

*the magazine for town and parish since 1872*

# YB

Your Berkhamsted

November 2013

Your town's future

News from our schools

Win pantomime tickets!

50p

# In this issue...

## Welcome to the November edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

The year is racing by and we're already heading towards Christmas. It still feels too early to talk about it, particularly with the recent temperatures, however, since the lights have already gone up in town, there are several festive references in this issue in order for you to plan your diaries.

Back to the present though and the importance of November, especially Remembrance Sunday with its poignant message "Lest we forget", reminding us to step back from our hectic lives and reflect upon the reasons why we commemorate this day.

Also in this issue, we bring you the latest news from the B-Hive project, news from some of our local schools, and a review of Sue Hampton's latest book for children. It's also not too late to enter the YB Young Writer's competition which we featured last month, so if you're between school years 5 and 8, get writing!



Helen Dowley, Editor

<b>Berkhamsted in the News</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Local Noticeboard</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Berkhamsted – a Transition Town</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Pantomime Competition</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Young Writer Competition</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>School News</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Church News</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Parish Pages</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Hospice News</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>My Berkhamsted</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Recipe</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Census Corner</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Book Review</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Your Sporty Christmas Gift Ideas</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Young Berkhamsted</b>	<b>31</b>

Front cover image: *Poppies I*, Mitzie Green



## *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

Julian Dawson brings us the latest from his trawl of the internet



Cuisine seems as good a place as any to start this month's web escapade. Hertfordshirelife.co.uk reports on Berkhamsted's very own cookery school, known as How2boilwater.com, run by Karen Bretts of Old Meadow Close. Boiling water sounds like basic chemistry to me, but the website assures me that cooking is the thing whether for posh dinner parties or children – that's school holiday cookery classes not some disturbing Grimm fairy tale.

Hemeltoday reports on the discovery of 210 skeletons beneath the site that will soon become Berkhamsted's M&S Simply Food store. Reports that various planning departments had hidden their cupboards on site were soon discounted by a more prosaic explanation. It was believed that this was the location of a medieval hospital's burial ground, and that monks also ran a monastery and church here. Once archaeologists have fully investigated, the bones will be replaced to lie in peace somewhere between and beneath the bakery and ready meals section.

Blogspot site zsazsabellagio reports on another local business, developers Leighton and Henley. Some beautiful pictures of the interior of their redevelopment of the grade II\* historic listed building at 6 Palace Gate in Kensington have been uploaded. But as with the previous story, it is in what was revealed that creates the story. Long-lost ceiling murals were discovered and have been lovingly restored. Four corner areas, depicting the seasons, were newly painted in oils on canvas.

Talking of listed buildings, you of course can rely on Wikipedia to list all grade II\* category buildings in the town. They include, Ash at Berkhamsted Place, Ashlyns Hall, St Peter's Church, Edgworth House and the Great Barn at Castle Hill Farm.

Continuing the historical theme this month, two Roman coins that were discovered by a rookie metal detector user last year have been bought by the

(Contd on p5)

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(Contd from p3)

Dacorum Heritage Trust, who will store the find in their treasure trove in their museum store in Clarence Road. The two silver denarii – each a day's pay for a Roman soldier – were given to those who fought in the 31BC Battle of Actium according to hemeltoday. Quite an amazing link with the past.

Followers of our own RNLI lifeboat will be gratified to learn that the Spirit of Berkhamsted was launched from Happisburgh in Norfolk to rescue a young man blown off a surfboard. The man managed to rescue himself as it turns out, but the lifeboatmen wasted no time in explaining the dangers of the local tides to him. This all reported by edp24.

Tringtoday reports on a disagreement (journalist would insist on a row) concerning proposed advertising posts to be installed at the Chesham Road roundabout. Local councillors believe it is an excellent way to make money, but others are concerned about safety issues and blocking views of the countryside. The signs could earn £2,000 a year allegedly.



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

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with

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# Local noticeboard

## **Berko Unplugged**

This is the Swan Youth Centre's big fundraiser of the year and is a fantastic night for all the family. A real celebration of the talents of our members through song and dance.

Please come and enjoy a fantastic evening with us and help raise essential funds for the Swan Youth Centre for the benefit of all local young people and the community as a whole.

Berkhamsted needs the Swan Youth Centre and we need your support to enable us to continue offering this great service. Tickets are on sale now.

## **BerkoFest Winter Wonderland**

Saturday 23rd November 2013, Centenary Theatre, Berkhamsted School, Kings Road. Doors 3pm, Show 4pm – 7pm with interval.

Described as “A magical sleigh ride of theatre and music for all the family”, this event will be an afternoon of festive performances plus...Santa's Grotto, Face Painting, Splat-a-Santa, Christmas Market, Hog Roast & Mulled Wine

Adults £5 Kids £1. Tickets available from Scoops Ice Cream parlour.

## **Upstairs Gallery**

The Upstairs Gallery above the Post Office in the High Street will host an exhibition entitled 'Reflections' from 14th November to 24th December. It is a very special Christmas exhibition showcasing the best of local talent. The gallery is open 10am – 4pm from Tuesday to Saturday.

