

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

August 2013

More days out with the kids

A professor's inspiring story

Summer recipes

50p

In this issue...

Welcome to the August edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

By now the school holidays will be well underway and hopefully the sun will still be blazing down. There's plenty going on in and around town this month and we have more ideas of where to take the kids on a day out, as well as recipes to try and a bit of history thrown in for good measure.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!



Helen Dowley, Editor

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Photo credits: P.16 Common Swift in Flight by Pawel Kuzniar



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

In this month's skip across the broadband airways, Julian Dawson discovers that surrealism is alive and well.



For absolutely no reason at all let's start this month's column with a piece of kitsch from felting.craftgossip.com. *Is one of your children ready to lose a tooth; well here is a darling tooth fairy money holder.* This American site refers you to Heartfelt Homemade of Berkhamsted. Whatever did happen to fuzzy felt? But I rather think that with the expectations of children these days the tooth fairy would require a more robust holder than felt. Perhaps leather would be more robust. If all that is rather surreal for your tastes, then I will bring you back down to earth with independenthead.blogspot.co.uk, the blog of Berkhamsted School's Principal Mark Steed. In a piece selected from a recent speech day address he encourages pupils to be allowed to stretch themselves, take responsibility, take risks, and to learn from their mistakes. *A true education is challenging. A true education will involve failure.* A salutary thought in a time where we seem so anxious to shield our children from the real world.

Mix96.co.uk reports on an extraordinary attempt to construct a Travelodge modular bedroom on top of Ben Nevis. I kid you not, and this further example of surrealism was all done for Macmillan Nursing Support. A team of 36, including John Hardy of Berkhamsted, climbed 1,344 metres carrying the contents and furnishing of Travelodge's new room. Four hours ascent, two hours to construct, and then two and a half hours to descend, presumably sliding down on the bed? The highest hotel room in Britain was necessarily temporary, but could begin a trend for carrying your bedrooms around the world. Bets are open for the first Radisson hotel room on top of Everest. I foresee sponsored peaks. The Ritz Kilimanjaro perhaps.

Berkhamstedtoday reveals the latest plans for housing on the high street. 48 houses for the elderly are to be developed by Churchill Retirement Living (never were so many houses built for those so old) in a site near Stag Lane.

(continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

The homes would replace a dry cleaners, children's nursery, car servicing workshop, car wash. Homes for the elderly are all well and good, but they are not going to solve the shortage of housing and encourage young people on to the property ladder. That's a conundrum which politicians and planners are going to wrestle with for some time.

Hemeltoday reports on Patrick Burke's rant against disabled facilities in Britain's railways stations. He doesn't spare Berkhamsted, but really lays into Hatfield, where the MS Society had chosen to hold their 60th anniversary tea. Actually they held it at Hatfield House, not the railway station. Having experienced the temporary immobility of my young son with a broken leg, it really does open your eyes to the lack of forethought for those less able to get about. So I'm not going to quibble about regulations that ensure everywhere is made accessible as realistically as is practicable.

Finally, I promised the editor that I would report that she spotted the comedian Ross Noble filming a sketch outside the trophy shop. I told her to put it in her blog, and I'll be able to include it in this column!

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Local noticeboard

Berkhamsted Summer Fete

26th August, Berkhamsted Cricket Club Grounds, 11.00am - 5.00pm

Get ready to roar this summer when Berkhamsted Lions Club return with an even bigger and better Summer Fete. A fixture in the club's calendar for the last 23 years, this summer's event promises to be wilder than ever.

Berkhamsted's idyllic cricket ground is to be transformed into a series of so called 'lion's dens', each offering fun for the whole family. Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts, Berkhamsted Balloons and Make Believe Ideas will all be encouraging as much wild animal craft fun as possible while Shoot Me Studios will capture the moment on camera in their Safari Dress-Up Den.

Oxfam Children's Wear Event

Thoughts will soon be turning to Back to School needs and Oxfam has the answer to many of those needs. The autumn Children's Wear Event on Friday 6th September in the Civic Centre from 9am – 11.30 will offer a superb range of new season clothing as well as toys and nursery equipment.

This will help not only local families to find excellent quality clothes at bargain prices but also benefit children like 12-year-old Reema whose school for gifted children in Syria was bombed, causing the family to flee to Lebanon where she lives in a half-finished building with no windows which she shares with her parents and four siblings and a colony of rats. Using a pencil and notebook supplied by Oxfam she has written some remarkable poems about her experiences.

If keeping children occupied in our uncertain summer is a problem, the Oxfam Book and Music shop can help with an

excellent range of children's books and DVDs and the standard shop has toys for all ages. But put Friday 6th September in your diary now

Upstairs Gallery Exhibition

'All Fired Up' Ceramics Group are holding an exhibition in the Upstairs Gallery above Berkhamsted Post Office from 2nd September for 2 weeks. Entry is Free. Visit their website for ongoing information on exhibitions:
www.upstairsgalleryberkhamsted.co.uk

Herts Open Studios

This annual event takes place this year from 7th – 29th September

Open Studios is a great opportunity to experience excellent work by local artists in an informal setting. The visitor gets to see a great range of art, meet the artists and often see them at work. Pick up a free copy of the brochure from Libraries, Tourist Information Office and a wide variety of galleries and other commercial outlets across the county or go online at <http://www.hvaf.org.uk/Open-Studios/Open-Studios-2013/Brochure>. Entry is Free.

