

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

April 2013

Get your walking boots on!

Days out with the kids for Easter

Our editor tells us about her Berkhamsted

50p

In this issue...

Welcome to the April 2013 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

It's spring at last, the season associated with new life, so we thought it was the perfect time to re-launch **YB** magazine. As you can see we've given it a brand new cover design and refreshed the overall layout. Inside you'll still find all the familiar articles and features plus a few new ones. We hope you like it!

Helen Dowley, Editor



Berkhamsted in the news	3
The Story of Benjamin Twirl	8
My Berkhamsted	11
A Day Out at the Black Country Museum	12
Monuments Lost and Found	14
Hospice News	16
Parish pages	17
Berkhamsted Walk	21
Figuring Out Our nation	25
Young Berkhamsted	28
Recipe	29
Grumpy Old(ish) Man	30
Your Sport	31

Credits: This month's cover picture is by local artist Pat Barker. You can find more information about her work at www.patbarker.artweb.com.



The Town and Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted

Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and letters published in this magazine and for the accuracy of any statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor.

Berkhamsted in the News

Local planning is not a modern phenomenon
as Julian Dawson discovers in this month's internet trawl



Wikipedia continues to throw up unexpected links to Berkhamsted. A special scholastics prize if you have heard of Vans Kennedy. This isn't a new type of Irish commercial vehicle, but in fact a Scottish major general of the British Army, East India Company official, and a Sanskrit and Persian scholar who died in 1846. He was educated at Berkhamsted, finishing his life as oriental translator to the government.

I'm not in the habit of promoting products, if only because I never get commission. But as we are in the Easter season, it might be appropriate to mention Willie Harcourt-Cooze whose visit to the Waitrose emporium was reported by *Berkhamsted Today*. He has set up his own brand of chocolate called Willie's Cacao after embarking on a chocolate odyssey to Venezuela. The YB editorial committee would be prepared to take on the onerous task of taste testing favourite chocolates nominated and supplied by readers and

deliberate with due reverence to select the best.

Heart FM's website was one of many sites to report the conviction of several men who stole heavy plant machinery from several nearby locations including Potten End. Lock up your JCBs seems to be the message. Another public service message from your favourite magazine.

The *Hemel Hempstead Gazette* has reported on our own local Bafta and Oscar nominated Eve Stewart, the production designer for *Les Misérables*. Apart from her red carpet appearances, she also caused a stir by claiming that the rubbish strewn A41 bypass was dissuading film producers from bringing their productions to the area. Some relief is at hand with a programme of repairs following the wintry conditions.

The planners amongst us will have rushed to take part in the Dacorum

(continued on page 5)

CONNEXKT COLOUR TECHNIK

Bringing colour to life



www.connektcolour.com

www.technik.com



THE OLD PASTURES

LUXURY ACCOMMODATION FOR DOGS

Icknield Farm, Icknield Way,
Tring, Herts HP23 4JX



Luxury heated accommodation for your dog
Only 8 large kennels giving your dog the
extra care and attention they deserve. All
dogs are walked twice a day.
Hol day homes for small animals

DOG GROOMING

BATHING, CLIPPING, TRIMMING, HAND
STRIPPING, NAILS AND EARS. WEEK-END
APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE. EASY WALK-
IN, NON-SLIP FLOOR IDEAL FOR
GLIER AND BIGGER DOGS. WE CAN
CATER FOR ANY SIZE DOG.
EASY PARKING.

OR AN APPOINTMENT FOR GROOMING
OR KENNELING PLEASE CALL

01442 824856



Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Specialists

Why You Should Choose Us...

Thorough Cleaning & Outstanding
Service
State of the Art Truckmounted
Cleaning System
Most Carpets Dry within 30 min
Fully Insured
Free On-Site Quotations
Carpet Stainguard with Dustmite &
Allergy Control
Spot, Stain and Odour Removal
Environmentally Friendly
Domestic & Commercial
National Carpet Cleaners Assoc.

100% No Risk, Iron Clad
Guarantee

PROCARE

Professional Carpet & Upholstery Cleaners

Call Matthew Free on

0800 695 1442

www.procare-cleaning.co.uk

LOCAL ELECTRICIAN "FAST"

For all types of electrical work you
require. Benefit from over 40
years of experience and our
reliable and friendly service. From
rewires to repairs no job too small.

Call today for a
FREE NO OBLIGATION
quotation.

Freephone Anytime
0800 169 7409

Emergency calls **1 hour** response
Part P Registered ~ Fully Insured

(Continued from page 3)

consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) preliminary draft charging schedule, drily reported by Out-law.com.

If you haven't dropped off, the plan is to divide the borough into three different charging zones for residential developments. Zone 2, which covers Berkhamsted and surrounding areas, is proposed to be subject to a rate of £250 per square metre. Let me know if that is a good or a bad thing. On such outwardly administrative tedium there rests the health of many a community.

Richard III's links with Berkhamsted continues to exercise the bloggers. The 'meandrichard wordpress' blog tells us more about Richard's mother Cecily Neville. She spent the last years of her life in Berkhamsted Castle, engaged in religious exercises after taking Benedictine vows. In May 1485 she dined with Richard suggesting a remission of taxes for London to get the south of England on side. She also allegedly drew from him the admission

that he feared he had sinned in taking the throne. No further news that his body will be brought to our borough, sorry to say.

Green Places magazine, which is dedicated to improving public places, recently reported on the success of trusts in preserving such sites for the good of all. It reports on the Box Moor Trust, which amazingly has existed since the 1590s to protect the grazing land of Boxmoor and its environs for the benefit of local people. And it is set to do so for further hundreds of years in a long-standing example of excellent foresight by our ancestors.

Illustrations of Berkhamsted High Street by Jenni Cator,
Art at 88, 88 High Street,
Berkhamsted, HP4 2BW
Tel. 01442 769110,
info@artat88.co.uk

**ART
at
88**



Blair Electrical Limited

Electrical Engineers & Contractors

201-202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000



Electrical Engineering & Contractors

Blair Electrical Ltd, Unit 11 Alcon Business Park,
Alcon Street, Tring, Herts. HP23 8AF

Tel: 01442 837681 Fax: 01442 837682

e-mail: info@blairelectrical.com

<http://www.blair-electrical.com>

T.A. LINGARD MOTORS

BILLET LANE
BERKHAMSTED

Tel: Berkhamsted 871911

- WELDING
- SERVICING
- BREAKDOWN
RECOVERY
- BODY REPAIRS

PETER D HANNABY

Painter and Decorator

*Interior and exterior
work undertaken.*

*For competitive
quotations
please call:*

mbl: 07765 250092
home: 01442 288956

Abbeyfield

Where older people find a new home

The Abbeyfield (Berkhamsted and Hemel
Hempstead) Society Limited

Independent but unhappy living alone?