## **Town Farm Art Show Cheddington**

Eight artists showing paintings, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, woodcarving,

woodcraft, contemporary basketry and jewellery. Plus mulled wine, mince pies and Christmas cake.

One weekend only: Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd, Sunday 24th November 2013, 10am – 5pm, 6 Town Farm, Cheddington, Near Tring, LU7 0TT.

Please park on High Street – not in Town Farm. Free entry. Donations for refreshments in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

## **Have your say about our Library's future**

Hertfordshire Library Service is holding a public consultation from 21st October to 31st December 2013 and they would like to hear your views.

Hertfordshire County Council recognises the vital role library services play in Hertfordshire's communities and in recent years changes in the way people live and technological advances mean many customers now access these services differently. Libraries aren't just about borrowing books any more. They play a vital role in local communities, providing free access to reading, information, computers, learning and local history for people of all ages. Hertfordshire Libraries are aware that they must respond to these changes; embracing innovation and new opportunities to continue to provide high quality services for Hertfordshire residents while funding for all public services continues to be under great pressure.

They need everyone's help to devise a new 10 year strategy for Hertfordshire Libraries to ensure that the services reflect the changing needs and priorities of local communities.

(Contd from p9)

You can have your say by: completing the online questionnaire or completing a questionnaire at your local or mobile library. There are also public meetings and library drop-in sessions to find out more. For online information visit <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/libraries/libraryconsultation>.

### **Berkhamsted Festival of Light, Sunday November 24th, 3.30pm**

There will be approx 50 stalls lining the High Street, charity stalls, commercial stalls, catering outlets and fun fair rides from the traffic lights to St. Peter's Church, .

Rock Chorus will be present to launch the event at 3.30pm. Father Michael Bowie will be saying a Blessing at approx 5.00pm, there will be an announcement of the Best Dressed Shop Window and then the Mayor of Berkhamsted, Councillor Ian Reay will 'countdown' the switching on of the lights. Father Christmas will be arriving shortly afterwards (depending on how reliable the reindeer are on that day).

Berkhamsted Lions are overseeing the elves in the Civic Centre with the Elves Posting house (messages from children) which Father Christmas will collect en route. The evening is concluded by a service in St. Peter's Church at 6.00pm.

### **News from the Friends of Ashridge**

There's still time to finish tidying the garden while the soil has some warmth in it from our lovely summer. If you're splitting up plants or just having a clear-out, the Friends of Ashridge would love to receive your spare plants for their next Spring Plant Fair on May 11 next year. John Cartwright (01442 864 984) will welcome donations of well-rooted,

healthy plants, and will be pleased to hear from you any time between now and 4th May. Every year, generous gardeners make it possible for around £6,000 to be raised, which all goes towards providing essentials for the National Trust's Ashridge Estate.

Christmas is coming, whether we're ready or not and Ashridge is here to help with the present and food buying! The Christmas Fair is on Sunday 8 December from 10am to 3.30pm, all around the Visitor Centre on Monument Drive. You'll find festive foods, gifts and decorations, and plenty of tasty choices for an al fresco lunch (more fun than you might think!). The National Trust shop will be open, too, with its excellent range of seasonal goodies.

Details of events can be found on the website: [nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge).

### **Date for your diary**

Friday 27 December - The Friends of Ashridge's Family Christmas Walk: 10am to midday. Starts and finishes at the National Trust Visitor Centre, Monument Drive HP4 1LX. Mince pie and mulled wine or soft drink at the end. Booking essential 01442 851 227 before 20th Dec. FoA members £6, other adults £7, children under 16 £5.



"Ashridge House" courtesy of Mary Dodkins



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# ***Berkhamsted – a Transition Town?***

By John Gerry

“A town comes together to transform its very heart.” So was launched the B-Hive project on Berkhamsted High Street on 29th June this year. At stake was the very centre of Berkhamsted, based on the planned sale and development of the old police station on the corner of the main traffic light junction and, possibly, of the hinterland behind it flanked by the Library and the Civic Centre. The B-Hive plea to all the residents of the town was simple. Here is a once in a lifetime opportunity to influence the shape and style of the centre of the town we love. Let us come together as a community and put forward some popular ideas as to how we would like to see this critical area developed. Whilst many people expressed their opinions via the website, the main event was on 14th September in the Town Hall when 100s of residents visited an exhibition and were invited to record their own views as to how Dacorum should be advised to proceed with development. The results of this exercise have just been made public (in order of preference):

1. More open space (piazza style, green) linking to Butts Meadow.
2. Low-rent business units/hot-desking for local start-ups.
- 3 Performance space

These top three ideas were each sponsored by around 25 percent of participants. Hot on their heels came the Library and some form of Community arts/gallery activity. Other suggestions were a Museum, day care for the elderly, youth activities, local market/shops, and affordable housing.

Speaking to the B-hive members who had

been at the meeting, it was interesting that they felt several themes running through the discussions they had with participants.

