

the magazine for town and parish

March 2013

your **Berkhamsted**



Easter fun for the kids!

A local pint in the countryside

Story competition - more winners revealed!

50p

From the Editor March 2013



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

Welcome to the March 2013 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

The front cover this month is by local artist Nick Heath and is an abstract representation of buildings around the town, taken from his original pastel painting 'Berkhamsted Scenes'. Hopefully you'll enjoy spotting some of your favourite parts of our town. For more information on Nick's work please see the details at the bottom of the page.

Now that we're in March spring should be on its way which hopefully means the last of the snow. However, if you just can't get enough of the white stuff, Matt Dawson, our regular sports writer, takes to the slopes of Hemel Hempstead this month with a visit to The Snow Centre.

We announce more winners in the children's short story competition and there is also an easy Easter recipe for our younger readers to try. There is plenty of local history to discover in our regular article plus details of some forthcoming events from the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society. Finally, if you like sampling your local fare then you'll enjoy reading about what John Gerry got up to on a leisurely afternoon in a local brewery – all in the interests of research I'm told....

Helen Dowley, Editor

We welcome contributions, suggestions for articles and news items, and readers' letters.

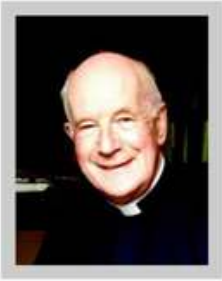
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Credits: *Front Cover - from the original pastel painting 'Berkhamsted Scenes' by local artist Nick Heath 07880 570447 who specialises in landscapes and abstracts of local scenes. Reproducing or copying of this image without consent is unlawful.*

Your Berkhamsted Leader by Canon Anthony Lathe



This is an important month. Towards the end we enter Passiontide (suffering time) and Holy Week. Then, on the very last day this year, it is Easter. Easter

should come as a surprise, but it never does. The trouble is we know the whole story already. It is a bit like reading a book when you know the ending. It is impossible to enter into the story properly, if you know it all turns out alright in the end.

This is a pity because sadness is sadness, despair is despair. If you are in one of these then no amount of people telling you it will be alright in the end is much comfort. Nor is it much help when someone says, “I know how you feel.” They do not, they cannot. Every person’s experience is unique.

The Christian story is important because it takes suffering seriously and, far from denying it, embraces it. It affirms that God enters into the darkest and most hopeless parts of living.

So what do we do in Holy Week? Well, I reckon all we can do is listen and watch. Try to forget Easter for a time to enter into the experience of Jesus, his family and friends. I really hate that line in an otherwise beautiful hymn, “Gladly he to suffering goes”. The one who cried out, “My God, my God why have you forsaken me” was no happy bunny. The

suffering was real. No doubt without thinking so at the time, and with great difficulty Jesus, his family and friends managed it.

Perhaps, looking back, we can see how we have managed our own experiences of suffering. At the time it will not have felt like it, maybe it does not feel like it now. But waiting, watching, hoping, praying, with patience and actively looking for assistance are the beginnings of managing. The story reminds us that Jesus had help in carrying the cross. The cheap wine he was offered helped to dull the pain.

Learning from the Christian story that God is involved is for some of us a help. The pain remains real, the sadness and despair are still there, we may see no way out, but we are not alone.

The Church has always been the place to be when you are down. As soon as you come in you are confronted by a symbol of suffering - the Cross. This is your place. Here you can hear the story, enter into Holy Week. Here you can glimpse the possibility of Easter even if it is going to be on the very last day.

Most of us are like the soldiers of the Grand old Duke of York. Sometimes we are up and sometimes we are down, most of the time we are neither up nor down. So, come Easter, we find Church is also the place to be when you are up. Here we can celebrate the whole of life with its ups and downs and give thanks for it. Happy Easter - when it comes!

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Around the town

Call for artists!

Herts Visual Arts invite artists to take part in Herts Open Studios 2013 – the biggest annual art event in Hertfordshire – 7th to 29th September. The application period is now open (closing date is 31st March). Take a look at www.hvaf.org.uk/open-studios to apply and find out more, or contact the HVA Open Studios Project Manager on 07813 100651 or openstudios@hvaf.org.uk.

How well do you know the history of your historic town?

Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society can help you learn more with the following events:

‘A Walk Back in Time’ Six guided tours of the Castle and the historic town centre have been arranged under the auspices of the Chiltern Conservation Board. Tours start at the Castle and last 2 ½ hours approx. Cost £3 adults, £1.50 children. Sundays 14th April, 12th May, 16th June, 21st July, 22nd September and 20th October.

The visitor room at Berkhamsted Castle will be open for the Easter weekend (not Good Friday) from 10am – 6pm. It opens for the summer season on Saturday 4th May and every weekend on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until Sunday 29th September. Admission free. The Castle grounds are open daily throughout the year except Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. In the winter the Castle closes at 4pm.

Berkhamsted’s Hidden History: This year’s Heritage Open Days run from Thursday 12th – Sunday 15th September inclusive. Details are not yet finalised but make a note in your diary now. All bookings and enquiries to Jenny Sherwood tel: 01442 865158 or email KSherw9100@aol.com.

OXFAM Spring Children’s Wear Event Friday 22nd March, Berkhamsted Civic Centre, 9am – 11.30am

Families whose budgets are under pressure will find a splendid selection of clothes, toys and games. Nicky Evans and her team are not only working to help local families but also desperately needy people across the world.

...And don’t forget your Red Noses for Friday 15th March, available at both Oxfam shops in town.