Abbeyfield provide very sheltered houses at
Potten End
Hemel Hempstead
Leverstock Green

For further information contact:
Mrs Susan Pullen 01442 217576

Registered Charity No. 262424, Registered Office 155 High St. Berkhamsted



Will Kimberley
Garden Services
01442 255784

- ◆ Grass cutting
- ◆ Hedge trimming
- ◆ Patios cleaned
- ◆ Gutters cleared
- ◆ All cuttings and
clippings removed
- ◆ References available

*Why not phone
for a quote?*

Berkhamsted Carpet Cleaning Ltd

carpets
oriental rugs
upholstery

- residential & commercial
- professional • good value
- fully insured

David Green
01442 876622
0788 405 8795

PO Box 903 Berkhamsted
Herts HP4 3ZQ

www.berkhamstedcarpetcleaning.co.uk

Berkhamsted Oven Cleaning Ltd

complete valet service for

**all ovens, hobs
and extractors**

- professional • good value
- fully insured

David Green
01442 876622
0788 405 8795

PO Box 903 Berkhamsted
Herts HP4 3ZQ

www.berkhamstedovencleaning.co.uk

Local noticeboard

Book'd Out - 3 authors, supper and you!

Book'd Out is a unique opportunity to meet three well-loved authors for an exclusive evening of entertainment on Wednesday April 10th, 7pm for 7.30pm. Join Rowan Coleman, Sophie King and Carole Matthews and hear them talk about their writing life. Enjoy supper with the authors and other book lovers, and chat with the authors about writing and romance.

Tickets are £25 each, which includes a two course supper and a glass of pink fizz on arrival. There will also be a cash bar and the venue is open till late. You can book online now at www.bookdout.co.uk. Tickets are also available from Waterstones and The Kings Arms on the High Street.

Kids charity benefit evening

Local novelist and poets Sue Hampton and Leslie Tate have joined forces with local musicians Andrew McCrorie-Shand and Amanda Tougher to hold a benefit evening at The Kings Arms, Berkhamsted, on Sunday April 28th, 7pm in aid of Kids Company, a charity which supports abused children. The event will be mainly music, and there will also be poetry from Leslie and Sue. Tickets are £10.00 in advance or £12.00 on the door. Concessions half price (£5.00 and £6.00). All entrance fees go to Kids Co. You can buy tickets at <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/LeslieTate>. Please leave your name and contact details in 'Comments' so that they can allocate your ticket(s).

Celebrity footballers lend a sporting hand for prostate cancer

Benny Mitchell, 62, resident of Berkhamsted, is organising a celebrity 6-a-side football tournament and family fun day on Sunday 12 May at the Berkhamsted football ground in aid of men's cancer and, specifically, to raise awareness of Prostate Cancer. Both Benny and his brother Michael were diagnosed with Prostate Cancer in 2009 and 2007 respectively. This event provides an opportunity to pay their thanks to the NHS and raise funds at the same time. The event is for all the family, with fancy dress, kids entertainment and games, disco, bouncy castle, music, food, ladies football courtesy of Watford FC ladies team, and the star attraction the celebrity 6-a-side football tournament. Some prestigious names make up the list of celebrities, including Mick Harford, footballer turned Manager, Eddie Niedzwiecki from Chelsea FC, local brothers Tommy and Jack Smith, Nigel Winterburn of Arsenal, referee Graham Poll and commentator Peter Drury, to name just a few. Benny decided to raise funds for The Lister Hospital in Stevenage, where his operation was performed in September 2010, through contacts and friends he had met through sport. In conjunction with hospital, Benny's charity is called 'A Sporting Hand'. For further information to support, sponsor or participate in the day's activities, please contact: Benny Mitchell on tel: 07973 863815 or send an email to: bennymitchell1@hotmail.co.uk or Steve Davis on tel: 07968 476314.

The story of Benjamin Twirl

Let me tell you about a baby boy called Benjamin Twirl. Benjamin's story is unique among the eight tons of historical records documenting many thousands of homeless children. It is a story that starts in 1739 with a tenacious sea-dog, and which still today seemingly peers out of every window of the original buildings at Ashlyns School. Like most of the schools in Berkhamsted, Ashlyns is going through a period of transition, and from September will take students from the age of 11. It is the latest development in the history of a building long associated with the Foundling Hospital, an institution once unique in the world, whose origins date back to the mid-eighteenth century.

Appalled at the sight of starving children wandering the streets of London, in 1739 Thomas Coram – a hotheaded and outspoken shipwright turned sea captain – created Britain's first home for abandoned children. His [Foundling Hospital](#) catered 'for the maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children', at a time when more than half the babies in London died within a few weeks of being born. Parents of poor or illegitimate children had to choose between leaving them in the care of the parish poorhouses or giving them to the workhouse, where the mortality rate was over 90%. In 1745 the Hospital moved from temporary accommodation to a new building in [Bloomsbury](#), where a basket was hung outside for desperate mothers unable to venture in.

In less than four years 14,934 children were presented, though only 4,400 survived the earliest years of childhood. While the admissions policy frequently altered, a strict moral code remained intact. A mother had to demonstrate she was of good character, that the father of the child had deserted both her and her baby, and that by giving away her child she would be able to maintain a virtuous life. When the applications became too numerous, a ballot system was introduced. Women had to draw a coloured ball from a bag; a white ball meant that the baby was admitted, a black ball that it was refused. Most mothers were from poor backgrounds, and preserved documents describe the terrible state of some of the babies. A baby boy admitted in 1757 was described as 'Clothed with Rags and Swarming with Varmen', while a baby admitted in 1759 was 'A Mear Skilinton Covered with Rags with a hole in the Roofe of the Mouth'. Around two thirds of the babies given to the hospital died.

Mothers frequently believed they would one day be reunited with their child, though they knew that their own name would go unrecorded and that the baby's name would be changed. To be able to identify their child, women frequently left a distinguishing token such as a marked coin or a piece of cotton. Scraps of material were pinned to the registration documents, accompanied by information that was brief and often heart-breaking. One boy, left in 1749, had a note pinned to his documents that read: 'having a most dear and Tender regard for it... I have trusted it to a Charity establish'd upon so good a Foundation as knowing my circumstances will not permit me to take so great a Care of it.'