Berkhamsted Quilters' Exhibition

There will be lots to see at this one-day Exhibition on Saturday 7 September: beautiful quilts, a colourful single raffle quilt made by the members in aid of Sunnyside Rural Trust, a sales table full of handcrafted objects and an amazing box of a miniature quilt shop filled with tiny bolts of cloth and haberdashery. Homemade cakes, coffee, tea and ploughmans lunches will be available. Exhibition at Northchurch Social Centre, Bell Lane, HP4 3RD, 10am - 5pm, admission £3.00.

Days Out With the Kids

The second of a two part guide to family days out this summer

By Ian Skillicorn

When I was writing last month's guide to days out I couldn't have imagined that by the time it was printed we would be in the middle of a heatwave! As I write this second and final part we are still sweltering in high temperatures. Let's hope that we are still enjoying dry weather as you read this. But, whatever the weather, there is lots of fun to be had at the three venues I've chosen for this month.

Mill Green Mill and Museum, Hatfield

Things to do

The restored 18th century mill at Mill Green Museum is a working, water-powered flour mill. Visitors can watch the watermill at work on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sunday afternoons. A miller is on hand to answer questions. The museum also has a local history resources room, which is staffed by local history experts, and is open on Thursdays from 10am to midday.

The mill and museum are putting on activities for visitors of all ages over the summer months. For August, there are Family Bread Making Days on the 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd. Other activities throughout this month include craft making and art exhibitions.

Opening times and admission

Mill Green Museum is open Tuesdays to Thursdays from 10am to 5pm and Sundays and Bank Holidays from 2pm. Admission is £2.50 for adults and free for children. Children's activities are £3.00, with free

entry for one adult accompanying a child on an activity. Visitors who are planning to see the mill in action are advised to call 01707 271362 in advance, to check milling times.

How to get there

Mill Green Museum is in Bush Hall Lane, Mill Green (between Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield). If you are travelling by car, follow the brown signs from the A1000 or A414. By train, alight at Hatfield Station and take a taxi (1 mile).

More information

<http://millgreenmuseum.wordpress.com>

Butterfly World, St Albans

Things to do

Attractions at the Butterfly World Project include the Tropical Butterfly House, which is home to between 500-800 butterflies. You can also visit Ant World - billed as "the largest leaf cutter ant colony in the country". There are insect handling sessions in the Insect Study Centre, where the creepy crawlies on show include stick insects and cockroaches.

The green fingered among you will appreciate the nineteen designer gardens, which aim to encourage native butterflies back to our county.

Activities for children during August include Popdance Kids, teaching dance moves to children aged 5 to 11. Popdance Kids sessions take place on the 6th, 13th and 20th of August (9am to 3.15pm) and can be booked at <http://butterflycamps.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Opening times and admission

The Butterfly World Project is open every day from 10am to 5pm. Admission is £7.50 for adults, £6.50 for concessions and £5.50 for children (3 – 16). A family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) is £22.50. Entry for children under 3 is free. There is a reduced entry fee for RNRS members and Butterfly Conservation members.

How to get there

If you are travelling by car, Butterfly World is off the A405, in Miriam Lane. There are brown signs with a white butterfly to indicate the route. By train, alight at St Albans City or Abbey stations and take a taxi.

More information

Call 01727 869203, email info@butterflyworldproject.com or visit www.butterflyworldproject.com

Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, Great Missenden

Things to do

Roald Dahl lived in Great Missenden for 36 years. The Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre holds his archive, as well as aiming to inspire a love of stories and storytelling. The museum is divided into two galleries. The Boy Gallery covers the author's childhood, while the Solo Gallery includes Dahl's famous writing hut, laid out as it was when he wrote his masterpieces there. There are lots of activities for children over the summer holidays. Highlights include "Secrets of the Chocolate Factory" on Sunday 4th August (all day), when visitors can learn about the early drafts of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and enter a drawing competition. "Wondercrump Wonka Bars" is on Thursday 8th August (11am to midday). Children aged 6 and over



can create a new recipe using biscuits and sweets. See the website for more activities and prices.

Opening times and admission

The Museum is open Tuesdays to Fridays from 10am to 5pm, and Saturdays and Sundays from 11pm to 5pm. It is usually closed on Mondays, but is open on the August Bank Holiday (26th). Admission is £6.60 for adults, £4.40 for concessions and children (5-18) and free for the under 5s. A family ticket (2 adults and up to 3 children) is £21.00.

How to get there

Travelling by car, take the A416 out of Berkhamsted and then at Chesham turn onto the B485 towards Great Missenden. Travelling by train from Berkhamsted is not ideal, as it means going into London and then taking a train from Marylebone to Great Missenden.

