Priscilla than her ability to lay golden eggs...

Alongside Terence Frisch (*Jack and the Beanstalk* 2011), we are happy to announce the return of Donovan Blackwood (*Aladdin* 2010, *Cinderella* 2009) and Sheena Patel (*Britain’s Got Bhangra* 2011), and welcome for the first



time Philip Cox (*The Go Between* West Yorkshire Playhouse and extensive panto and musical theatre experience), Amy Drew (Guest Principal, Royal Opera House), Jill McAusland (*Jumpy*, West End), and Robert Rees, (recently nominated for a Broadway World UK Award for Ladies in Lavender).

Designer Cleo Pettitt brings her distinctive colour and sparkle to our stage for the fourth year (*Cinderella* 2009, *Aladdin* 2010, *Jack and the*

Beanstalk 2011). Joining us for panto for the first time are Lighting Designer Charlie Lucas (Von Ribbentrop’s Watch, Mummyji Presents), Musical Director Andy Ralls (Blood Brothers National Tour, Cabaret, UK Tour) and Choreographer Kate Flatt, a Creative Associate of Watford Palace Theatre (Ballroom of Joys and Sorrows, Soul Play, Songs from a Hotel Bedroom, and extensive experience in opera, ballet and West End, including original choreography for *Les Miserables*).

Listings:

7 – 29 December

Tickets: £12 - £20

Box Office: 01923 225671

www.watfordpalacetheatre.co.uk **JB**

Turkey Pie

Joanne Lloyd-Evans brings us a tasty recipe to use up the turkey!

This turkey pie is a fabulous way of using up leftovers from Christmas Day. It's so good that it's worth getting a bigger turkey just to make sure you have leftovers. This is my mother-in-law's recipe that she has kindly provided.

Every year, my father-in-law cooks a ridiculously large turkey and she finds delicious ways to use up the leftovers. The days following Christmas usually involve turkey soup, turkey curry, turkey cold cuts, and the best of all – turkey pie. The quantities should all be regarded as very approximate – just throw in what you have left from Christmas Day and feel free to improvise. These quantities serve 4- 6 adults.

Ingredients

Chilled short crust pastry (either 1 packet of ready rolled or homemade – I made mine with 130g butter and 260g flour)
500g left over turkey
250ml left over gravy
6 tablespoons bread sauce
A little left over sausage meat (I used equivalent to two sausages)
200g frozen peas
1 egg



Thinly roll out just over half of the pastry and line a greased pie dish with the pastry. A 22cm circular dish would work well. Place the cooked turkey, sausage meat and peas into the pie case, dollop the bread sauce in and spoon over the gravy. Roll out the remaining pastry to cover the pie. Lightly beat the egg with a fork and then use some egg to dampen the rim of the pastry case before placing the top layer on.

Cut some slits in the top to allow steam to escape. Brush the top with the remaining beaten egg to make it turn golden brown. Pinch the edges of the pastry with your fingers to crimp it all around. Cook for 15 minutes at 200C with fan (210C conventional) and then reduce the heat to 180C with fan (190C conventional) for a further 25-30 minutes.

JB



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Christmas Bells by **Henry Wadsworth**

**I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

**And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

**Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

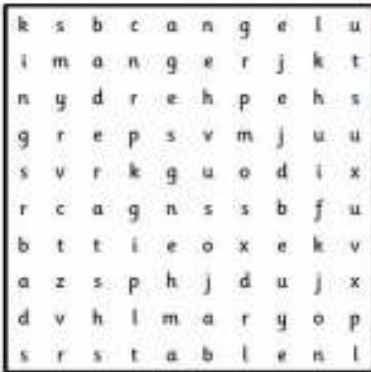
**Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The Carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!**

**And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;
'For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'**

**Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!**



Nativity Wordsearch



angel donkey Jesus Joseph
kings manger Mary
shepherd stable star



Secret Santa!

Can you guess which members of the St Peter's clergy are behind the Santa disguises? – answers upside down below:

1



2



3



4



5

We wish you a happy
and peaceful
Christmas &
New Year
from all at *Your Berk-
hamsted*

Answers: 1. Revd Penny Nash, 2. Fr Michael Bowie, 3. Fr Tom Plant, 4. Revd John Russell, 5. Richard Hackworth

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1 February 2013

1 March 2013

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