A piece of patchwork ribbon belonged to a boy brought in on 11 February 1767, re-named by the Hospital as Benjamin Twirl. A pink and white flowered ribbon, pinned to the registration form of a baby girl brought in on 13 January 1758, was attached to a letter that reads 'Ann Gardiner Daughter of James and Elizth Gardiner was Born in St Brides Parish Octor ye 6th and Baptized and Registered

in the Parish Church Octor ye 10th 1757. Begs to have care Taken of her and They will pay all Charges in a little Time with a handsome acknowledgement for the same and have her Home again when they Get over a little

Trouble they are in: She is not a bastard Child your Care will be most Gratefully Acknowledged by your most obliged Humble Servant JG.' Of the 16,282 babies brought to the hospital between 1741 and 1760, only 152 were reclaimed.

The children who survived were sent to wet nurses, who fostered them until they were about five when the Hospital took them back and educated them. At about 10 years old, they were apprenticed in and outside of London. It's not hard to imagine Benjamin Twirl, having returned to the Hospital, gazing through stained glass windows and wondering what his mother's face looked like.

In 1926 the governors of the Hospital decided to move to a healthier location in the country. Selling the building for £2million, they took the children to

temporary accommodation, and then in 1935 they moved to their new purpose-built home in Berkhamsted. Up until 1954, children continued to gaze through the stained glass windows that had once been incorporated in the London building and which now formed the windows of the chapel. By the 1950s, the institutionalisation of children came to be replaced with a preference for family-

based solutions such as adoption, and in 1955 the buildings were sold to Hertfordshire county council for use as a school. Between 1739 and 1954 it is believed that only on one occasion did a

mother rediscover her child through the piece of fabric she left behind. That child was Benjamin, who was collected when he was seven years old – when he discovered that his mother's name was Sarah Bender, and that his was Charles.

I am grateful to the authors of the following articles:

<http://www.spoonfed.co.uk/spooners/lauren-romano-8167/threads-of-feeling-at-the-foundling-museum-3957/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/mother-tongue/familyhistory/8201629/Threads-of-feeling-stories-behind-babies-left-at-the-Foundling-Hospital.html>

Photograph of the Foundling Hospital kindly supplied by Ashlyns School





BEECHWOOD

FINE FOODS



BUY LOCAL, BUY FRESH

We stock and serve only Local and British products and are constantly looking for new items for our Café Deli



A taste apart



- Fresh daily Bread and Free Range Eggs
- Hams, Bacon, Sausages and Cured Meats
- Award-winning Cheeses, Pies, Pasties, Sausage Rolls, and lovely soft-set Scotch Eggs
- Our own range of homemade Jams, Preserves, Chutneys and Pickles prepared by Sarah

Pop in today and see what's new!

42 Frogmore Street | Tring | HP23 5AU | 01442 828812

www.beechwoodfinefoods.com

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



G.P.LUCAS ASSOCIATES

The Specialist Landscape Company

All aspects of garden and pond design,
construction and maintenance

Bespoke driveways, patios and
brickwork

Ponds, streams and waterfalls

Rockeries, planting and turfing

Intelligent lighting

Design consultancy

Regular garden maintenance

Contact Gary Lucas NCHLC, Nat DipGD

National Certificate Horticulture in Landscape
Construction, National Diploma Garden Design

01442 870989

gary@lucaslandscapes.co.uk

www.lucaslandscapes.co.uk

One to One PC Tuition

*Computer help tailored
to fit your needs*

- Internet and e-mail
- Word and Excel
- Technical problems explained and resolved
- PC maintenance — backups, security, housekeeping

Call Roger Blunt

01442 896041

roger@121pctutor.co.uk

<http://121pctutor.co.uk>

My Berkhamsted

Editor **Helen Dowley** gives us an insight into her Berkhamsted

I moved to Berkhamsted because...

At the time of house hunting in 1997 my husband and I wanted to live somewhere that had easy access to a train station as we both had jobs in London. So, we decided that Harpenden or St Albans was where we wanted to set our roots. Just as we were about to make an offer on a house in Harpenden a friend at work told me to forget those two places and move to where she lived. Having never heard of this 'Berkhamsted' place that she was enthusing about so much, we thought that we should probably take a quick look just in case it was as good as she made out. So, one Saturday on a trip up the M1 to visit my parents, we decided to take a diversion.

What was intended to be more of a ticking-off exercise turned out to be a much longer visit and needless to say we never did buy the house in Harpenden. The first thing that struck us was the high street which was a good size and had a nice range of shops and restaurants without feeling too 'towny'. We loved the canal running through the town and the community feel, which seemed more like a large village than a small town. At a time when there was plenty of property to view we quickly found somewhere that ticked all the boxes. The good thing is that 16 years ago we loved it and that was without all the coffee shops, restaurants and many of the other facilities that are here now. We're still discovering new things about Berkhamsted all the time which I'm not sure you could say about many places.

I think the most beautiful sight in Berkhamsted is...

The castle and its grounds in the summer.

The local place where I like to relax and reflect is...

Sitting by the canal.

I'm proud to live in Berkhamsted because...

It has a strong community, a picturesque high street, a large amount of history, good schools, plenty of green areas, the canal, and the castle. It's close to open countryside and has great access to London and the rest of the country.

If I could change one thing about Berkhamsted it would be...

The number of cars parked on the roads and the amount of traffic through the high street.

Berkhamsted is crying out for...

Some new restaurants that aren't Italian. I love Italian food but it would be nice to have something different, like Spanish. A small café in the park near the Canal Fields playground.

A traffic-calming system on the stretch of the high street between the Rex and the Swing Gate Lane roundabout.

When I tell people about Berkhamsted I always tell them

It's a lovely small town with lots of cafes, picturesque countryside, nice shops, interesting people, full of history and has quite a few famous people living here.

A Day Out at the Black Country Living Museum

Ian Skillicorn

If you are looking for a fun and interesting day out during the Easter holidays why not take a trip back in time and visit the Black Country Living Museum in the West Midlands. This award-winning open air museum is home to twenty-six acres of living history and nostalgia in a unique setting.

The Black Country - not to be confused with Birmingham unless you want to annoy the locals! - is an area of the West Midlands which encompasses Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and parts of Wolverhampton. During the Industrial Revolution it played a very important role in England's coal, iron and steel industries. It is this industrial legacy that is explored and celebrated at the museum. Over forty years, a replica of an entire Black Country village has been constructed on the site, including an underground mine, shops, cottages, a school, cinema, chapel, Workers' Institute and pub.

You can also take a ride on a tram, or visit a traditional fun fair.

The village itself may be a replica, but most of the buildings are genuine and have been moved from their original locations and then rebuilt brick by brick at the museum. Volunteers in the traditional dress of the period are on hand to explain the history of the buildings, many of them are the same volunteers who saved the buildings and helped to reconstruct them at the museum.

Having been to the Black Country Living Museum twice, we still haven't managed to see everything, so arrive early and make a full day of it. Here are just some of the key attractions.