More information

Call 01494 892192 or visit www.roalddahlmuseum.org

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If so please email editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk



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My Berkhamsted

By local Berkhamsted author Professor Wallace Peters

We moved to Berkhamsted because

In 1979 I was transferring from Liverpool after 13 years in the School of Tropical Medicine to what was to be my final academic post in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Over the years Ruth and I had frequently passed through Berkhamsted en route to London which was my home town and admired the surrounding countryside. Moreover I had had a number of professional contacts with colleagues in the Tring Museum and would have been glad of an opportunity to carry out some voluntary work there following my "retirement" in 1989. By good fortune we were shown around Little Gaddesden by a friend who lived there and were very attracted by the village and its beautiful surroundings.

I think the most beautiful sight in Berkhamsted is

the road rising northwards from the station through the Ashridge forest when the beeches have taken on their golden colour in Autumn.

The local places where we liked to relax and reflect

were in Ashridge and its surroundings which appealed enormously to our love of Nature. Moreover the canal banks running through Berkhamsted provided an endless source of enjoyable walks around the year.

I am happy to live in Berkhamsted because

it is an area that offers peace and tranquillity with a warm and friendly

community life that is becoming something of a rarity in today's world. This is especially notable in the retirement village to which Ruth and I moved in 2007.

You ask what single thing I would change about Berkhamsted if the opportunity arose.....

Frankly I cannot think of anything I would wish to change. Nor do I believe that Ruth would have felt otherwise. Although she was born and raised in a beautiful country area in the northeast of Switzerland she never expressed anything but affection for what we encountered in and around Berkhamsted.

You ask what I feel that Berkhamsted is crying out for.....

I can truly reply that I cannot identify anything apart from a more tranquil and uncluttered high street, though I appreciate that this is probably an unattainable objective for many practical reasons.

When I tell people about Berkhamsted I always tell them.....

how remarkably fortunate both of us felt, and I continue to feel after spending an unusually peripatetic life, at having the benefit of spending our late years in this exceptional and friendly part of England, beautiful surroundings, many traditional places and former residents, ready access to good local services as well as to both the metropolis and the surrounding counties.

Local Professor's Life Story – an Inspiration to Others

Local Berkhamsted author, Wallace Peters, 89, encourages others in their later years to record their life stories having found the experience of writing his autobiography entitled, *'Four Passions, Conversations with Myself'* extremely cathartic.

The Castle Village resident is a distinguished retired medical scientist who spent much of his career travelling the world investigating the treatment and possible elimination of malaria and other tropical diseases and researching the eradication of malaria. His book charts his emotional and spiritual journey through life focusing on four passions from encounters in early childhood, his fantastic stories of adventures overseas in the 50s and 60s, an insight into his life as an academic covering his developing interest in malaria and entomology together with stories about his special partnership with his beloved wife Ruth, his companion of 53 years.

The latter chapters, where, after years of direction and routine, Professor Peters documents his initial struggle with the post retirement world, are both moving and insightful. And, ultimately he gives an optimistic perspective of the pleasures of

old age despite facing life alone in the void after Ruth's passing from cancer not long after they retired. The title of the book, "Conversations with Myself" reflects the aftermath of this particular time as Ruth was no longer there to share his life journey or join him in telling his story.



Professor Peters comments, "Whilst I wrote many papers and contributed to many books during my career, writing down my life story has been such a rewarding experience; bringing the chance to remember occasions, milestones and experiences and reflect on them with the benefit of hindsight and changing perspectives.

"Writing has also given me renewed enthusiasm for the future and I would definitely recommend that others in my position think about writing down their life history to celebrate their life achievements."

Professor Peters is a longstanding supporter of the Hospice, who helped care for his wife Ruth, and is donating some of the proceeds from the book to support its work. If you would like a copy of the book, for just £10, please call Kate Rogers on 01442 869555 or email kate.rogers@stfrancis.org.uk.

Heritage Open Days

Find out more about the heritage of our town in a series of open days in September

Thursday 12th September

British Film Institute Kingshill. Guided tours at 1030, 1130, 1400 and 1500. Numbers limited. Booking absolutely essential to Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158 or KSherw9100@aol.com

Friday 13th September

'A Walk into the Past – Berkhamsted Place, Successor to the Castle.' Guided Tour, including the Great Barn, 1000. Booking requested with Jenny Sherwood, as above.

Berkhamsted Place was built by Sir Edward Carey in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, using material from the Castle. From 18th century onwards it was frequently referred to as the Castle. Although little remains of the Mansion itself the area is rich in history and the Great Barn is probably even older than the house.

Friday 13th September

Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store. Numbers limited. Tours at 1430 and 1630. Booking essential 01442 879525 or curator@dacorumheritage.org.uk This museum store holds collections from all parts of Dacorum and is not normally open to the public.

Saturday 14th September

Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store. Guided tour at 1030. Details as for Friday. Saturday 14th September 'A Walk into the Past – Berkhamsted Place, Successor to the Castle.' Guided Tour, including Great Barn at 1400. Details as for Friday.