There was a real wish to link Butts Meadow more closely with the town centre; support for local business was heartfelt; it was felt strongly that the historical architecture of the Town be respected; that sustainability and eco-friendly solutions be utilised, and that opportunity should be sought to build intergenerational connections within the community.

What happens next? Will all this effort have any influence on the planners?

Well, 25 people produced proposals and presented them to Dacorum Planning Department and the Police Commissioner on 21 October. These proposals were based on the democratic voice that has been expressed over the last few months and discussed the financials as well as giving examples of where else in Britain this democratic approach has been tried and been successful.

As to whether the planners will be influenced, maybe that is up to all of us. This forthcoming development is highly relevant to our town, and a significant percentage of residents have had their say. The more of us that join our voices in insisting that we have a legitimate interest in such a vital change to our town, the more, hopefully, the planners will take that interest on board.

For any readers that would like to pursue this issue further, the B-Hive website is at [www.bhiveberko.org.uk](http://www.bhiveberko.org.uk), or e-mail to [info@bhiveberko.org.uk](mailto:info@bhiveberko.org.uk).

# Competition!!

Win tickets to see Robin Hood at Watford Palace Theatre



Join Robin Hood, the beautiful Maid Marion, Friar Tuck, Little Joan, Dame Nellie Nurse and Shirley Soothsayer as they attempt to foil the evil plans of the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham, in Watford Palace Theatre's festive pantomime version of 'Robin Hood'.

Written by Andrew Pollard (*Jack and the Beanstalk* 2011 & *Mother Goose* 2012), the production is directed by the Watford Palace Theatre's Artistic Director, Brigid Larmour, and welcomes back the handsome Robert Rees as Robin Hood, local star Terrence Frisch in the part of Dame Nellie Nurse and Sheena Patel as Shirley Soothsayer. Other cast members include: Philip Cox as the Sheriff, Jill McAusland as Marion, Erica Guyatt as Little Joan and Donovan Blackwood as Friar Tuck.

Tickets are normally from £12.50 but we have a pair to give away! To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer the following question correctly:

**"Who takes from the rich and gives to the poor?"**

The winning pair of tickets are for the showing on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm and cannot be exchanged.

Please email your answers to: **[editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk)**, or post your answers through the church office letter box at the side of the Court House.

Please mark all entries **"Robin Hood Competition"** and don't forget to include your name, age, address, email address and telephone number.

The editor's decision is final.

## Get Writing!



### Do you have what it takes to be a *Your Berkhamsted* Young Writer 2013-14?

In last month's issue we launched our very own short story competition for Berkhamsted schools, to celebrate this year's National Short Story Week. There are two age-groups for the competition, years 5 to 6 and years 7 to 8.

Pupils who enter must write a story based on the title "The Mistake". What happens in the story is up to each entrant, but the story should be about some sort of mistake.

Year 5 to 6 pupils should write a story of between 500 to 600 words, and year 7 to 8 pupils should write between 900 to 1,000 words. Entries can be handwritten or typed. Pupils can only enter if their school has registered for the competition, so if you would like to take part, please tell your English teacher or school librarian, and ask them to email [editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk) to register their interest, if they haven't

done so already. We'll send them all the relevant details about the competition.

There's still time to submit your entries as the closing date is Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

There will be four category winners: Best story by a year 5 pupil, Best story by a year 6 pupil, Best story by a year 7 pupil, Best story by a year 8 pupil. The judges include Ian Skillicorn, Director of National Short Story Week, and local author Rowan Coleman. The winning entries will be published in *Your Berkhamsted* between January and February 2014.

**Good luck to all pupils who enter and we hope you enjoy writing your story!**





# School News

A round-up of news from our local schools

Following the many changes that have recently taken place within our town's state schools, and as they are such a vital part of our community, we thought it would be a good idea to keep up to date with what all of our local schools are doing. Here's some news from a few of them this month.



## Thomas Coram Church of England School

After so many months of planning and preparation – and an incredibly busy August crammed with a lot of building alterations and refurbishment work, complete with all the new signage – it was a complete joy to welcome all our new pupils and their parents to the Thomas Coram family on 4th September and to actually get started, rather than prepare for it. We couldn't have hoped for a better start in many areas: pupils looking so smart, ready to learn and settling into new routines really quickly. It's been good, too, to start to get to know many of our new parents. The start of term seems like much longer than a month, though; with every member of school having their photographs taken, the Friends of Thomas Coram holding their AGM and electing a new committee and holding elections for the parent-appointed governors on our new governing body. I am indebted to the many staff who have worked tirelessly to get us ready, and the staff who've worked so hard to make the start of term such a success: we've been

overwhelmed by positive feedback. We haven't got everything right yet, but we're working on it and are committed to making our new school a huge success. Thomas Coram's Royal Charter was signed by King George II on 17 October, 1739; this year, on the 274th anniversary, we welcomed Paul, Bishop of Hertford, to lead our worship as we rededicated ourselves anew to God's service. Whilst everyone at Thomas Coram (with Victoria, Swing Gate and Ashlyns) is settling into our new school, the Berkhamsted headteachers are already reviewing how the preparations and implementation have gone, as the other group of First schools continue their countdown to becoming primary schools in September 2014.