The main street in the Black Country Museum by Jack 1956

St James's School

The school was built in Dudley in 1842 and was in use until 1980. It was rebuilt at the museum in 1991 and is presented as it would have looked in 1912. On our last visit we watched a 'school teacher' giving a lesson to a group of children who were visiting the museum. They seemed to enjoy it very much, especially ringing the large brass bell to signal the beginning of class.



Station Road Cottages, near to Tipton, by Ashley Dace

Darby Hand Chapel

This Methodist chapel was built in 1837. The Friends of the Museum arrange a number of services in the chapel throughout the year, including a Harvest Festival service.

Cradley Heath Workers' Institute and Café

The Workers' Institute is set out as it was in 1935. We were treated to a fascinating talk in the ground floor union offices, where a volunteer showed us letters written by poor workers asking for financial assistance from the union (one unfortunate woman was refused help to buy some new false teeth as she had already recently received financial aid).

Bottle & Glass Inn

Enjoy a pint of Black Country Real Ale by a roaring fire in this traditional nineteenth century pub.

Station Road cottages

These two mid-nineteenth century workers' cottages originally consisted of one room and a pantry downstairs and one room upstairs. You can walk around the ground floor and volunteers will tell

you about the lives of the people who inhabited the buildings.

And don't miss: The 1930s parade of shops, Hobbs and Sons Fish & Chip Shop, Racecourse Colliery, tram rides, 1930s Limelight cinema, fairground and much more!

Opening times:

From March 29th to October 31st the museum is open every day between 10am and 5pm.

Getting there:

The Black Country Museum is located in Tipton, Sandwell, on the A4037 between Dudley and Tipton. It is about 2 hours' drive from Berkhamsted.

You can get to Tipton by train, taking a London Midland train from Berkhamsted station and changing at Birmingham New Street. The museum is then a 10-15 minute walk from Tipton station. The total journey time from Berkhamsted to Tipton is about 2 hours and 10 minutes.

For more information visit: <http://www.bclm.co.uk>

Monuments lost and found

Christopher Green

I wrote last month about the rediscovered burial vault beneath the south transept in St Peter's and about some of the people that we now know were buried there – Agnes Wethered buried in 1623, her son, Thomas Baldwin buried in 1641 and Elizabeth Craddock, buried in 1703, the last of the Wethereds and the last person to be buried in the family vault. Elizabeth Craddock has a fine memorial in the south transept, close to her place of burial. Thomas Baldwin also has a monument in St Peter's which is now on the wall of the south aisle just beside the gallery. But this is not where it has always been and is certainly not where Thomas Baldwin intended it to be. Moreover it's only part of the original memorial which was a much more splendid monument, befitting a man of some substance in 17th century Hertfordshire. From 1606 until his death in 1641, Thomas Baldwin was Comptroller of Works to Charles I; and it's probably significant that Thomas's relation by marriage, Francis Wethered, succeeded to this office in 1660 at the Restoration of Charles II. This is the Francis Wethered who presented a fine marble font to St Peter's Church in 1662. The font survives but not at St Peter's having passed to All Saints' where it remains today.

Thomas Baldwin, drawing up his will in 1639, records that the 'south chapell' where his mother was interred – in other words the south transept – had been granted to him as a burial place for



Interior of St Peter's Church by John Buckler (c.1830), showing the Baldwin monument in its original position in the south transept.

himself and his kinsmen. He goes on to direct that his monument is to be placed 'in or nigh the wall of the grate windowe of the said chapell'. This location for the monument is confirmed by Robert Clutterbuck in the first volume of his *History and Antiquities of the County of Hertfordshire* published in 1815 where he states that the Baldwin monument at that time was indeed in the south transept. There is moreover, in the St Peter's archives, a copy of a drawing made in about 1831 by the architect John Buckler, showing the view from the north transept across what is now the chancel into the south transept. This drawing shows a

monument in the archway between the south transept and the St John's Chantry, where we now see the back of the organ. This seems likely to be the Baldwin monument in its original position, although in detail the monument in Buckler's drawing is not quite like the Baldwin monument as we see it today in the south aisle. This may be in part artist's licence, but it may also reflect the more elaborate form of the original monument.

Richard Norris, formerly churchwarden at St Peter's, in his book *Berkhamsted St Peter*, published in 1923, tells us that the central panel of the Baldwin monument originally 'had two large female figures holding open doors on either side evidently intended for future inscriptions and an altar slab below'. Norris goes on to say that 'Most of the missing parts of the Baldwin monument have been preserved; the figures are in recesses under the gallery stairs ... the altar slab ... is on the north side of the gallery and a good deal of the rest of the marble is in the yard of the Court House.' Alas, in the years since Norris was writing, everything has disappeared except the altar slab. This was rediscovered in 1986 beneath the floor of the old chancel, below the old high altar, with a note in Norris's hand dated 1921 explaining the origin of the slab as part of the Baldwin monument. The slab was subsequently incorporated in the Lady Chapel altar but is now in the more easterly of the two tomb recesses on the south side of St Katherine's Chapel.

The Baldwin monument was from the workshop of the distinguished monumental mason, Nicholas Stone.



The Coutts monument in St Andrew's Church, Swavesey – showing how the Baldwin monument in St Peter's would originally have appeared.

We know this because Stone's account book survives and in it he records on 28th September 1642, receiving payment for 'a monement in memorall of Mr Baldwing, deseased, which is to be sett up in Berkhamsted in harfordshear, for which is to be payed £40 less thin I had for Sir John Coutts it being the same modell ...'. The memorial for Sir John Coutts to which Stone refers was erected by Sir John in the parish church of St Andrew, Swavesey in Cambridgeshire above the grave of his wife, Anne who died in 1631. Fortunately, the Coutts monument is still there in St Andrew's, Swavesey and so we can see what the Baldwin monument would have looked like when it was originally set up in the south transept of St Peter's in 1642.

Hospice News



Strictly Learn Dancing 2013

Razzmatazz came to the Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted on Saturday 23 February when 20 couples took to the stage to compete for the title of Strictly Learn Dancing winners 2013.

Everyone looked amazing having been transformed by Gorgeous Hair and Beauty in Berkhamsted and proceeded to dance the Rumba and Quickstep after just six weeks of ballroom dancing lessons from the Baila-Cusworth Dance School. The eventual winners of the dance-off were couple Kevin Coetzee and Lindsey Elkins who were delighted with their achievement. However, the surprise of the night came when Paul Moran from Hemel Hempstead, proposed to his girlfriend of three years by getting down on one knee in front of the crowd of 500 people. Wendy Harrup immediately agreed to the cheers of more than 40 friends in the audience. The story is even

more poignant as Paul's late first wife was cared for by the Hospice. Overall the evening was a great success and looks set to raise more than £25,000 for The Hospice.