Sunday 15th September

The following sites are open: Old Hall and Chapel Berkhamsted School. Tours at 1030 and 1430. The original School House was built in 1544. The beautiful little chapel is Victorian.

St. Peter's Church and Court House Tour at 1500. The church the second largest in Hertfordshire was consecrated in 1222. The Court House is Tudor.

St Mary's Church, Northchurch This was the older of the two Berkhamsted parishes and stretched once from Dudswell to the village of Bourne End. The oldest part of the church is Saxon. It has many interesting tombs and memorials, including the grave of Peter the Wild Boy which was recently Grade II listed. Open 1400- 1630 with tours as required.

Claire Lloyd Properties 173, High Street
Open 1030 – 1600 Small group tours at regular intervals. The oldest known jettied building with timbers dating back to the late 13th century. Not suitable for the very young or elderly or those with mobility problems.

Berkhamsted Town Hall. Open 1500 – 1700 Guided tour at 1530. This Market House, Town Hall and Institute Room was built in 1859 and replaced the Tudor Market Hall destroyed by fire in 1854. Berkhamsted Castle. Open 1000-1800 with guided tours at 1030, 1230, 1500. Sign language will be available for the 1230 tour. The finest example of a

motte and bailey castle remaining in the country, with many royal associations. Ashlyns School, former Foundling Hospital. Open 1300-1730. Tours at 1330 and 1530, led by former foundlings. Sign language will be available for one of the 1530 tours. Booking essential with Jenny Sherwood as above.

All events organised by the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society. Further details available from Jenny Sherwood. Website www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk or from www.heritageopendays.org.uk P.15



Sponsored Bike 'n Hike

BEDS AND HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

The *Bike 'n Hike* is an annual fundraising event organised by **Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust**.

The aim is to raise money both for the Trust and for the participating churches. Half of every cyclist's and walker's sponsor money goes to the Trust and half goes to the church of their choice. Consequently, the more cyclists or walkers who take part, then the greater the direct benefit to that church.

There is also an indirect benefit because the more funds raised for the Trust the more it will be able to offer as grants in support of church repair projects across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

For information on how to apply for a grant, please visit the Trust's website: www.BedsHertsHCT.org.uk.

The *Bike 'n Hike* is always held on the second Saturday in September. It started in 1992 and is now bringing over 600 churches into the event each year throughout Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and raising over £100,000 from some 1,000 cyclists and walkers and their generous sponsors.

In 2012 the *Bike 'n Hike* raised £97,816.

To find out more information visit the website www.BedsHertsHCT.org.uk or contact Chris Clegg on 01442 875818.

New Homes for Berkhamsted's Swifts

Patrick Lepper

I have enjoyed watching birds ever since we first had a garden of our own in Doctors' Commons Road in 1970, never out walking without a pair of binoculars round my neck.

Between 1977 and 1986, when we lived in a tall Victorian house in North Oxford, we became familiar with swifts, those aerobatic migrants which come here briefly to breed, from about May 1st to August 1st. They were both fellow-inhabitants of the house, and the most dramatic of passers-by, with parties of 10 or 20 speeding through the narrow gap between our house and its neighbour, screaming as if for joy at the thrill of it.

When we returned here in 1986, to another tall Victorian house in King's Road, we were delighted to find that Berkhamsted too was a place of swifts. They swooped around our house in a noisy gang, and the same thing could be observed at St. Peter's Church.

But since then the swifts here have become fewer and fewer, especially in the last five years. Experts point to a loss of nesting sites, as the craze for total insulation eliminates any holes in the roof-eaves of houses. It was Ian Reay (this year's Town Mayor) who first made me aware of the idea of providing nesting-boxes, writing in this very magazine. Last year I got in touch with Hamish Burnett, a young expert on swifts and a capable handyman, and we made plans to place some nesting-boxes under the eaves of

my big, north-east-facing gable. Here we saw two advantages, great height above the surrounding ground, and an aspect touched by the sun's rays only in the early morning.



Hamish on the scaffold with the new nesting-boxes. He made the holes big enough for swifts but too small for starlings.

Fortuitously, 2012 was Anthea's chosen year for external re-painting. So one Sunday, Hamish, Pete Gentry the painter and I ascended the high scaffold with six nesting boxes of weatherproofed plywood, made by Hamish.

With Pete's help Hamish installed them in my preferred positions at the peak of the gable. We've also installed a "swift-caller", playing a recording of nesting swifts' calls, which I can haul up close to the nesting boxes.

This summer began cold and wet, and the swifts were slow to arrive – none seen till May 6th – and there were many more wet days. I was able to play the swift-caller occasionally. The first sign of positive interest was on June 5th, when there was a party of 3 or 4 flying around the house, and several times I saw a bird break off and flutter up close to the nesting boxes, almost hovering. The best day was June 16th when I was able to watch from a position facing the gable, and to my delight saw several birds actually entering the nesting boxes, presumably not to nest now but to prepare a site for next summer.