By Rob Halls, Headteacher



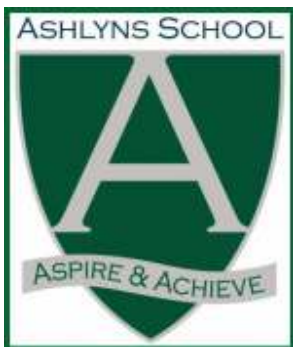
## Potten End C of E first School

The new school year began with the launch of Walk Once a Week. Strider visited and although the morning of the launch was wet, the number of children who either walked or parked and strode was marvellous.



The children use Travel Tracker on the computer each morning to record how they came to school and at the end of each month, the class with the greater percentage of walkers wins the Strider trophy. Year 4 were September's winners. Children who walk once a week for the month receive a badge – there are 12 to collect. At last week's hands up survey, only 20 children had come to school wholly by car. It is hoped that this scheme will reduce congestion in the immediate vicinity of the school. Parents are being encouraged to park either in the Village Hall car park, the parking bays opposite the Village Hall or at a safe place at least 250m away from school. The planning application for our three new classrooms was submitted at the end of September, along with our new Travel Plan, and we wait for news as to what happens next...

The school held its Harvest Festival recently and parents generously donated food and household items for the foodbank organised by DENS. Year 3 wrote and read the prayers. The children sang songs, recited poems, shared thought-provoking information about Harvest, our good fortune, and of course the good work carried out by DENS. By Jane Senior, Headteacher



## **Ashlyns School**

At long last, Ashlyns School reopened its gates from September as a full secondary school, taking an extra 400 students through its doors and inducting a considerable number of new staff (many from the former Middle Schools); and what a buzz of excitement there is! Whilst the school is delighted with the refurbished and reconfigured classrooms, music rooms, science laboratories and reception (and the imminent arrival of Costa Coffee), the greatest transformation has been the palpable enthusiasm and energy that comes with being a full school – and our whole-school photo with 1200 students and 150 staff was a visible celebration of this moment. Please log-on to our website at [www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](http://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) to see news photo galleries and issues of the ebulletin, with updates on what we've been up to: the World Challenge Expedition to Nicaragua; the Music Tour to Germany and Holland; our Extended Learning Day with mock interviews, a visiting poet, Recycling Challenges and more...

## **Tudor times**

Year 12 historians visited Hampton Court Palace in October for a guided tour of Henry VIII's palace as part of their course on Tudor England.

The students witnessed the splendour and magnificence of Henry's palace, and learned more about how Thomas Wolsey was able to win Henry's trust and to exercise tremendous power on his behalf. Some students were particularly excited to model some Tudor-style robes!

## **Date for your diary:**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Concert

# Church News



## The Travelling Crib

On Advent Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, two

Travelling Cribs will begin their journeys round the parish as a reminder of the story of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

Our branch of The Mothers' Union provides two Travelling Cribs – one for All Saints' and one for St Peter's. The members made the knitted figures of Mary and Joseph so they are very 'child friendly' and no one need have fear of them being damaged by young children. The figures have a special basket to travel in and each family they visit is asked to prepare a special place in their home for them to rest for the night. If you would like the Travelling Crib to spend a night in your home during Advent this year please sign up on the list which will be in church on Sundays 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November and, during the week in between, at Chuckles and Little

Fishes. One list will be available to sign at St Peter's and another at All Saints'. Make a note of the dates and bring your diaries. To avoid disappointment, sign up on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November. The cribs will be blessed and sent out from church at the morning services on Advent Sunday. One will leave from All Saints' and one from St Peter's, with the first of the families on each list who have offered their homes as a resting place on their journey. Each night they will stay with a different family before returning to church, with the last family.

After welcoming the crib for a night, each family is invited to display a poster in their window. Watch out for the posters around the town as you are caught up in the busyness of all the pre-Christmas activities. As you see them, remember that journey long ago, be filled with the hope of Advent and be ready to receive the Christ Child in your heart this Christmas. Please contact Tracy Robinson (863559) for All Saints' Crib or Margaret Burbidge (862139) for St Peter's Crib.

## Petertide News

St Peter's has now concluded its 2012/3 year of 'Petertide' fundraising and has raised £12,242.22, which will be split between two charities – Home-Start, Dacorum and Maji Mazuri in Kenya. Various events contributed to this total including the annual Petertide Fair in June, a charity dinner at the Gatsby restaurant in May, a quiz and charity raffles. Thank you to everyone who helped us raise this super amount, particularly in tough economic times.

Pictured left to right is: Pru Murray, Petertide Fair Chairman, Father Tom Plant of St Peter's and Simon Cox, trustee of Home-Start receiving a cheque for Home-Start's share of the money raised.



# Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Revd Penny Nash



In 1897, as Queen Victoria celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of her reign and as Great Britain celebrated an

empire that spanned the globe, Rudyard Kipling produced a poem to celebrate Victoria's long reign. Kipling was one of England's great literary voices and had earned a reputation as the poet laureate of the British Empire, but the poem that he produced for the Diamond Jubilee was hardly one of imperial triumph. Its title, "Recessional", suggesting things ending and passing away, sounded a sombre note of caution to a nation proud of its imperial accomplishments. Kipling used a refrain, "Lest we forget – lest we forget!" to remind his readers that their Empire too could pass away like ancient empires before it.

While Kipling's poem may be largely forgotten today, the words of his refrain, "Lest we forget", still have a place in our minds and hearts as we, here in what used to be part of the British Empire, approach what we have called Armistice Day or Remembrance Day. Sometimes these words – "Lest we forget" – are carved into cenotaphs, and, if we care to read these words and ponder them, they confront us with a challenge that something important is at stake here, that there are risks involved if we were to forget about the meaning of this day.

For the church, we too are a people who have much at stake "lest we forget". Since God rescued his people from slavery in Egypt, he has tasked them with the duty of remembrance. The Psalms, for example,

remind God's people never to forget the God who has never forgotten them:

It is He who remembered us in our low estate, for his steadfast love endures for ever;

O give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures for ever.

(Psalm 136: 23&26)

On Remembrance Sunday we gather to remember those whose lives have been lost in the World Wars but also to grieve those lives which continue to be lost in places like Afghanistan. My understanding of 'peace' is more than the avoidance or war, more than the absence of conflict. It is about building relations between people, between communities, between nations, which positively and constructively creates a love, care and respect for others founded on justice for all. An example of this was the act of reconciliation led by the people of Coventry following WW2, when led by its Cathedral, it acknowledged the devastation our country brought to cities like Dresden, and worked to build a new relationship of peace.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November we will remember the sacrifice of the many who have given life and limb in conflicts past and present. We do not want the enduring tragedy of lost lives, and the experiences and traumas of those who survived, to be for nothing. As we look back so must we look forward and be committed to building relationships of peace and justice, following Christ's command to love our neighbours as ourselves.

## ***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 Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast, 8am, The Way Inn. Rachael Hawkins 866324.
- 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 – Friday 7:30am; Saturday 9:30am.

Eucharist Monday 6:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road; Wednesday 8:15am; Thursday 12:45pm at Thomas Coram School, 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, Berkhamsted**

Mon 11 Nov at 8pm: Organ Recital in St Peter's Church – Adrian Davis, St Peter's Church Director of Music. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

Fri 15 Nov at 1pm: Lunchtime Recital – Anna Le Hair

Mon 25 Nov at 8pm: Cowper Society presents: Organ Recital – Liam Cartwright

### **All Saints'**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints Day, 8pm Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Sunday 3rd Fourth Sunday before Advent, 10am Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

Sunday 10th Remembrance Sunday, 10am Morning Worship, Peggy Sear, and Tracy

Robinson, 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

Sunday 17th Second Sunday before Advent, 10am Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Christ the King 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 4pm Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Tracy Robinson, and Audrey Cox

## ***Registers***

### **St Peter's**

#### **Baptisms**

1<sup>st</sup> September Beth Grace Smith

8<sup>th</sup> September Karen, Leah, Oliver and Mia Dell, Phoebe Matilda Gorman

29<sup>th</sup> September Elliot James Walker, Alexander James Carnegie, Sebastian, Jack Clayton-Jones

#### **Weddings**

7<sup>th</sup> September Simon John Walker and Katherine Louise Marsh

14<sup>th</sup> September Greg Michael Proudfoot and Lucy Elizabeth Buchanan

21<sup>st</sup> September Jae Gundrip and Clare Alexandra Hopson

28<sup>th</sup> September Alexander David Marshall-Clarke and Natasha Emily Judd

#### **Funerals**

3<sup>rd</sup> September John Cowman Wood

17<sup>th</sup> September Arthur Williams

### **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](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk) and at [www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk)

# ***News from the Hospice of St Francis***

## **Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary**

### **Lord Howard came to visit**

Lord Michael Howard of Lympe CH QC came to visit us on 9<sup>th</sup> October in his role as Chairman of Help The Hospices and as part of Hospice Care Week.

He met staff, patients, care professionals and volunteers and attended an informal Think Tank on the influence that we are having on end of life care provision here in our own building, at Watford General hospital and in residential care homes.

Lord Howard then went on a tour of our building, meeting patients and families receiving support, including a little girl working with a member of the Children's Support Team following the death of her Grandma. He also added his pledge to the Hospice's Count Me In Wall.

Speaking about his visit, he said: "I was immensely impressed by everything I saw at The Hospice of St Francis today. The building and facilities are wonderful, but what particularly struck me was the passion, creativity and commitment of every single volunteer and staff member I met. "My conversations with patients and their families really brought home how deeply the hospice is valued. It was fasci-

hear of the hospice's partnerships and collaborations with others, to reach out and ensure more and more people can benefit from their work. I'm delighted



that I was able to visit and take the 'Count me in!' pledge to show my support during Hospice Care Week."