Events presented by the Cowper Society, St Peter’s Church or the Court House, Berkhamsted

Sat 2nd March, 7.30pm: CONCERT, St Peter’s Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia, Elgar ‘Overture: Froissart’; Britten ‘Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings Op 31’, Jeremy Budd, tenor, Nicholas Korth, horn; Vaughan Williams ‘Symphony No 5’. Tickets: £15, U18s free from Aitchisons or www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk

Mon 4th March, 8.00pm: ORGAN RECITAL, St Peter’s Church – Gavin Roberts, St Marylebone Parish Church, London. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

Wed 13th March, 8.00pm: WINTER TALK in the Court House – Margaret Noakes ‘The Black Poplars of the Vale of Aylesbury’. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

Sun 24th March, 7.30pm: CONCERT, St Peter’s Church – Chiltern Chamber Choir. JS Bach ‘Christ Lag in Todesbanden, Poulenc ‘Stabat Mater’ with players from Bridgewater Sinfonietta. Tickets: £15/£13, U18s free from Cole Flatt & Ptnrs, 124 High Street, Berkhamsted.

Mon 25th March, 6.45pm: ORGAN RECITAL, St Peter’s Church – Katrina Faranda Bellofiglio, Pembroke College, Cambridge. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

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Read all about us!

This month Julian Dawson discovers Berkhamsted's connections with the Wars of the Roses, California and New South Wales...

A Berkhamsted Street property is on the market for \$1,458,888 on a Cerritos Patch real estate website. *The house features granite surfaces, stainless steel appliances, walk-in closets, a fish pond in the backyard and more.* What more could you want, a mere snip at that price too. Did I mention it was in California near Long Beach? Our town has many international disguises. Let me know if any of you secure a viewing and let me know if the water is warm.

Talking of water, but of the less saline kind, the *Hemel Hempstead* gazette reports on the overflowing of the Grand Union canal near Waitrose. At first this was thought to be the result of vandals, but it turned out it was an inept boater who had left the paddles open on one of the locks. Let that be a warning to you. If the residual water at the Canalfields car park was anything to go by, it appeared a minor tsunami had swept through.

UK Business Property report that London Metric's new Marks and Spencer site will have started work by the time this piece has been published. One more step closer to retail food nirvana. Slowly slowly catchee monkey. The project will be complete by the end of 2014.

Many of you will be aware that Ashridge has become the location of choice for movies and TV dramas alike. But Ashlyns School is increasingly becoming an attractive film shoot location in its own right. It made its name initially as the location for *Son of Rambow*. And now a pop video has been filmed there with the same actor. Promo News reports that the video's director "managed to find

Ashlyn's school; which was opposite the house that I grew up in. When driving back we joked how it'd be funny if we were able to get the kid from *Son of Rambow* (Bill Milner) to be our main protagonist." And remarkably enough he turned out to be available. The music is performed by Tame Impala with a track called 'Mind Mischief'. But if you fancy rather more local musical fare, check out Comrade Cycle's new release on Soundcloud.com. These days it is easy to make your homemade music available to the whole world. As Gangnam Style proved so eloquently. Well, perhaps that isn't quite the right word.

One year on I must mention BURP. Do excuse me. 2nd March marks the second Berkhamsted Ukulele festival. An all day affair held at the Civil Centre in aid of UNICEF. And for newcomers, plenty of ukuleles are available to borrow apparently.

Richard III has been of topical interest recently. But have you heard of the Richard III Society of NSW? They have a fine website, and one of their members described a visit to Berkhamsted where the mother of Richard III, Cecily Neville duchess of York, had resided for a long period. I reckon that gives us as good a shout as any for being the burial place of the newly discovered monarchical body.

yB

Berkhamsted to Japan, via Afghanistan, by penny-farthing

During the 19th century, seven people tried to become the first to cycle across America. Amid mountain lions, desert hardships and attacks by Native Americans, all failed in the attempt – leaving it to Thomas Stevens from Berkhamsted to give it a whirl in 1884. When Stevens breathlessly rolled into Boston, 3,700 gruelling miles later, you might be forgiven for thinking he would be happy to bask in the glory at the end of his historic journey, and maybe gently head back west – by horse. But his achievement was to become only the first leg of an epic story that would take him not west but into the East, along the way transforming him into one of the most successful adventurers of his day. Born in Castle Street on Christmas Eve 1854, Stevens went to the Bourne Charity School, then became an apprentice grocer. When he was 14, his father, William, emigrated to Missouri, intending to bring his family out later, but returned after three years when his wife Ann fell ill. Thomas – better known as Tom – went to the States with a half-brother in 1871, his family following him two years later, and together they settled in San Francisco. According to an 1887 account published in the American sporting magazine *Outing*, “our hero stands 5ft. 6in, he is built like a compressed giant, bears the stamp of personal courage and chivalrous enthusiasm upon his handsome features and, whether you call him Briton or Yankee, reflects honour upon the Anglo-Saxon stock, of which he is a magnificent type.” In San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park, Tom learned to ride a black-enamelled, Columbia 50-inch ‘Standard’

penny-farthing with nickel-plated wheels, built by the Pope Manufacturing Company of Chicago.

Packing spare socks, a shirt, a raincoat that doubled as a tent and bedroll, and a pocket revolver, into a small bag secured to his handlebars, Stevens left San Francisco on 22 April 1884. Wearing an oversized blue flannel shirt over blue overalls, which were tucked into a pair of leggings at the knee, and sporting a thick moustache, Stevens pushed his bicycle over the Sierra Nevada mountains before tackling Nevada’s infamous desert, a barren wasteland so scorched that wagon trains heading west crossed it at night. Outside Elko, Nevada, Stevens chased away an approaching mountain lion, and in Nebraska a rattlesnake bit him on the leg, its fangs sinking harmlessly into his thick canvas gaiters. When crossing a river via a narrow railway bridge, an oncoming train forced him to crouch on the end of one of the sleepers protruding from the side of the track, gripping his bicycle as it dangled over the river.

Rolling into Boston on August 4, he made his way to the bay, to “whisper to the wild waves of the sounding Atlantic what the sad waves of the Pacific were saying when I left there, just one hundred and three and a half days ago.” While in New York, Tom serialised his adventures for *Outing*, which was owned at the time by Colonel Albert Pope, owner of the Pope Manufacturing Company. When Stevens expressed an interest in continuing his journey, Pope agreed to fund him in return for publicity-generating news from exotic spots around the world.