In July the bright sunny weather has drawn the swifts higher into the sky, following their insect prey, and it is quieter below. But we certainly have



more around the house than last year. Hamish thinks we may get more interest in the boxes just before they leave for Africa early in August. I can hardly wait till May 2014!

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Fr Michael Bowie



Holidays and Holy Days

As we find ourselves in summer mode for the first time in what feels like a decade, though I know it is only 4 years since the last summer (!), Berkhamsted is quiet and people are away. For once, it's probably just as warm here as wherever they have gone.

Holidays were originally 'holy days' – special days in the church year, when people celebrated special events or people of the Christian faith, often with parties as well as services – Christmas, Easter, saints' days and especially feasts of Mary. In many European countries these days remain public holidays, but we have lost the link. One of the biggest of these festivals falls in August when many are away and churches are now at their

quietest, because holidays have become a serious and expensive business rather than a rest, and involve leaving home.

The August Holy Day is one of those devoted to Mary – her Assumption. This is the day on which we give thanks for Mary's share in the resurrection, the experience of life with God which is our Christian inheritance and our hope: she goes before us to that fullness of life which Jesus promised. Mary's fame comes from her relationship with Jesus: we celebrate her memory, because it is one good way in which we can draw closer to him.

Because it falls not only in August but also, this year, mid-week, we probably won't get the chance to make much of the Assumption in 2013. But very soon afterwards the next feast of Mary – her birthday – falls on the first Sunday of the new school year – 8th September. Bishop Lindsay Urwin is coming from the shrine in Walsingham to share that morning's Sung Eucharist and preach. He is a compelling preacher who has had a fruitful ministry with young people and has also run inspiring missions all over England. So as we return from our holidays, we'll keep a Holy Day to start the new school year. I hope you'll be able to join us that Sunday.

Fr Michael Bowie

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 Jean Bray 864532.
- 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

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

Sat 7 Sep at 7.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church - Berkhamsted Choral Society.

Sacred Choral Pieces directed by Graham Wili. Tickets: £13/£11, £6 students, U18s free from Cole Flatt & Ptnrs, 124 High Street, Berkhamsted.

Sat 28 Sep at 7.30pm: Celebrity ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church - Jane Watts, recognised as one of Britain's leading concert organists, opens the 2013–2014 organ recital series. Since her Royal Festival Hall debut in 1986 and her BBC Proms debut in 1988 Jane has travelled all over the world as a solo recitalist. Tickets: £10 on the door.

All Saints'

Sunday 4th Tenth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Morning Worship, David Williamson

Sunday 11th Eleventh Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Sunday 18th Twelfth Sunday after Trinity, 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am Morning Worship, Chris O'Reilly, and Penny O'Neill

Sunday 25th Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby,

Registers

Baptisms

23rd June Henry Jones (St Peter's)

Weddings

1st June Robert Douglas Freeman and Joanne Byrne (St Peter's)

8th June Stephen David Blakemore and Louise Amanda Barbara Northcott (St Peter's)

20th June Andrew James Needham and Andrea Galgociova (St Peter's)

29th June Leon Edwin Allen and Jessica Sita Machin (St Peter's)

29th June William Robert Kenneth Perry and Claire Alison Plummer (St Peter's)

Funerals:

4th June Virginia Margaret Broleen Gordon (St Peter's)

25th June Jack Joseph Duncombe (Chilterns)

13 June Peter Fethney (All Saints')

19 June Richard Alan Monk (All Saints')

27 June Stephen Hockley Grace (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

News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary



2013 Midnight Walk

We held our seventh annual Midnight Walk on Saturday 29th June and welcomed nearly 700 charity walkers on a balmy summer's evening, who, combined, pledged an incredible £85,000 for The Hospice of St Francis.

In a poignant night of celebration, remembrance, physical exertion and fun, women and children clad in pink, and men – many in wigs and tutus – pounded the pavements between Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted on a 5 or 11 mile route.

"It was an incredible and very special night," said Hospice Director, Dr Ros Taylor, who completed the 5 mile circular route between Hemel Hempstead School and Boxmoor in just under two hours. Dr Taylor walked alongside this year's oldest Midnight Walker, 87-year-old retired Abbots Langley GP Dr Peter Tomson.

"What Peter achieved was amazing and a fantastic inspiration to all of us but I'd like to thank everyone who took part, whether they were walking in memory of a loved one, walking for the challenge or just walking for fun," she said.



Dr Peter Tomson and Dr Ros Taylor make it back!

"Without our Midnight Walkers and other fundraisers like them, we couldn't continue to provide our expert care and support to people living with life-limiting illnesses across Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. We rely on the public's support for over 80% of our £4.6m a year running costs and every penny raised really does make a difference."



Dates for your Diaries

Hospice Film Night – First Wednesday of every month.

Wednesday 4th September 2013 - The End of the Affair. Graham Greene's tale of faith, superstition, passion, restraint and loss stars Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Moore.

Coffee Mornings – Last Friday of the month (Not August)

Friday 27th September – 10:30 – 12am
Tours, chat, coffee, craft sales.