Forthcoming Events for your Diaries:

Hospice Garden Party – Sunday 2 June, 2–5pm, Ashridge House, Berkhamsted

Browse our fantastic range of stalls, take tea on the lawn, walk round the gardens and enjoy entertainment for all the family at this popular event. Entry is £5 for adults (£4 in advance from Hospice shops) with under 16s free. All proceeds to the Hospice.

Midnight Walk – Saturday 29th June, Hemel Hempstead School, from 9pm

Join us for a night to remember, an event you'll never forget! Walk to remember a loved one or enjoy a fun night out with friends and family. It's also a great way to get fit and raise vital funds

for a fantastic local cause. Everyone's invited, so dust off your trainers, spread the word and hit the 5 or 11 mile route! Register online at www.stfrancis.org.uk/midnightwalk.

For further information call 01442 869555, email fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk or visit www.stfrancis.org.uk.



The winning couple: Kevin Coetzee and Lindsey Elkins

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Fr Michael Bowie



The Easter Party

*Finish then thy new creation.
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee
Lost in wonder love and praise.*

So concludes one of my favourite hymns (*Love divine, all loves excelling*), a hymn which has found a place in the life of my family at baptisms, weddings and especially funerals.

It is the test of a Christian hymn that it can be so widely applied: the Christian life is not just bits and pieces, not 'moments' of religious experience or good behaviour or even happiness and fellowship; we are

Christians on the bad days as well. But that's also the joy of it. Good Friday is never the end. We all have Good Fridays, when all seems lost and dark and full of dread. We all have Holy Saturdays, when the tomb seems to close in on us and the silence and sense of absence is overwhelming. But the promise of Jesus, the true Word of God who speaks from the silence of the Father, is that there is *always* an Easter, a day of new life when all is for ever redeemed and the light of glory bathes and heals us. This is not empty-headed optimism; it is God's promise to us if we will answer with a 'yes' his invitation to the banquet which is heaven. That means it starts now, and we can begin to feast now as well: that is what our worship is about, Sunday by Sunday, day by day.

As another favourite hymn puts it,
*Christ is risen, we are risen;
Shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
From the brightness of thy face;
That we, Lord, with hearts in heaven
Here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
And be ever safe with thee.*

A very happy Easter to you.

Regular Church Activities

- 3rd Mon Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534.
- Tues Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10–11:30am. All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981.
- Tues St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15–6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859.
- 1st Tues Tuesday Club, 7:30pm A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Barbara McKenna 871159.
- 3rd Tues Mothers' Union, meet in members' houses at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Lally, 863526.
- 4th Tues 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.

Regular Church 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

This Month's Diary

St Peter's Services

Sun 21st April: APCM in the Lady Chapel, 11am

Cowper Society presents (May):

Wed 1st May: May Morning Madrigals sung from the tower of St Peter's Church under the direction of Adrian Davis, followed by breakfast in the Court House, 6.15am.

Donations for breakfast please.

Sat 11th May: Berkhamsted Choral Society concert, 7.30pm.

Future events:

Tues 7th May: Petertide Gatsby Dinner, 7.30pm.

All Saints'

7th April: Second Sunday of Easter, 10am Morning Worship, Richard Hackworth.

14th April: Third Sunday of Easter, 10am Holy Communion, Revd. Brian Tebbutt.

21st April: Fourth Sunday of Easter, 10am Morning Worship, Edmund Marshall and Rob Wakely; 4pm Messy Church group.

28th April: Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10am Holy Communion, Revd. John Kirkby.

Registers

Weddings

14 February: David and Linda Bissett (All Saints')

Baptisms

17th February: Lucy Zara Collard (St Peter's)

3 March: Sam Robert Oliver Miller (All Saints')

Key Church contacts

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong and Kate Perera, Court House, 878227.

Fr. Michael Bowie, 864194 (day off Thurs), Team Rector, St Peter's.

Fr. Tom Plant, 382633 (day off Fri), Curate, St Peter's

The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints'.

Further information available from our church websites:

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

Is your home and car insurance policy good enough?



Call 01442 270000 for a quote or pop into the office to talk to us at NFU Mutual Office, Boxted Farm, Berkhamsted Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 2SG



We do right by you

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

YB without it?
Subscribe to *Your Berkhamsted*
The magazine for town and parish since 1872

We can deliver it straight to your door by post or by one of our local distributors.

A 12 month subscription is just **£5** - that's 12 copies for the price of 10! Please complete this slip and drop it into the Parish Office post box at the side of the Court House next to St Peter's church or email editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk remembering to include the details below:

Name:

Address:

Tel. no:

Put spring in your step

After the doom, gloom and icy chill of this winter, how much we look forward to spring, sunshine and bluebells under delicate lime-green beech leaves. When is the best time to see these natural wonders? Early May!



What happens every year in early May? The Berkhamsted Walk! This year is its 45th anniversary. The Berkhamsted Committee for The Children's Society is celebrating this special year on Sunday 12th May and again will offer the choice of three routes. Each has some brand new twists to surprise you, and they all pass local hostleries for your added comfort.

The Challenge, an 18 mile route will, suit the dedicated hardy walker. The 12 mile Bluebell route gives a beautiful day out in the open countryside, while the 6 mile Fun Walk suits all ages with a game to keep the young children forging ahead.

Come and join us on the Walk. Gain vital sponsorship. You can download a sponsor form from our website www.berkhamstedwalk.com and also a link to www.justgiving.com to enable you to collect your sponsorship on line. This is helpful to The Children's Society because it can reclaim Gift Aid as well. Sponsor forms can also be found at the Library and at The Complete Outdoors, Bourne End. You can pay by donation on the day, but please be generous as it takes a lot of hard work to organise the walk and the

proceeds are so essential for the work of this amazing charity.

The Children's Society works with over 48,000 children and young people each year who face danger or disadvantage in their daily lives, including

runaways, children in care, young carers and children with a disability.

Last year's walkers raised £6,300 in sponsorship with another £1,000 claimed in Gift Aid which was greatly appreciated. For the 40th Anniversary we just topped £10,000 and it would be marvellous to equal this for our 45th.

The Complete Outdoors offers two generous prizes of £100 each to the individual and to the small group who raise the most sponsorship for this walk.

We would like to see your photos of the Walk, be it scenery, your funniest moment, your highest achievement or just your enjoyment of being out together. We are offering a prize for each photo chosen for next year's Walk website. If you would like to take part, attach your photos to an email to enquiries@berkhamstedwalk.com before 31st May.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter and visit our website for more information – www.berkhamstedwalk.com or call Ann Browning on 01442 864968.