In April 1885, Stevens sailed for

Liverpool. Travelling south – via Berkhamsted – to France, he followed a route that took him through Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria before crossing into the Ottoman Empire, where large crowds frequently demanded a cycling demonstration. “I spread myself upon my mat tonight thoroughly convinced that a month’s cycling among the Turks would worry most people into premature graves,” he wrote. With 68 dollars in Turkish currency sewn into his trousers, Stevens fought off thieves as he rode towards the Russian border, only to discover that the Russians would not let him enter the country. His only option was to cross Afghanistan, a dangerous land he had been warned to avoid.

Arrested on suspicion of being a spy, he was deported to Persia and had no choice but to return to Constantinople (by train) from where he took a steamer to India. Passing the Taj Mahal, Stevens sailed from Calcutta for China, the most isolating part of his journey due to hostile crowds. Emerging at Shanghai, he took a steamer to Japan where the good roads and friendly population made the troubles of China seem a distant memory. Finally, on December 17, 1886, having ridden roughly 13,500 miles, Stevens rolled into the eastern port of Yokohama, from where he sailed back to San Francisco Bay and into the history books. His articles for *Outing* were assembled into a two-volume book, copies of

which today sell at \$400. Stevens later settled in London, where he died in 1935. The first person to cycle around the world, Tom Stevens gave many lectures about his travels and later completed subsequent adventures in Africa, Russia and India – though these, as they say, are another story.

I am grateful to researcher Geoff Koss, whose article on Stevens is available at: https://www.adventurecycling.org/resources/201005_TheFearlessTraveler_Koss.pdf.

Dan Parry

JB

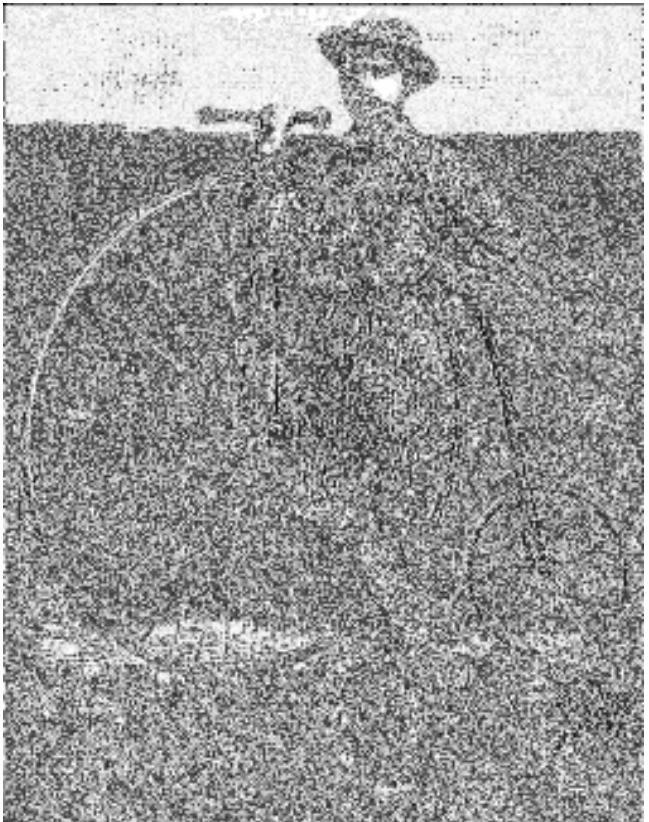


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Hemel Snow Centre

Matt Dawson takes to the local slopes



The Snow Centre (TSC) in Hemel Hempstead is one of the best facilities in the local area and offers a whole host of activities and equipment in order for

you to improve your skills on the slopes. I caught up with a member of the parish, Rachel Hill, who works there. She told me all about what goes on and what her role is, describing it as “an indoor centre with real snow where people can enjoy snow sports. People come to learn to ski and snowboard, as well as to enjoy recreational skiing and snowboarding.”

1) How long have you worked at TSC?

“I started when we opened in May 2009. Prior to that I worked on the dry slope that was on the same site.”

2) What is your job, and what role does that play within TSC?

“I am a part-time ski instructor. I teach people who are complete beginners through to helping people who can already refine their technique. My role is not just to teach people to ski, it is often about helping people build or regain confidence on skis, and most of all it is about helping people to enjoy snow sports.”

3) What facilities are available at the snow centre?

“TSC has real snow! It typically snows 5 times per week. It has a 160m long main slope, and 100m wide trainer slope. The gradient is approximately 15 degrees at the top and 10 degrees towards the bottom. “TSC offers ski and snowboard lessons and coaching sessions (skiing and boarding equipment is provided). There is a freestyle night on a Friday and junior freestyle session on a Thursday. People can ski and board on a recreational basis every day. In addition, people can come to enjoy sledging

and ringos. There are rooms to hire for corporate events and birthday parties. There is a cafe bar which overlooks the slope which serves drinks and food.”

4) What age range of people do you get coming?

“Age three upwards. From my personal experience, I have taught people from age 3 to about 70 (grandparents who have wanted to learn to ski so that they can enjoy the sport with their grandchildren!) People come to the slope for different reasons: families getting ready to go on holiday; people learning for fun; school groups; corporate functions; birthday parties.”

5) Are there specific activities for different age groups?

“Skiing is from age 3 upwards and snowboarding is from age 7 upwards. For beginners, lessons can be arranged on a private, one to one basis, or as a group lesson. For the group lessons, there are fewer numbers for the younger age groups. Sledging and ringos is from age 3 upwards.”

6) What is the temperature inside the snow centre?

“It varies between minus 2 and minus 6. The temperature drops during the day so that it gets cold enough for it to snow at night!”

7) What are the benefits of membership?