### **New film shows how we go the extra mile**

To coincide with Hospice Care Week (7th-13th October 2013) we unveiled a new short film to showcase our work in the hope of helping to de-mystify hospice care.

Entitled, 'The Extra Mile' the film shows the day-to-day work that goes on here, but also the special moments which help to make such a difference to the lives of our patients and those close to them. The film was made by award-winning director David Wachs and funded by a



generous donor from Harpenden whose husband we cared for. Our Director, Dr Ros Taylor, DL said, "There are still some misconceptions about what we do in hospices and we wanted to use the medium of film to portray a snapshot of how we care for our patients at The Hospice of St Francis. "Yes, we care for some very sick patients but amongst this there are some extremely moving moments where we do our utmost to respond to individual patient's wishes and put them at their ease. The film shows our daily patient nursing care and clinical meetings alongside services we offer which may surprise the community. "It's impossible to show the breadth of what we do in a short film but I am absolutely delighted with the result, which I think encapsulates what we are about at The Hospice of St Francis." David Wachs, Film Director, added, "It has been a privilege to work with The Hospice of St Francis to create this emotional film. Since my first visit to the Hospice, I have been amazed at the care I've witnessed and hope this film goes some way to opening the eyes of others to the service the charity provides to those who need it."

The Extra Mile can be viewed at:

<http://vimeo.com/76419426>.

### **Calling all Santas!**

Mums, dads, grandparents, children and even pets will be painting the town red on Sunday 15th December as they don their festive suits for the sixth annual Santa Dash in aid of The Hospice of St Francis.

Heart 96 Drivetime presenter John Darin will be hosting the 2.5 mile dash, which starts at Riverside and sees hordes of Santas sprinting, sauntering and scooting

their way around the streets of Hemel to raise vital funds to help fund our care for patients facing life-limiting illness and their families in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.



It costs just £15 to register for adults, £5 for children or you can enter the whole family (including the dog!) for £35. Santa outfits are included in the entry fee and participants are asked to raise as much as they can in sponsorship.

Hospice Community fundraiser Andrea Grant said: "Find your friends, grab your grandparents, festive up the family dog or even get your school involved! The school with the most Santas recruited will win our exclusive Dashers Cup!"

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# **My Berkhamsted**

This month Chris Richards tells us what he loves about his town

In last November's issue of *YB* we featured an article about Chris Richards. He is the Standard Bearer for the Royal British Legion and has led the Remembrance Day procession for the last several years. It was clear from that article just how fond of Berkhamsted Chris is, so this year I decided to ask him more about his beloved town.

"Born in Shrewsbury in the middle of the 2nd World War, Chris grew up in the National Children's Home in Manchester. Small and wiry, he had precisely the right physique for a jockey, and was apprenticed in York to a flat racing stable. He rode for some 8 or 9 years, progressing to 'Travelling Head Lad' in the well known stables at Lambourn. Chris explains that the 'Travelling Head Lad' was top of the tree and enjoyed the privilege of accompanying the horses and meeting all the owners. So I suppose it was no surprise that, having decided to join the Army, he continued working with horses in the RHA. Chris' Army career was cut short by a broken shoulder, suffered whilst drag-racing with Army colleagues, and in a complete career change he moved to Berkhamsted in 1968"

(Taken from John Gerry's article "'Ex-jockey leads Remembrance parade"  
*Your Berkhamsted* Nov 2012)

## **I moved to Berkhamsted...**

Having given up horse racing as a jockey, to enter the Hotel world, it did not take me long to find out that Berkhamsted was for me. I had done some research on Berkhamsted but what I read had no

reflection on how lovely it is. It was so nice to have a good job and a nice place to live. I took lodgings in Manor Street not far from my place of work – The Kings Arms – in 1968.

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

Standing in the High Street, looking down Castle Street having the lovely church of St Peter's on the left. Also remembering the Yew tree being half the size in 1987 thanks to the storms and, after all that, is now so nice; and to look up the high street again with a tree line as far as you can see. We are so lucky to have trees; try looking for a high street that's as nice. That makes me happy.

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

I would say the Royal British Legion because I am the 'standard bearer', and at this time of year there are poppies and boxes to make up, and getting ready for the march to the church – this year on 10<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm. If the people of Berkhamsted want to know why 3pm, it's all to do with the bands. As people see me carrying the standard I am not only representing the Royal British Legion but that of the people of Berkhamsted to which I am proud to do so.

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

Who would not be? It has everything going for it. When I first came to

(contd on p25)

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(contd from p23)

Berkhamsted there were 50 or more organisations. I think that may have doubled. Since we are lucky let everybody feel proud. We could have nothing and end up with concrete cows! Yes, let us all be proud.

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

I don't have a lot to say on this matter, apart from people complaining. I do not want to hear it. Do what I do – complain to the goldfish, or the cat, or to the walls! That way you do not take it into the high street. Let's all be happy.