Literary Quiz – Wed 25th Sept, 7pm for 7:30pm

Test your literary learning with a quiz on books and authors as part of Graham Greene Festival. Old Dining Room, Berkhamsted School. £8 per person.

For further information on all our events, please visit our website:

www.stfrancis.org.uk or call 01442 869555.

Your Berkhamsted needs you!!

We urgently require a volunteer to distribute a small number of magazines in the Chiltern Park area of town.

If you think you can help, please email:
editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk.

We would be very grateful to anyone who could spare a little time each month to help out.

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Festival Celebrates Chilterns Countryside



The Chilterns Countryside and Food Festival will bring countryside fun to the magnificent Ashridge Estate, near Berkhamsted on Sunday 15th September. Open from 10am - 4pm, admission is £4 for adults with children under 16 free.

Locally produced food to take home will include cheeses, cakes, chutneys, pies, pastries and poultry. There will also be a wide range of hot food to eat on the day including a bbq, hog and venison roasts, plus pizza, pasta and crepes, with vegetarian options. You can try apple juices pressed in Chesham and Saunderton, wine from Frithsden and Radnage, cider from Hemel Hempstead and ales from Tring, or just a nice cup of tea or coffee!

Crafts will include turned and carved wood, willow baskets, repurposed clothing and lampshades, plus jewellery, cards, photographs and accessories. Many stall holders will demonstrate their skills, and you can have a go at some.

Kids can have a try craft activities, bushcraft skills and archery, watch ferret racing and sheep shearing, meet an owl or listen to a story.

On the music stage, sponsored by Launchpad Live Music and Entertainment, local acts will keep feet tapping throughout the day. For more information ring the National Trust Ashridge Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 or Cathy Rose at the Conservation Board on 01844 355 506.

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Census Corner

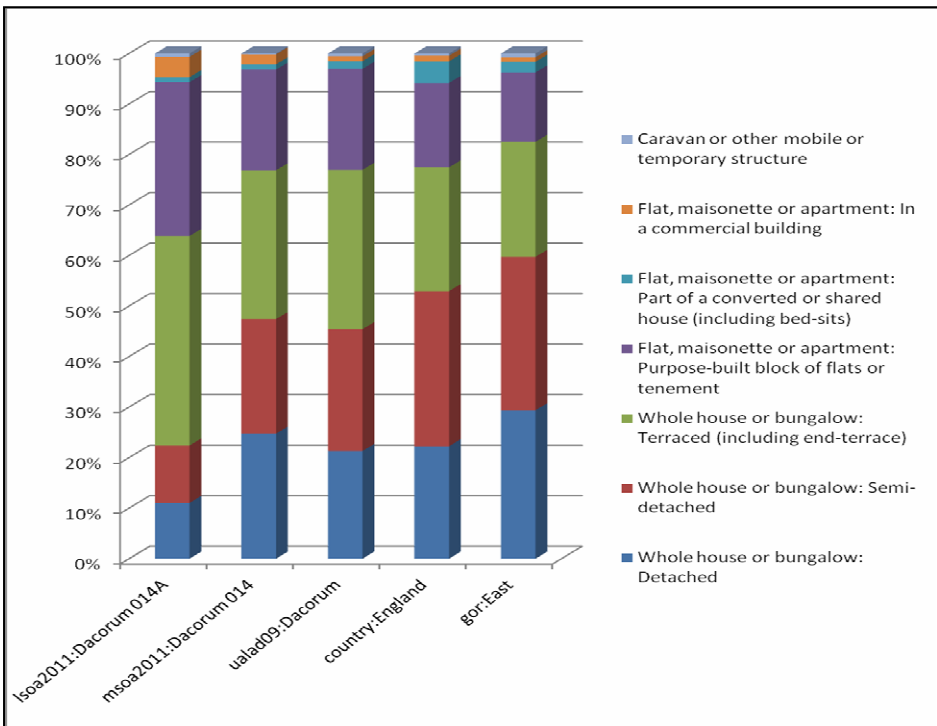
This month Julian Dawson looks at the 2011 census and discovers that Dacorum has a prevalence of terraces

According to the 2011 census results, Dacorum has around 62,000 dwellings, of which nearly 20,000 are terraced houses. In the larger part of Dacorum in which south Berkhamsted lies there are a little over 2000 dwellings, of which 700 or so are terraced, again the highest number. The trend continues with the area of south Berkhamsted in which I reside, where nearly 250 terraced dwellings make up the nearly 600 dwellings.

The high occurrence of terraced housing is not repeated in the East of England region as a whole, where the most number of houses are semi-detached;

around 800,000 out of an approximate total of 2.5 million dwellings. And this trend is repeated in England as a whole, where seven million semi-detached homes make up the total of 23 million. So it certainly seems that the popular image of the suburban semi in Britain is not unjustified.

The graph shows how the proportions of different dwelling types varies between Dacorum and further afield. Dacorum 014A (south east Berkhamsted) has a particularly high proportion of terraced housing, comprising as it does the Ashlyns Estate.