30% discount on lift passes and group lessons, 15% discount on private lessons, half price conference room hire, free 1 hour birthday recreational lift pass plus bring a friend for a 30% discount within two weeks of your birthday. Ski Club of Great Britain membership discount, 15 months for the price of 12, and exclusive membership offers throughout the year. **JB** 11

And the winners are...!



In the last issue we announced the winners of the Years 7 and 8 category in our short story competition that we ran for Berkhamsted schoolchildren back in November last year. This month we reveal the winners of the years 5 and 6 category who were also asked to write a story entitled "The Choice". The prize for each winner is a £20 book token and a choice of any book by local author Sue Hampton.

Congratulations go to...

Year 5 winner:

Olivia Stroud, Bridgewater School

Year 6 winner:

Ben Howell, Berkhamsted School

Thank you to all the children who submitted their stories to the competition – we hope you had as much fun writing them as we did reading them. Hopefully we will run the competition again next year.

We hope you enjoy reading the two winning entries

Winner, Year 5:

The Choice by Olivia Stroud

Silence. The wind brushed against Charlotte's face as she told the mysterious tale, of how the boy had disappeared. "It was said that he was dared to go through the old, abandoned warehouse. Dared by his mates, but when they waited and waited, he never returned."

Charlotte LOVED mysteries, especially ones that were unsolved – her dream was to solve a mystery which had remained locked for long, dusty years. She decided to make this the mystery that would change her life.

Charlotte had a crooked short nose and wore a knitted scarf. Her eyes were navy and her hair blond. As she chewed the end of her pencil, she really began to think about the gadgets and gizmos she would need to be a solver, and if she was up to the job. She bent down and checked to see if she had all the tools that were needed in her bag. "Torch...check!...Mobile phone...check! And most of all, my night vision goggles...check!"

She stood in the shadow of the old warehouse and tried to take in her surroundings. She reached out and tried the door but it was too stiff to open. With all her might, she tugged at the door, which finally gave way. She found herself standing in a dark room complete with cobwebs. It was clear; nobody had set foot in it for many years.

Gradually her eyes adjusted to the darkness. She found herself staring at two doors. One appeared to be painted with flowers and had a pink glow coming from the inside. In contrast, door number two was black and felt evil. Charlotte paused. "Why are there two completely different doors?" She thought. "Maybe it's a trick." She turned away from the safest one and crept through the black, uninviting door. In the distance she could make out a figure of a boy who seemed to be asleep. Charlotte slipped on her night vision goggles and studied the boy in detail. He had long, dirty-looking hair. His clothes were old, shabby and ripped. She felt frightened, but it was too curious

to leave. Should she wake him, is the question? Charlotte reminded herself that she was here to solve the mystery of the missing boy. And now, here she was, standing in a room with a boy who could be the answer!

She edged over and gently touched him on the shoulder. He opened his eyes and turned to face her. Then out came: "Thank you young girl!" He began. "You have freed my spirit from the tale of the warehouse! I can't tell you how much this means to me. From now on, you will be a true hero".

She helped him to his feet and they made their way towards the door. "I don't suppose you have a phone do you." He asked. "Of course, my phone!" She exclaimed. "Why didn't I think of that!" Charlotte lent him her phone and he dialled his family.

That was three weeks ago. Since then, my tale has been told around the world and I am recognised wherever I go. I never knew that a mere 20 minutes, could change my life in such a way. But that was just the beginning!

Winner, Year 6:

The Choice by Ben Howell

The thunder roared, and the lightning lashed, angrily at the roof of the house. Sheets of rain, hammered the windows relentlessly, and the night sky was as black as a crow. The clock struck three. Then, suddenly, I heard a noise inside the house; a door being opened. And slammed shut. I couldn't think for the life of me, think what the noise was. I looked out of my bedroom window, and saw a black silhouette scuttling across the garden. I couldn't make out who it was.

The next morning, I walked downstairs to breakfast, to the sound of the radio. "The news today" they said. "A murder was committed in Sussex". We live in Sussex I thought. As the news continued, I heard that the murder had happened at the end of our lane. "The police think, by the state of the body, that the murder was committed between 2 and 4 in the morning." I began to feel extremely worried. If a murder had been committed near us, perhaps we would be next. My mind began to think quickly, and the cogs in my brain began to whirr. Then, the pieces of the jigsaw, slowly slid into their places. I realised. Someone leaving the house; the murder. The murderer was someone in my family.

I couldn't tell my family, because if one of them was the murderer, they would get very angry. I couldn't tell the police, because I didn't have any evidence. So I had to investigate myself. I asked around the neighbourhood, I tried to remember more, but I got nowhere. It was hopeless. I might as well, put it out of my life. But I couldn't sleep, when evening came. A shadow passed my doorway. I recognised it. The silhouette from the night before. I called out, and my Brother answered back.

I was now faced with a choice. A life-changing choice. Should I tell the police? Should I keep it to myself? How on Earth, could I make such a decision? I said almost nothing for the next few days. They were the longest days of my life. But I soon saw, what was happening. By not deciding, I was choosing not to tell. So I made up my mind. I would tell the police.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

“Good morning young sir,” greeted the Sergeant, as I entered the Police Station. “My Brother committed the murder!” I blurted out. “Please hold him here until he is given a trial!”

“Oooooohhhh-kay,” said the Policeman, shocked. So my brother was held at the Police Station, and I felt much more safe, now that there wasn’t a murderer in the house.

Over the next few weeks, the sun shone as bright as a summer butterfly, and the sky was as blue as sapphire. I felt proud, that I had made the right decision. But then, there came a dark week, like no other. The wind howled, and the sky was dark.

Thick clouds shrouded the Earth, in a constant mist that never parted. My world had transformed. From happy. To mysterious. One evening, it was darker and colder than ever. I was walking home from school, when I turned into an alley. A figure was walking towards me. I was shocked. I was horrified. I was baffled. It was my Brother. My murderer Brother. I tried to run, but I couldn’t. I tried to scream, but I couldn’t. I had made my choice. And now it was my Brother’s turn, to make his.