**Berkhamsted is crying out for...**

When I first came to Berkhamsted there were lots of ladies' shops but nothing for

the teenager. Now there are lots, but it is the men this time who lose out. The best shop fell over (how, I do not know) – funny how it was there for about 150 years. I do not want to go to other towns to do my shopping!

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

It's a lovely town with lots to do. You will have to be in Berkhamsted a long time to get around to all the things that it offers. If it happens to be a lady, I send them to Anne Marie's in the high street. She will know then that Berkhamsted has all the flair; what more do you want! Let's all say together "Small town, big future!"



Chris pictured on the far right with Father Michael Bowie and, then mayor of Berkhamsted, Carol Green. Picture courtesy of Hemeltoday.co.uk, 25.11.11





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# Recipe

Kate Perera

For the last couple of years Joanne Lloyd-Evans has provided us with a wonderful range of mouth-watering recipes.

Joanne has now stepped down from her culinary role, so we would like to thank her for all her hard work and contributions. Fortunately, the monthly recipe slot will remain and our new 'chef-in-residence' will be Kate Perera. For her first recipe, Kate brings us Oriental Cake.

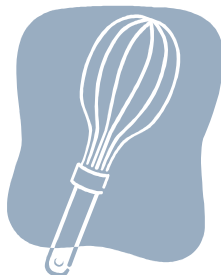
## Oriental cake

This is a cake we used to make when I was a teenager (so quite a long time ago) and we thought it was rather exotic and interesting. I haven't seen anyone making anything like it for a long time, but would be interested to know if anyone has anything similar. It uses a lot of dried fruit that nowadays we would usually eat fresh, but the ingredients are still available, and the candying/preserving adds essential sweetness and stickiness.

## Ingredients

6oz butter  
6oz sugar

8oz self raising flour  
3 eggs  
4oz dates, stoned and chopped  
2oz ground almonds  
2oz chopped walnuts (or pecans)  
2oz chopped preserved ginger – either glacé or stem ginger with the syrup drained from it  
4oz sultanas  
4oz candied peel  
4oz glacé pineapple  
2oz glacé cherries



## Method

- Cream the butter and sugar together, then beat in the eggs.
- Mix all the dried fruit and nuts into the flour, then add to the mixture and stir in until thoroughly mixed – do not beat.
- Spoon into a greased and lined 8 inch cake tin and bake in a low oven, gas mark 2 or 140 – 150 C (275F) for 2½ hrs. Leave to cool then remove from the tin.

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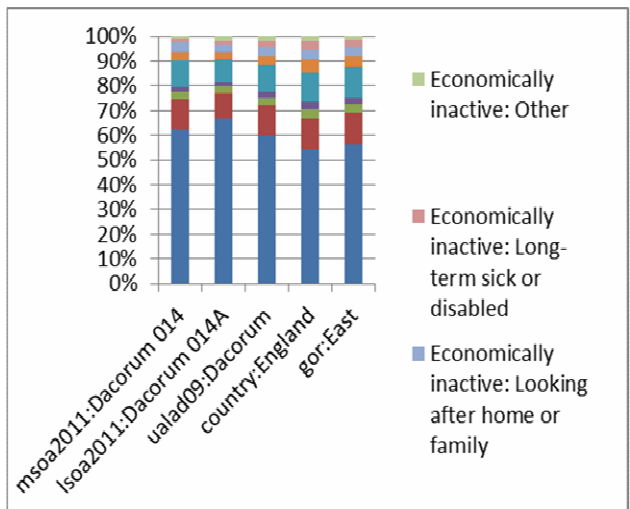
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## Census Corner

Julian Dawson finds that employment in Dacorum is above the average, but European-wide youth unemployment is a problem that will affect us all.

This month's investigation of the census looks at the numbers of people economically active, and those inactive. Economically active being those people who are in employment, or wish to be employed if they do not currently have a job. Economic inactivity may be for a number of reasons, from retirement, sickness, or looking after home or family. In terms of headline numbers, just over 24 million people are in employment in England, around 55 per cent of those who are old enough to work. This percentage is in fact below the average of Dacorum, which is a shade under 60 per cent. And indeed, for the south east area of Berkhamsted the figure is not far below 70 per cent. It is clear that the East of England and in particular our part of Dacorum, bucks the national trend for numbers in gainful employment. As one might expect, the proportions of people unemployed in Dacorum is lower than the national average, though the numbers in part-time employment are fairly even. The proportion of those unable to work locally because of long-term sickness is below the national average, and the same goes for those retired, and the numbers of students who are not also seeking work. The detail of the employment breakdown reveals a worrying trend for those under the age of 25. This is a phenomenon that is affecting the whole of Europe. Spain is particularly

badly hit, where shockingly 55 per cent of people under 25 are unemployed. But in the UK, youth unemployment is still a problem, albeit not on the scale of Spain. Youth were particularly badly hit by the 2008–2009 recession. Youth unemployment rate rose from 14 per cent in the first quarter of 2008 to 20 per cent in the first quarter of 2011. Or to put it another way, one in five people aged between 16–24 who wanted to work didn't have a job. As of July 2013, 960,000 young people were unemployed. There are genuine long-term risks that need to be addressed. If this so called lost-generation fail to gain experience in work, it might make them unemployable once the economy recovers, not only affecting national competitiveness, but also alienating youngsters in society. We are already aware of a lack of connection with politics. Inactive young people are the ticking time bomb of European society.