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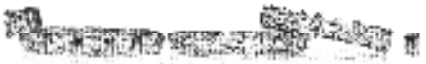
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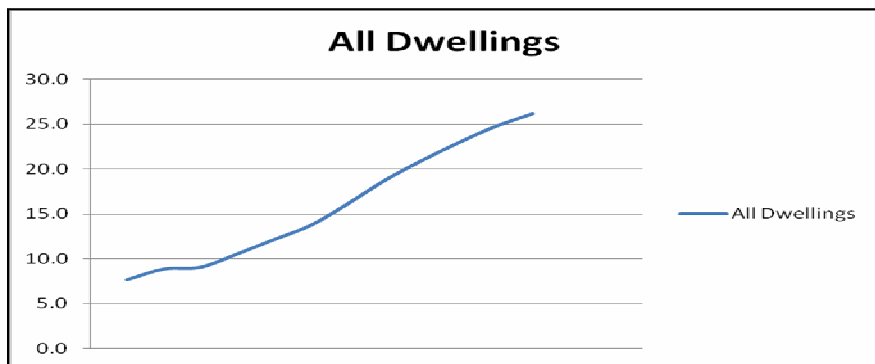
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The trend chart above shows the total number of dwellings in England and Wales in millions, from 1901 to date. After a stable start, the 20th century saw an exorable rise, which is just beginning

to tail off, despite their being a greater need than ever for accommodation. (All data sourced from the Office for National Statistics).



Imagine this...A town comes together to transform the very heart of their town. A town they love. A town asks the council and planners to listen to *their voices* and create a space that truly serves its residents needs and desires. We don't need to imagine this...There are plans to redevelop a part of our High Street - the **B-hive** believe this should be led by our townspeople. We suspect many residents will agree: one Saturday morning at the High Street market, 240 people stopped, talked to the **B-hive** team and signed up their interest. Proof that Berkhamsted people care about our town and that this redevelopment is an amazing opportunity for us to work together and create an inspirational town vision.

What is the **B-hive**? We're a cross-section of local people with huge passion for our community. '**B**' for Berkhamsted, '**hive**' for people working together.

So, what could this **B-hive** community space include? We already know there's strong support for a purpose-built central high street community centre that will become the heartbeat of our town, local and independent food/drink services that could be located around a green space, business units at reasonable rates for local businesses and start-ups, a B-shop for local producers to sell their goods, an artists' workshop and gallery space... What would you like?

We need more bees to create a *truly* collaborative vision. Berkhamsted needs you! If you're interested in joining the **B-hive** team - in whatever capacity, please call John Bell on 07811 379938 or email info@bhiveberko.org.uk. The easiest way to support the **B-hive** is help promote on our forthcoming market stalls and at the Lions Fete on Mon 26th August.

A century in and out of Berkhamsted

Nancy Lawrenson

Cornish holiday

The cliff coast of north Cornwall is now well known for surfing but the swimming can be rough. Jim, one of the other Bosigran visitors and a very good swimmer dived straight through the breaking waves and into smoother water beyond. I then plunged in, was dragged under and Jim returned to pull me through. Climbing slippery rocks after our swim I slipped, fell into a rock pool and dislocated a little finger. Being a doctor's daughter I said "we'll have to go up the cliff path and find a doctor" to which Jim responded, "give me your hand." One pull and the finger was back in place – like a flash of lightning in my mind! Back to supper and home a few days later. "Who did you meet?" asked my mother – "the sea was very rough" said I! Back to work. A week later a letter from Jim. He was coming to London for a conference, could we meet up? A concert at Wigmore Hall, and brother Stephen's bedroom was free. Long talk by the fire into the night after another concert. "Did I know he was a priest?" I did not. "That means that my ministry comes first – before marriage" – with that I could fully agree. "So will you marry me?" - yes was my reply. Next morning he sought my mother's permission who replied "Nancy is very independent – she doesn't need anyone's permission."

Emeralding from Cameo Corner, opposite the British Museum.

Jim's next leave was in January 1943, we were married in St. Luke's, Kew, I was given away by Arthur Coombs my god father and always a guiding influence for me and we honeymooned with three days at the Mitre Hotel, Oxford (luxury off-ration pheasant, partridge, venison, salmon and trout) three days with my Uncle Ronald and Aunt Biddie in Peasmore, Berks, (on ration books) and three days at Danbury, Essex with the Ladners, my sister Rosemary's school friend Jean who later married John Dawkins and produced Richard Dawkins, Rosemary's failed godson! Off to Portland and its gale force winds on the cliff top close to the lighthouse. The chaplain's house had been bombed and the new home was the evacuated village school up steep steps. With Jim as the Probation Officer Training College Padre we moved on to Rochester with three children and then in 1956 to the Chaplaincy at Berkhamsted School with David 11 and Andrew 9 in the Junior School and Celia 7 later in the Girls' School.

More next month....