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The Hospice of St Francis – Hospice News

We are delighted to announce that we will be opening our final two beds this spring thanks to the generosity of supporters who remembered The Hospice in their wills. The provision of new beds was at the top of the list in a recent survey we undertook asking supporters what they'd like to see at The Hospice. We also hope to widen our current services for people with illnesses other than cancer. The new beds will cost £174,000 annually to keep open but we still need to raise £3.7 million each year to run our existing services and become self-sufficient when the legacy money runs out. There are many ways local people can help us to achieve our financial goals, such as holding their own fundraising event or coffee morning, participating in one of the sponsored events or volunteering for us.

Volunteers Wanted

The Hospice of Francis now has a new centralised distribution centre adjacent to its Returned to Glory shop on Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted. This means that all donations to The Hospice will be sorted there and then distributed amongst our eight charity shops.

To help us manage this change we are looking for new retail volunteers to start after Easter. The roles available include product sorters, drivers and porters to manage deliveries between shops and individuals with an expert knowledge of collectables, china, pottery and art. Those joining the team would be expected to join a rota with a minimum four hour monthly commitment anytime Monday to Saturday, 8-6pm.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact, Helena Hodges, Voluntary Services Manager on

01442 869550 or visit <http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/work-with-us/volunteer-opportunities>.

Forthcoming Events for your Diaries: Returned to Glory Designer Fabric Sample Sale

Week-long designer fabric sample sale starting with a preview evening on 7th March, 5pm-7pm, with a complimentary glass of fizz, at the Northbridge Road showroom. Huge selection of beautiful designer fabrics from Sanderson, with prices from as little as £5.

Returned to Glory: 01442 874356.

Trek Vietnam Information Evening:

Wednesday 13 March 2013, 6:45pm at The Hospice (Spring Garden Lane, Berkhamsted, HP4 3GW) to provide details about this fundraising challenge taking place in April 2014. The Trek offers new adventures through the scenic countryside of Vietnam plus the chance to experience vibrant city of Hanoi. There will also be a community project included to help improve the lives of local people. The Information Evening will give full details of the 11 day trip plus address practical matters like what to take, recommended fitness levels, health advice and visa requirements. **JB**



Scot's Theme for Petertide Quiz

The tartan was out in force for a highly successful Burns Night Quiz, run as part of this year's Petertide Fair fund raising efforts for *Home-Start Dacorum* and *Maji Mazuri* in Kenya. Each round name cleverly drew on quotes from the Ayrshire bard, and the questions lulled the teams of eight into a false sense of security before nicely throwing the teams into high dudgeon with a killer query that caused much argument within each team. A closely fought contest was eventually won by the aptly named *Oct Aye the Noo*, who can be seen celebrating their win with a few pitch invaders. The final total is yet to be confirmed, but a likely £400 was raised.

Thank you to Steve and Hannah Birch for running the show, and to Majestic Wine for generously donating the prizes.

JB



All Saints' get messy!

All Saints' is about to become a Messy Church! On Sunday 17th March at 4 pm the premises will be transformed into a new style of family-friendly worship and activities.

After a brief welcome and introduction to the theme, young and old will discover various themed craft activities at tables around the church. Perhaps you could be making a paper aeroplane, creating a pyramid from cocktail sticks and peas, rolling marbles in paint or decorating biscuits. After about an hour the focus changes to worship and celebration as we come together for about 15 minutes to hear a Bible story, pray and sing some songs, while also sharing what we have created. The time together concludes with a simple meal, eaten together, provided for all who have come along; an opportunity to continue the conversations begun over the activities. Messy church is

about creativity, welcome, worship, time together and fun for all ages.

Messy Church offers a different time, a different style and a distinct and practical way for all ages to worship together. Since its beginnings in a church in Portsmouth, Messy Church has gone global - there are over 1,500 across the globe and in the Anglican Diocese of St Albans the numbers are growing every week.

All Saints' extends a very warm welcome to anyone who would be interested in participating in this new initiative. Do join us!

Traditional worship will not be neglected as there will be a Service of Wholeness and Healing on Sunday 24th March at 4pm as well as Sunday morning worship at 10am and special services for Holy Week.

JB

Regular Church Activities

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

March

3rd, 10am: Third Sunday of Lent, Morning Worship with Holy Baptism, Revd. Rachael Hawkins and Penny O'Neill

10th, 10am: Mothering Sunday, All Age Holy Communion, Revd. Rachael Hawkins and Tracy Robinson

17th, 10am: Fifth Sunday of Lent, Morning Worship, Jenny Wells,
4pm: Messy Church, Revd. Rachael Hawkins and others

Holy Week

24th, 10am: Palm Sunday, Holy Communion, Revd. John Kirkby

4pm: Healing Service, Revd. Rachael Hawkins, Tracy Robinson, Jenny Wells, and Audrey Cox

25th, 8pm: Monday of Holy Week, Meditative Worship, Tracy Robinson

26th, 8pm: Tuesday of Holy Week, Service for Holy Week (Friendship Club)

27th, 8pm: Wednesday of Holy Week, Meditative Worship, Ruth Treves Brown

28th, 7pm: Maundy Thursday, Meal with Holy Communion followed by Vigil until midnight Revd. Rachael Hawkins

29th, 11am: Good Friday, Service for Good Friday, Revd. Brian Tibbett

31st, 10am: Easter Day, All Age Holy Communion, Revd. Rachael Hawkins,

St Peter's Services

Services

Sunday 10th March 9:30am Mothering Sunday Family Eucharist, 6:00pm Choral Evensong

Holy Week:

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday (Beginning in the churchyard)

8:00 am Eucharist

9:30am Procession and Sung Eucharist with Sung Passion Gospel

6:00pm Evening Prayer

7:00pm Chiltern Chamber Choir Palm Sunday Concert

25th March Monday in Holy Week

6:45pm Organ Recital – Katarina Farando Bellafiglio

8:00pm Address – Bishop Jack

8:30pm Holy Eucharist

26th March Tuesday in Holy Week

7:30pm Address – Bishop Jack

8:00pm Holy Eucharist

27th March Wednesday in Holy Week

8.00am Holy Eucharist

7.30pm Address – Bishop Jack

8:00pm Tenebrae

28th March Maundy Thursday, Bishop Jack

8:00pm Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper, followed by vigil.