For Personal Attention from Berkhamsted's
only independent family business

J. WORLEY

(FUNERAL DIRECTORS) LTD
344 High Street, Berkhamsted
**FUNERAL DIRECTOR and
MONUMENTAL MASON**

● GOLDEN CHARTER PRE-PAYMENT PLANS ● 24 HR EMERGENCY
SERVICE ● COMPETITIVE PRICES ● PRIVATE REST ROOM

Telephone Day/Night Berkhamsted 870326

The 50plus

- Electrical
- Plumbing
- Handyman

- Bathrooms
- Showers
- Kitchens
- Supplied and fitted

- Locally based
- Free estimates
- Friendly advice
- NICEIC & Gas Safe personnel
- Great offers and discount every month on our web site



0845 22 50 495

www.the50plus.co.uk

By the 50plus for people of all ages

McCLEANs

DECORATORS

Interior and Exterior

Established 1985

Excellent local references

Free estimates and advice

S. Dell & Sons LIMITED

THE PROFESSIONAL REMOVERS

**NEW CONTAINERISED WAREHOUSE
IN OPERATION & OPEN FOR INSPECTION
BETWEEN 9AM & 4PM
HOLDING UP TO 600 CONTAINERS**



SILVERDALE HOUSE, CANALSIDE, NORTHBRIDGE ROAD, BERKHAMSTED, HERTS HP4 1EG
TEL: 01442 863959 or 01753 891151 FAX: 01442 862163



Computer Consultancy and Repairs

Getting your PC up and running again

Software installation & configuration
Basic and intermediate level training
Specialising in anti-virus, security & hardware upgrades



Andy Robinson 38 Trevelyan Way
Berkhamsted HP4 1JH

Mobile: 07885 966570

Andyrcr@dolphin4.demon.co.uk

CG HOLDER PLUMBING & HEATING LTD

For a good reliable
installation of all plumbing
and
heating systems

Gassafe registered
with over 30 years

**01442 862244
07973 144336**

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is a growing organisation with over 4 million members around the world, in both some of the poorest and some of the richest countries, from the Philippines and Papua New Guinea to the USA and Peru, and from New Zealand to the UK and Ireland. The majority of members are in Sub-Saharan Africa, closely followed by India. Here are countries where poverty can be extreme, particularly affecting the lives of women and children.

In Uganda, with a membership of 200,000, MU is well-regarded by the local churches and community leaders, and has contributed to the development of a new family policy for the country. Domestic violence is a key issue. Traditionally a taboo subject, MU has been able to raise awareness of its impact on women and children, nationally through TV and radio, and locally in their communities. Supporting vulnerable

families is central to MU work across the world and in Uganda the focus is on parents affected by HIV/Aids, children who head households or are orphaned. The 1.9 million members in India belong to the Church of North India and the Church of South India. Prominent among their concerns is educating and empowering women and girls of the Dalit and Adivasi castes. Providing literacy classes for girls forced into work when children and encouraging women in their roles in their communities are vital parts of grass-roots work.

In just two countries a handful of projects become transformational in the lives of women and their families. Striving for social justice for those on the margins and development in relationships and economic well-being strengthen family and community life. Christian care for families is alive and well right across the world.

David Giddings Landscapes

Qualified Plantsman
Garden Renovation
Lawn Care
Fencing
Pergolas
Trellis
Year Round Garden
Maintenance

01525 220 912
07811 972 525

www.dgiddingslandscapes.co.uk

BRIAN S GROOM MBHI



Qualified Clock Maker
(over 30 years experience)

***Antique and quality clocks
repaired
and restored***

***Also watches, barometers
and music boxes***

Telephone: 01525 872679

Peter's Interiors

Semi-retired architect – and interior decorator.

Do you need some initial drawings and ideas for extension or alterations to your home?

Do you need internal re-decorating or small carpentry jobs?

I can help with any of these things. I'm friendly, thorough and reliable, and I'll do you a good job at a reasonable price!

Come round, email or phone me:

Peter McMunn MA Dip Arch

37 North Road Berkhamsted HP4 3DU

Tel/ Mob 01442 874894 / 07411 413072

e: petermcmunn@hotmail.com

PLUMBING SERVICE
Gas Water Electric
Maintenance, Repair and Service Specialist
Chris Rickarby

No Job too small
Mob: 07970 151191 (24hr.)
Tel/Fax: 01442 890235



- Wiring
- Sockets
- Lighting
- Testing
- Inspection
- Alarm systems
- Telephone
- TVs
- PCs
- Installations
- Additions
- Fault-finding
- Repairs




BEES Electrical Ltd

**Reliable and approved work of the highest quality,
for all your commercial and domestic electrical needs.**

From wiring, sockets and lighting to testing and inspection and everything in between. Approved by Trustmark and Elecsa for your complete peace of mind.

All work is carried out to comply with British Standards BS7671 (17th edition) and Building Regulations Part P.

We are fully qualified and insured and all work is guaranteed so you can feel completely assured of our quality and reliability.

No job is too small. For a free estimate please contact:

Mike Smith
Tel: 01442 876 416
Mob: 07790 885 189
bees.electrical@gmail.com



SPROOKWATER ELECTRIC & ELECTRONIC SERVICES LTD • WWW.BEES-ELECTRICAL.COM
Registered in England No 1247594. Registered Office: 66-67/9 John Street London EC2V 6PP

Figuring out our nation

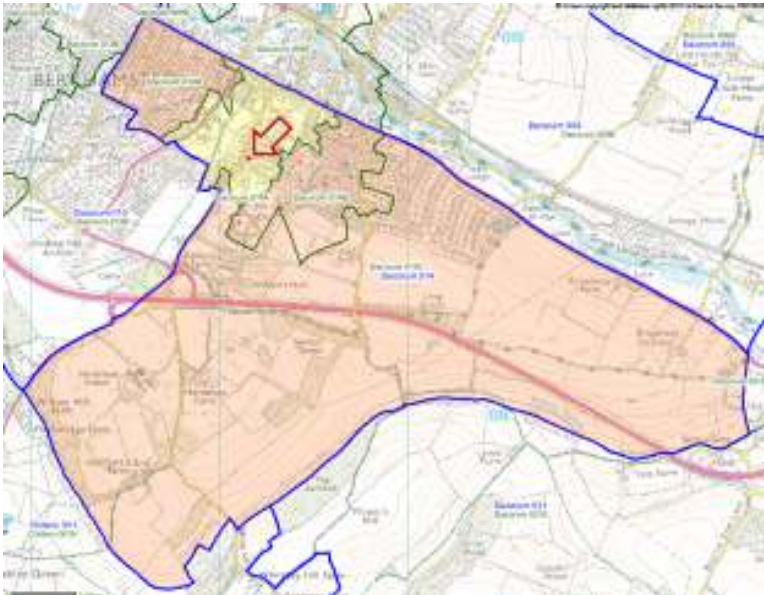
Julian Dawson begins a new feature exploring the 2011 Census

The 10-yearly national census for England and Wales took place in April 2011, and following painstaking work by the Office for National Statistics, the results are beginning to be published. It is readily available to consult now on a site called Neighbourhood Statistics. Census statistics help draw up picture of the nation and how we live. In providing a detailed snapshot of the population and its characteristics, they assist funding allocation to provide public services. So they are a crucial element in local and regional planning decisions.