Recipe

Joanne Lloyd-Evans

Gazpacho

Gazpacho is a chilled tomato soup that originates from Andalusia in Spain. It is healthy and easy to make and is lovely in hot weather. It must be made with lovely ripe (or even slightly over-ripe) tomatoes, so don't bother with this recipe if you can only get hard tomatoes. Late summer is the best time to make gazpacho. If you feel that your gazpacho is not quite red or tomatoey enough, you could add a squeeze of tomato puree.



Ingredients

100g slightly stale crusty white bread
1.2 kg very ripe tomatoes
1 red pepper and 1 green pepper, deseeded and diced
1 medium cucumber, peeled and diced
2 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
60ml olive oil
2tbsp sherry or white wine vinegar
A pinch of chilli powder (optional)
Salt and pepper, to taste
Garnishes as desired, but may include:
diced black olives, hard-boiled egg, small

pieces of cucumber and pepper, chopped mint and chopped spring onions.

1. Tear the bread into pieces and soak it in cold water for a few minutes, then squeeze out the excess water.
2. Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil, drop in the tomatoes and let them boil for 1-2 minutes. Remove the tomatoes with a slotted spoon, and when slightly cooled, remove the skins, which should come off easily.

3. Put the tomatoes and bread into a food processor and add all remaining ingredients. Process until the soup is as smooth as you can get it. Taste, and add more seasoning if you wish. If you would like a very smooth soup, you could pass the mixture through a sieve, but personally I don't bother with this.
4. Put the gazpacho in the fridge to chill.
5. Just before serving, prepare your desired garnishes and serve with the soup for people to help themselves from.

Summer Sports

This month Matt Dawson takes a look at rowing

London 2012 saw a very successful regatta for Great Britain's rowers as the team won a record nine medals at Eton Dorney. I was there to witness some of the rounds before the finals but most recently, in June this year I was back at Eton Dorney for the second round of the World Rowing Cup. This has inspired me to do an article on rowing in the local area and my experiences of watching world class rowing.

The first round of the World Rowing Cup was held in Australia, the second was in England, at Eton Dorney, and the final round was held in Lucerne in Switzerland. I was in attendance at Eton Dorney for the second round and it was a brilliant day out. So many memories of last summer's Olympics were brought back and because of it I have discovered a new found love for the sport. It was held over three days and I was at the last day to see the finals. Some of our Olympic heroes were there but the team was predominantly made out of new faces. We had great seats; we were right down by the finish line so we could see who won what whilst we were also right in front of the medal ceremonies. It was a record crowd for a World Cup regatta which meant that the 'Dorney Roar' was able to inspire our rowers to nine medals once again.

It was certainly a day that'll live long in the memory. The day was made better by the fact that the rowers felt so at home amongst the public. One of the rowers, Polly Swann, who partnered Helen Glover, came and sat with her family after her race. They were sitting just a few rows down from us! Glover and other members of the team also walked past the stands a couple of times and they were very happy to have pictures taken and sign a few autographs.

At the end of this month the 2013 World Rowing Championships will take place in South Korea which will be well worth watching or listening to if the chance to do so arises.

Eton Dorney is fairly close to Berkhamsted but this magazine is about the more local surroundings. There are plenty of clubs around though should you wish to take part in rowing. The nearest club to Berko is the Rickmansworth and



Watford Sea Cadets which offers a wide range of water sports including rowing training for both children and adults from beginner up to coxswain level. There are clubs in Longridge, High Wycombe and more further a field in Milton Keynes and Dorney itself.

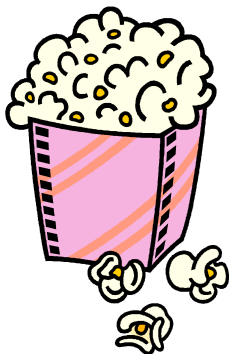
I'm certainly thinking of the prospect of taking up rowing, whether or not that'll actually happen is another matter due to my other sporting commitments, but who knows? Either you or I could be competing in Rio or future Olympics!

For more info on the above clubs and other clubs nearby visit; <http://www.britishrowing.org/clubs>

To finish off with I'm moving away from rowing quickly to congratulate Andy Murray on his Wimbledon win. I said in my last article that he was hoping to go one better than 2012 and he did indeed that. After 77 years we finally have another Wimbledon champion!

Kids' Recipe Corner

Home-made popcorn



If the sun does stop shining this summer and you need a good rainy-day activity, or if you just need a day chilling out after all that time outdoors, then why not make your own popcorn?

Invite a few friends round, stick on your favourite film and relax. You can pretend you're in your very own cinema!

Make sure you get an adult to help you as the oil becomes hot in the pan

Ingredients

1 tbsp oil

50g corn

Put the oil and corn in a pan. Use a clear lid. Heat over a medium heat and shake the pan until the corn starts to pop. Keep shaking the pan until all the corn has popped. Turn off the heat.

Sauce

50g butter

2 tbsp maple syrup

Pinch of cinnamon

Melt the butter in a pan, stir in the maple syrup and cinnamon. Turn off the heat.

When the popcorn is ready mix them together and enjoy!

Your Berkhamsted Team

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

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

Circulation: Jane Morgan 01442 872075

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

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