29th March Good Friday, Bishop Jack

12 noon Foot of the cross – A service of addresses and meditations on the Passion

3:00pm Liturgy of Good Friday.

30th March Easter Eve, Bishop Jack

9:00pm The Easter Vigil Eucharist with Christian Initiation

31st March Easter Day, Bishop Jack

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30am Sung Eucharist

6:00pm Choral Evensong

Tues 12 March, 12 noon: Christian Aid Lent Lunch in the Court House (till 1:30pm)

Tues 19th March, 7pm: PCC meeting in the Court House

Cowper Society present:

Sat 22nd March, 7.30pm: Bridgewater Sinfonia concert

Mon 4th March, 8.00pm: Organ Recital: Gavin Roberts – St Marylebone Parish Church, London

Wed 13th March, 8pm: Cowper Society Winter Talk IV ‘The Black Poplars of the Vale of Aylesbury’

Sun 24th March, 7.30pm: Chiltern Chamber Choir concert

Mon 25th March 6.45pm: Organ Recital: Katrina Faranda Bellofiglio – Pembroke College, Cambridge

Baptisms

20 January – Nathan Simon Whale (All Saints')

27th January – Clemence Alice Courtney (St Peter's), Arthur Oliver Courtney (St Peter's), Elina Hannah Lopez (St Peter's), Daisy Amelia Lopez (St Peter's), Jack Robert Harris (St Peter's)

Funerals

24 January – John Gordon Ponsonby (All Saints')

31 January – Emma Frances England (All Saints')

9th January – Pearl Phinella Marsh (St Peter's)

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The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints'.

St Peter's Church – What lies beneath?

Christopher Green finds out what's really lurking below the church

Many people have written about St Peter's church, and in the past one of the main aims of antiquarian writers was to record the names and lineage of those who had been buried there. In St Peter's the monuments of the great and good of Victorian Berkhamsted are well represented – the Smiths, the Dorriens and the Pechells among them – but from earlier centuries not so much remains. We have chiefly to blame Jeffry Wyatt for that. When he restored the church in the 1820s, he swept away many of the ancient monuments and we only know of their existence from earlier histories. Two monuments that survived Wyatt's re-ordering of the church are the memorial to Thomas Baldwin, now on the south aisle wall towards the west end, and the memorial to Elizabeth Craddock on the east wall of the south transept. As a result of a recent discovery in St Peter's and the research that it inspired, we now have a much better understanding of the significance of these monuments and their place in the history of the church.



Elizabeth Craddock's monument in St Peter's. She was probably the granddaughter of Francis Wethered, Controller of Works to Charles II, and was the last Wethered to live at Ashlyns

discovery there of death watch beetle, some of the floor boards were lifted and beneath the floor, the top of a previously unrecorded burial vault was exposed near the south end of the transept. The introduction of a camera through a small hole in the brickwork of the vault made possible a series of photographs of its interior. There we can see the remains of many lead-lined coffins of both adults and children, and even a few laurel leaves from the wreaths that once adorned them.

In earlier accounts of St Peter's there is mention of burial vaults. Robert Brabant, Rector between 1662 and 1722, transformed the

medieval charnel house beneath St Catherine's Chapel into a burial vault for his family; and on the sill of one of the windows in the Lady Chapel is a brass plaque recording the grant of Faculty in 1782 permitting John Dorrien to form a burial vault for the Dorrien family beneath the Lady Chapel – but there is no mention of a vault beneath the south transept. So whose vault is this and who is buried in it?

When the floor of the south transept was being treated last year following the

(Continued on page 23)

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(Continued from page 21)

The first clue is in the inscription on the monument nearest to the vault – the memorial to Elizabeth Craddock who died in 1703. From the inscription we learn that she was 'descended from the Wethereds of Ashlins in this Parish' and that she is buried 'near this place'. Her will, recently traced by Michael Anderson, provides us with further details, showing that she was the last of the Wethereds, that she wished to be buried in the vault 'wherein my ancestors lie' and that the vault should not 'at any time be opened after my funeral for the burial of any other person'. The evidence seems clear. What has come to light beneath the floor of the south transept is the burial vault of the Wethered family.



The Wethered vault, with steps giving access at the west end, and the remains of coffins. Building rubble shows that the vault has been broken into since the last burial there in the early 18th century.

The earliest burial in the vault that can be established with confidence is that of Agnes Wethered, buried in 1623. She had been married to John Baldwin of Watford and was the mother of the Thomas Baldwin whose memorial is in St Peter's. When her first husband died, Agnes married Francis Wethered of Ashlins, probably the father of Francis Wethered who was Controller of Works to Charles II, alderman of Berkhamsted and a benefactor of St Peter's. Thomas Baldwin, went to school in Berkhamsted, and declares in his will made in 1639, that the 'south chapel' of St Peters *where his mother was interred* had been granted to

him by the parishioners as a burial place for himself and his kinsmen. So we can be reasonably confident that when Thomas Baldwin died in 1641, he was buried alongside his mother in the Wethered family vault. In his will Thomas gave detailed directions about where his monument should be placed in St Peter's, close to his place of burial and not where we see it today in the south aisle. More about Thomas Baldwin's monument and about the Wethered family in *Your Berkhamsted* next month. **JB**

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A pint in the countryside

John Gerry samples the local brew

What do Mr. Squirrel, Redwood, Legally Blonde and Royal Rumble have in common?