The building blocks of the census areas are now known as output areas, replacing wards, which change frequently, as a more stable unit of population that

makes comparison of statistics easier over time and between other parts of England and Wales. Output areas are normally defined as 1,000 households. So it is possible to get a very detailed analysis of small areas of population. For example I live in the Output area known as Dacorum 14D. This comprises the area bounded on the northeast by the High Street, to the northwest the Kings Road, the top of Butts Meadow to the southwest, and the Ashlyns Estate to the southeast.

In the coming months I shall take a small snapshot of areas in Berkhamsted taking a particular element of the census in turn and comparing it with local, regional and national figures.



Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database right 2013



- Rewires
- Replacement Fuse Boards
- New Circuits
- New Sockets, Switches
- New Light Fittings
- Downlights
- Smoke Alarms
- PAT Testing
- PAT Testing
- Periodic Inspection & Testing
- Landlords Certificates
- Power to : extensions sheds, garages, ponds, gardens, lofts workshops
- CCTV
- Access systems
- Gate automation
- Satellite systems
- Telephone extensions



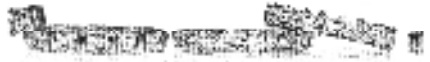
Approved Contractor and
Part P Registered

Tel : 01296 630124

Mobile : 07825 747773

Email : steve.rozentel@circuitfix.co.uk

Website : <http://circuitfix.co.uk>



True commitment

...Bailey & Sons

BERKHAMSTED'S JEWELLER SINCE 1872

9 Lower Kings Road

Berkhamsted

Herts HP4 2AE

01442 863091



There's no place like...
HOME

Home Instead
SENIOR CARE
to us, it's personal™

Specialists in providing older people with
non-medical care in their own homes



Being able to live at home can be one of
the most important comforts in an older
persons life and because family & friends
can't always be there Home Instead are
here to help.

Call us on 01442 233599
www.homeinstead.co.uk

BOOKS PURCHASED

HARDBACK BOOKS
WANTED OLD OR NEW
LARGE OR SMALL
AMOUNTS
HOUSE CLEARANCE
DISCRETION ASSURED
PROMPT PAYMENT

01442 832910

DJ PROCTOR

A century in and out of Berkhamsted

Nancy Lawrenson continues her journey from the past to the present day

Part 4 Approaching War

The political situation was growing dangerous in Europe and I especially wanted to visit Germany. I had been learning German with friend Katherine whose family had a lot of German friends and who intended to teach the subject. With another school friend Joan I went to German classes at the Regent Street Poly where German was taught by an Austrian refugee mainly through singing. I can still sing, better than I can spell, "Ich weis nich was soles bedeuten das ich so traurich bin...." When later with husband Jim we drove alongside the Rhine with a "scenic route with sidely (sic) turnings" map (like our bypass?). As we came to the rock I sang him the Lorelei song– "sie kammt iher goldenes harr".

I went by student train to Heidelberg University and then to student lodgings up the hill towards Heidelberg Castle. I had taken £10 with me (exchange rate of 10 deutsch marks to the pound) with room rent being 10 marks, which included three hair biscuits as a mattress (to be hung out on the window sill every morning to air) and breakfast of dandelion coffee and black bread every morning – prepared by my stout landlady as she plucked a pigeon for their dinner. I had my lunch in the University Mensa – veal and potatoes, good and filling but as one American student complained "immer Kartoffel".

In the afternoon a walk up the hill to the Schloss to enjoy the view down to the Neckar bridge and take a seat waiting for people to come and talk – which they did.

When they found I was English they told me about real life in "guns not butter Deutschland." Some Werklos men told me their story and offered to show me around for 10 marks – an offer I could not afford and went to town on my own where I bought membership of the Jugendherbergen, a guide book of Schwarzwald hostels, a cotton sleeping sack and some pumpernickel and sauerkraut (a very damp package wrapped in newspaper). The shop windows had large signs "Juden sind nicht hier erwünscht"(Jews not wanted here).

Back up the hill I made friends with a student Dolmetscher (interpreter) who lived opposite and we exchanged language lessons. Next month I went hiking in the Schwarzwald, eating the blueberries found all over the hillsides and staying in the youth hostels. The Deutschjugend and Bundesdeutsches Madel (girls) just sang and sang – so beautifully free and joyful. Soon they would be corrupted as Hitlerjugend.

This is still Nancy Vercoe but in 1943 I would become Nancy Lawrenson.

YOUNG BERKHAMSTED

On 23rd April the English flag will be flying on the top of St Peter's to mark St George's day but what do we know about England's patron saint?

The emblem of St George, a red cross on a white background, is the flag of England and part of the Union Jack flag. However, St George was actually born in Turkey and became a Roman soldier. He protested against the persecution of Christians in

Rome and was eventually tortured and then beheaded in Palestine for his beliefs.

The legend of St George depicts him fighting a dragon. Whilst this is highly unlikely, it is probably the most famous story about him and one for which he is known throughout the world.

How many species of dragon can you find in the wordsearch below?

T	E	H	E	W	D	O	U	R	O	B	O	R	O	S
Y	A	G	A	N	I	V	E	R	N	D	R	A	G	E
O	S	N	I	S	M	R	O	W	D	N	I	L	S	S
G	T	A	W	I	A	M	P	H	I	P	T	E	R	E
N	E	H	Y	D	R	A	D	S	T	O	B	L	E	N
U	R	O	V	N	I	M	P	E	R	I	A	L	E	I
L	N	F	E	O	F	T	S	A	H	E	E	I	L	H
N	A	R	R	G	E	E	S	S	T	K	F	U	O	C
A	R	M	N	O	N	S	I	E	A	O	F	O	D	R
I	A	G	O	R	S	N	S	R	O	L	A	G	R	G
S	E	T	E	H	A	T	D	P	E	T	T	R	H	E
A	M	P	H	I	S	B	A	E	N	A	Y	A	P	R
E	Y	R	U	P	O	N	H	N	U	G	F	G	E	A
N	I	M	Y	A	N	R	E	T	S	E	W	L	S	S
U	C	H	A	W	S	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	S

AMPHIPTERE
DRAKE
HYDRA
SEA SERPENT

AMPHISBANENA
EASTERN
LINDWORM
WESTERN

ASIAN LUNG
FAERIE
NAGA
WYRM

CHINESE
FROST
OUROBOROS
WYVERN

DIMAR
GARGOUILLE
PERNESE



Recipe

Joanne Lloyd-Evans

Irish Stew

Even though we are heading into spring, I am sure there will be enough cool and gloomy weather to mean that a warming Irish stew will be very welcome this month. April is a good time of year to take advantage of the new season's lamb. Traditionally, Irish stew was made with mutton, which is fattier and has a stronger flavour than lamb. Mutton was used more than lamb, as sheep were economically more important for their wool and milk than for their meat, and so it made sense to use the older sheep. Lean lamb is more suited to modern tastes and it makes a lighter and healthier meal.

This quantity serves 6 adults. It is worth making a large batch and keeping leftovers as the flavour can improve for a couple of days.

Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil
640g diced lean lamb
2 small onions, chopped
4 cloves of garlic, finely chopped or pressed
700g small potatoes
4 large carrots
1 beef or lamb stock cube
1.2 litres of water
150g pearl barley
A couple of sprigs of fresh rosemary, finely chopped
Small bunch of flat leaf parsley, roughly chopped

Method

1. Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan, then sear the lamb until brown on all sides
2. Remove the lamb from the pan, then gently fry the onions and garlic for about 5 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, leave the skins on the potatoes and cut in half or quarters, depending on their size. Peel and slice the carrots into fairly thick slices.
4. Transfer the lamb, onions and garlic to a large saucepan and add the potatoes, carrots, water, stock cube, pearl barley and rosemary.
5. Bring to the boil, then reduce to a low heat and simmer for about an hour, or until the lamb is tender and the potatoes and carrots are cooked through.
6. Season with salt and pepper as needed, stir through the parsley and serve with crusty bread.



Grumpy old(ish) man

Vernon Mildew tries (and fails) to make sense of the modern world

"Absolutely brilliant"

There has been a marked tendency towards more emphatic language in recent years. In everyday situations what was once "good" has now become "great", "brilliant" or "excellent". I can't remember noticing when this shift started to occur, but I must admit to being guilty of exaggerated language myself on occasion. Particularly when writing emails, I'm sometimes aware of writing "great" to signify my pleasure at some quite ordinary news. It's a convenient shorthand to convey a positive reaction. But if, for example, I reply "great" to the fact that someone has just confirmed an appointment, what word am I left with to express my joy at really important or significant news? If it is also "great" that someone has received a promotion, or had a baby, for instance, how can I use language to draw a distinction between the ordinary and the truly "great" events in someone's life? As with other linguistic trends (such as using "yourself" for "you" and "ourselves" for "we") this phenomenon is never more apparent than during a telephone conversation with someone from a call centre:

Call centre: "Can I take your name?"

Me: "Vernon Mildew."

Call centre: "Brilliant." (So kind, but it's just a name.) "And do you mind if I call you Vernon?"

Me: "Not at all."

Call centre: "Fantastic." (Glad you're pleased.) "And can I take the first two letters of your security password, Vernon?"

Me: "X and y."

Call centre: "That's perfect." (How nice of you to say so.)

And so it goes on, until by the end of the call I'm left positively glowing at this wonderful reaction to my personal details, and the obvious delight which they have brought to the life of the person on the other end of the line. It really is so nice to know you have made someone else's day, especially without even trying.

Another example of this enthusiasm for the emphatic can often be heard during television and radio interviews. It's the increasing use of "absolutely" for "yes":

Interviewer: "Will there be an inquiry into the matter?"

Politician: "Absolutely."

It seems that a simple "yes" just won't suffice. "Absolutely" = "Yes, there really, really, definitely, without a doubt will be an inquiry into this matter. And I mean that."

However, perhaps one should be grateful that politicians have yet to adopt the expression for the affirmative which is now so prevalent among the young. I am referring to the fact that for anyone under the age of twenty, "yes" has now become "yeah-yeah-yeah".

But we must remember that language is constantly evolving and, like all linguistic fads, these ones won't last forever. Is that suitably reassuring? Absolutely. Brilliant.

Your Sport

The Men in Black. No I'm not talking about the 1997 film starring Will Smith. After all, this is a sports article; why would I be talking about a film? What I am talking about though are referees. Football referees, usually associated with wearing a black uniform, have often been in the limelight recently over their controversial decision making and debatable calls. However for this article, I interviewed a young referee who thankfully is yet to be dubbed the next Howard Webb. I managed to catch up with school friend Sam Reilly who answered some questions about why he got into refereeing and what it takes to be one.

Why did you decide to become a referee?

"Because it pays well, it looks good on your CV. It shows decision making, fairness and that you're a people person."

How long have you been a referee?

"About 4 months."

What's the toughest thing about being a ref?

"Dealing with criticism."

What age groups do you ref?

"Under tens mostly but I'm trying to ref older age groups for better experience. For example, eleven a side games and I'm also a linesman for under eighteens."

What did you have to do in order to become a referee?

"I had to take a course which involved a test with video decisions. For example; good or bad tackles and written questions with everything from what's offside to goal regulation sizes. The course cost about £70 for 3 sessions a week over 3 weeks at Hemel Hempstead sports centre."

What advice would you give to someone wanting to become one?

"If you want to be a referee start young and don't focus on making bad decisions. Be fair and find as much work as possible to quickly advance levels."

What are your thoughts on modern day referees?

"My thoughts on modern day refs are that they do well with difficult decisions but tend to favour the home or bigger team. This ruins opinions towards them as a whole."

Your Berkhamsted Team

Editor: Helen Dowley, editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

Advertising: John Gerry, 07774 850508, advertising@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

Circulation: Joanne Lloyd-Evans, 865417, joanne.lloydevans@gmail.com

Features: Ian Skillicorn, Julian Dawson, Dan Parry, Matthew Dawson, Joanne Lloyd-Evans

Layout: Sam Limbert

Copy Dates: 5 April 2013

3 May 2013

3 June 2013

Published by Great Berkhamsted Parochial Church Council. Registered charity no 1130108

Printing by Connekt Colour, Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted HP4 1EH

quality villas

Luxury family villas
with private pools

France • Italy
Morocco • Ski

01442 870 055
www.qualityvillas.com

ABTA W3175

QUALITY HOME AND CAR
INSURANCE THAT'S RIGHT
UP YOUR STREET



We have been a Which? Recommended
Provider six times in a row.

Call 01442 270000 for a quote or pop in
NFU Mutual Office, Boxted Farm, Berkhamsted
Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 2SG



NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

It's about time*

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.