Where would you expect to meet Jack Black? Where does a German mathematician and pro-footballer turn into a Master Brewer?

The answer lies in the middle of the Hertfordshire countryside at Potten End, where our nearest microbrewery, Red Squirrel, produces up to 200 barrels a day of individual and interesting beers. Your correspondent has to confess that he didn't need much arm-twisting to accept this assignment!

Microbreweries evolved in the 80's in response to demand for more varied and individual tastes than provided by the big brewers. There are now over 1,000 of them, and Red Squirrel proudly claims to have won more awards than most for its products. Its London Porter has just won 1st prize in the Beer of Herts competition for the second year running and came third in the national CAMRA festival at St. Albans.

I asked Greg Blesson, one of the co-owners and a local boy, what differentiated the Red Squirrel product from its competitors. He defined three factors that give improved flavour and body.

One of the major challenges facing brewers is to reduce the temperature of the beer from 100C down to 17C as quickly as possible, and Red Squirrel have

developed their own custom-built kit to expedite this.

A second challenge is to remove all the additives and use only natural products. This makes the brewer's job harder by cutting the tolerance levels, but results in a superior drink.

Finally, it is strict company policy never to allow beer out before it has completed 5 to 7 days conditioning. This allows the molecules time to 'knit' together and provides the natural 'fizz' or life that a good pint should have.

After a moment's thought Greg added a fourth and overriding factor – the skill of the brewer. Red Squirrel's brewer, a Berliner called Detlef, is an interesting character. He has degrees in English and Maths, was a university lecturer and started out as a professional footballer. He allies that intellect and individuality to an innate German 'feel' for beer to produce a fascinating, tasty and varied range.

(Continued on page 27)





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(Continued from page 25)

What should you try as a first test of the Red Squirrel product? Whilst it obviously depends on individual taste, Greg suggests the following:

Hopfest, a light golden ale at 3.8%, using New Zealand hops to deliver a full-bodied, full-flavoured drink with floral/citrus aromas. Great for session drinking!

Redwood, an American IPA at 5.4%, golden orange in colour with complex hoppy aromas. This is a tasty mouthful and is a CAMRA gold medal winner.

London Porter, 5% and a dark brown/black colour. Full-bodied with liquorice and chocolatey flavours finished off with a great creaminess. Another medal winner!

Jack Black, 4.8%, a new black IPA to be launched this month and expected to be very popular.

On a more personal note, your correspondent (not normally a big lager drinker) was persuaded to try Mr. Squirrel, a black lager, launched only in January this year.

Although sampled with some trepidation, it is a super drink. Very much the bitter drinker's lager!

So, where in Berkhamsted can you find these remarkable local beers.

Regretfully, whilst Red

Squirrel is well distributed throughout the South East, the tied nature of many local pubs (and because Tring Brewery were here first!)

means that it is not widely available locally. Try the Lamb and the Rising Sun or take a short trip to Martin's Pond in Potten End. If all else fails, nag your favourite local to take a Red Squirrel guest beer for you to try.

As a final note, from the end of February, Red Squirrel will be hosting evening brewery tours for small groups. These take place from 7.15pm to 10pm and include high quality gastro food to accompany the company's products. From all accounts this makes for a good value fun evening

Berkhamsted has much to offer its residents and I think we can be very pleased to have two such successful small breweries on our doorstep as Tring and

Red Squirrel. **yB**



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With spring just around the corner why not enjoy the local outdoors?

The 45th Berkhamsted Walk

The Children's Society's Committee is celebrating this special anniversary on Sunday May 12th this year with some brand new changes to the routes taken by all three walks. Come and join us to see what surprises may be in store!

The 18 mile Challenge and the 12 mile Bluebell routes start at the Court House from 10am to 11.30am. The 6 mile Fun Walk begins at Ashridge College (free parking is provided) registering any time between 11am and 2pm. We hope to have some added excitement for the children on this route.

Come to enjoy spring time and bluebells in the beech woods



and help us to raise loads of money for children in this country who have no chance to experience such delights themselves.

Visit our website

www.berkhamstedwalk.com to find out full details of the event, and to register on line in advance. For any queries, please phone Ann Browning on 01442 864968.

Cycling 'Electric style'

With more bus routes being affected by cuts and the cost of driving getting more expensive, your mobility within your local community may be becoming more difficult. To boost your mobility, reduce your travel costs and improve your health,

have you ever thought about trying an electric bike? Whether you're 14 or 90, the electric bike is a safe and ideal way of visiting friends and family, commuting to work, going to the shops or just pleasure cycling in the Hertfordshire countryside. If you've cycled in the past and feel you want to experience cycling again, the electric bike will give you new confidence and energy. The powerful electric motor gives you the extra drive to climb any hill, allowing you to go anywhere you want in comfort. With over 30 pubs, tearooms and restaurants throughout Dacorum having joined the Dacorum Electric Bike Network, this offers you free electric bike charging points ensuring you'll never get stranded during your cycle ride.

Cycling is great at promoting a healthy lifestyle and giving you well being. The National Trust at Ashridge welcomes cyclists at their estate, so you can enjoy beautiful views and scenery from your saddle. You can ride along the Grand Union canal from Watford to Marsworth, stopping at The Boat in Berkhamsted or the Bluebell Tearooms in Marsworth for food and refreshment, whilst charging your bike's battery.

Under UK law, an electric bike is classified as a conventional bicycle. Cycling is permitted with restriction on cycle tracks and other legal cycle areas – as long as you are over 14 years old. Electric cycling is a great way to reduce your travel costs, has no road tax, low insurance and easy to park.

For more information about the Dacorum Electric Bike Network please visit

www.zipmap.co.uk. **yB**

Simple mid-week mussels

Joanne Lloyd-Evans

I love mussels because they have so much flavour and they are relatively cheap and easy to prepare. They are also extremely good for you, being low in fat and a good source of zinc, folate and

vitamin B12. With the recent debate and disagreement about which types of seafood are environmentally sustainable to eat, you can be sure that mussels are fine in this regard. They grow freely in the wild and are also extensively farmed in protected coastal areas.

Mussels are best in the colder months of the year, so March is still a good time but get in now before the weather warms up. Mussels breed during the warmer months of the year and their flesh shrinks during spawning and doesn't recover until the autumn.

This quantity serves 2 adults and is good with oven chips, mayonnaise and a simple salad.

Ingredients

1 kg mussels
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
4 spring onions, chopped



1 tbsp olive oil
200ml white wine
Juice of half a lemon

1. Prepare the mussels by putting them in a sink or large bowl full of cold water. Discard any mussels that float to the top and any that don't close. Clean any barnacles from the shells of the remaining mussels and pull out any beards that you can see.

2. Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan or wok that has a lid. Gently fry the onion, garlic and spring onions for a few minutes without letting them colour.

3. Add the mussels, white wine and lemon juice, put the lid on the saucepan or wok, and cook for 3-4 minutes on a high heat. Shake the pan occasionally and they are ready when the shells have opened. **yB**

Easter Fun!

Easter Bunny Biscuits

Ingredients

100g (3½ oz) butter

75g (2¾ oz) caster sugar + some for sprinkling

1 egg

225g (8oz) plain flour

1/2 teaspoon mixed ground spice

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

50g (1¾ oz) currants - 12 currants for eyes

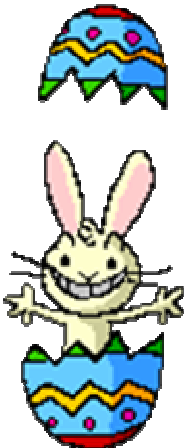
2 tablespoons milk

Method

1. Preheat the oven to Gas Mark 6 / 200C / 400F. Grease two baking sheets. Cream the butter and sugar together by hand or electric whisk. Add the egg and whisk again.

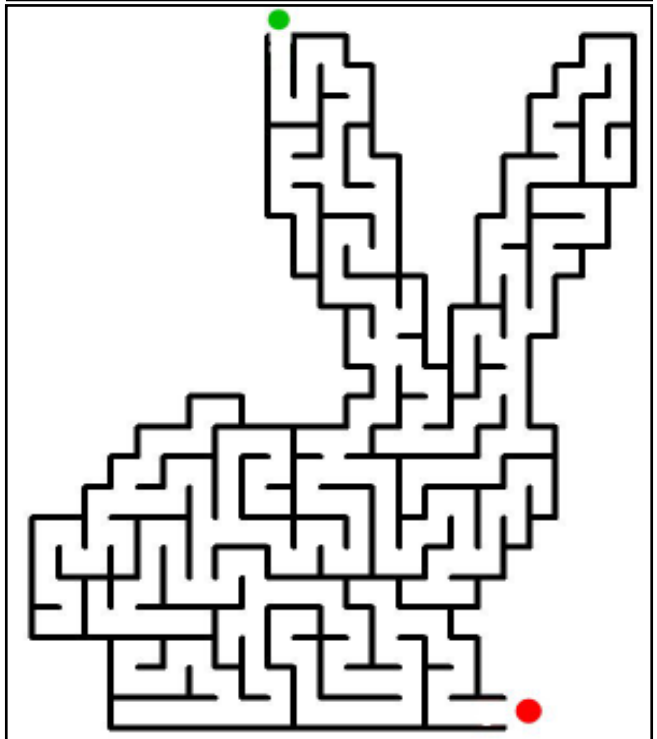
2. Add the flour, spices and currants and mix well. Lightly knead, then roll out to 5mm (¼ inch) thick. Use a bunny shaped cutter to press out 12 biscuits, re-rolling the dough as necessary.

3. Arrange the biscuits on a baking tray and brush with milk. Make eyes with the extra currants and sprinkle over the extra sugar. Bake for 12-15 minutes or until golden. Cool on the baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack. **JB**



Easter Bunny Maze

Can you find your way from the top of the bunny's ear to the bottom of its foot?



Liz Jackson pays tribute to Sheila Miller who was involved with the parish magazine for many years

Sheila Miller

01-10-1928 to 07-02-2013

Sheila was born in Wembley where she spent her childhood, attending St. Dominic's Convent, Harrow on the hill. After leaving school she went to work at South Africa House to do secretarial work.

She was very keen on sports, in particular skating, which she pursued at Richmond Ice Rink. It was here that she met John, her husband to be and they were married in 1950. After marriage work for her was first with a well-known cigarette paper company where she stayed for 6 years when she was made redundant. Following this, employment with Hax Limited saw her with a team of people dealing with sourcing dried fruits from abroad which were then shipped to the UK, packaged, and then sold to various retailers. Regrettably this ended after 29 years due to ill health and she was sad to leave behind a directorship which she had been given a few years earlier.

Life for the happy couple was good until John suddenly died in 1995 after an operation. Sheila's cure for her bereavement was to join as many organisations as possible to keep her busy. She became involved with "Friends of the Town Hall" making cakes and helping produce marmalade, both of which were sold to raise much needed funds for restoration. Berkhamsted Music Society, the over 50s club, playing duplicate bridge and writing the club's newsletter and of course involvement with St Peters' church. Church cleaning, sidesman and welcome at morning service, and pastoral care. Last, but not least she took on the vast task of managing the distribution of the parish magazine, then called *The Review* for many years, indeed she still had a small delivery round herself which she only gave up at the end of 2012.

Sheila's vast extended family will miss her for her kind and caring ways, her friendly face will no longer greet us in the street, and she will be sadly missed by us all. But, she had a good life which she filled by "just being Sheila" and the parish will miss her too. Not goodbye, but Au Revoir!

Copy Dates: 6 March 2013

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