# Aliens and Angels

A review of local author Sue Hampton's latest book for children, by Sophie Armstrong

## **Aliens and Angels**

By Sue Hampton—The new 3 in 1 book which is perfect for Christmas.

There are three short stories in this book. 'Aliens and Angels' is about a boy called

Bobby who wants to be an angel in the school nativity play, but ends up getting the part as the leader of the globalobs. His friend wanted to be a globalob but got the part of chief angel. They swapped parts and it

turned out to be the best nativity ever. It was good story, but a bit too young for me.

### **'Not Without a Carrot'**

I was really excited to see this story because Sue Hampton came to talk to us at Victoria School last year and we drew the illustrations for the book. I was really pleased to see my picture of a donkey. The story is about a donkey called Trouble who is the steadiest donkey in country but she won't do anything without a carrot. Her owner decides that she's too much work because she always needs carrots. He takes Trouble to Nazareth to sell at the market. A couple called Joseph and Mary buy her and you

can guess the rest! This was my favourite of the three stories.

### **'Bootee for Etta'**

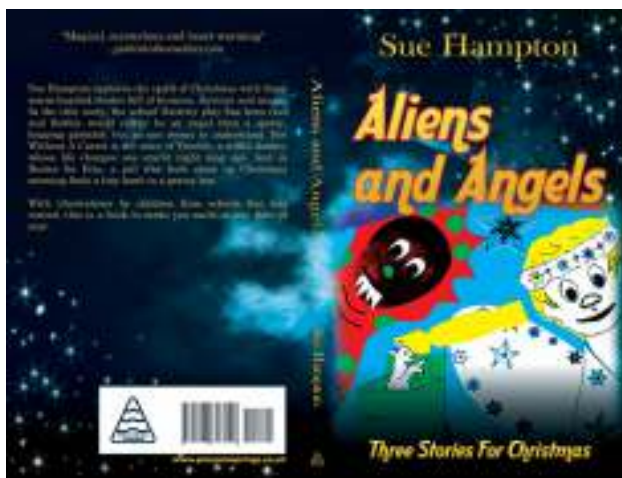
It's Christmas Eve and Etta's mother is taken poorly and has to go to hospital.

So, Etta has to stay with their cleaner and her family for Christmas. She gets a magic box out of a cracker and lamb appears. Etta calls the lamb Bootee. The story tells of their experiences with the cleaner and

her family. It's a really nice story that shows how happiness can come in unexpected places. The illustrations in this book were drawn by pupils from Greenway School.

I think this is a really good collection of stories. It's probably best for 5-8 year olds. It would make a really good Christmas present for someone who likes reading.

*Aliens and Angels* is available from The Way Inn, Waterstone's in Berkhamsted and all online booksellers. Sue will be signing copies at Waterstone's on November 27th, 3.30 – 5.30pm. Find out more at [www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk](http://www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk).



# Your Sporty Christmas Gift Ideas

Matt Dawson dons his Santa hat to bring us gift ideas for the sports enthusiast

With Christmas just 2 months away I'm sure many of you will be getting your Christmas shopping underway if you haven't already. For the November and December issues of *YB* I will be giving you some Sporty Christmas gift ideas. In this issue it will include gifts that are related to children and then the December one will contain adult related gift ideas.

There are many sporting video games that would be the ideal gift for your child or grandchild. FIFA 14 is the best football game out there and is available on all consoles, including the new Xbox One and the PS4. Meanwhile for something different there is Pro Evolution Soccer 14, although a step down from the FIFA series, it is still an enjoyable game. If managing a team is more your thing then Football Manager 14 on the PC is an ideal gift. Not only is this good for children, mainly teenagers but is also a very enjoyable experience for adults. Expect to hear cries of joy and cries of disappointment when playing this as you go through the highs and lows of football management.

Away from football but staying with video games, is F1 2013, although the season is finishing this month it's an essential gift for those F1 fans if they don't already have the game. England's tour of Australia starts this month as they look to retain the Ashes they won this summer. To go along with that is Ashes Cricket 2013 which is available on most consoles and is a good gift for cricket fans.

As usual, there are plenty of sporting annuals that have been released. There is

the Match Annual 2014 whilst there is also a Match of the Day Annual. There are also various football club annuals, such as Arsenal, both Manchester Clubs, Liverpool and many more. If rugby is more your thing then there is an Official England team annual for 2014 and also a Rugby Super league annual. Along with the Annuals are calendars. There are all sorts of football related ones whilst England cricket and rugby team ones are also sold. Imagicom are a company that sell many calendars including Tennis Stars, Grand Prix and Basketball.

Snow usually hits us once or twice a year so a sled has the potential to be a great gift for a child if they are off school and are looking to take advantage of the snowy weather. To help them wrap up warm, many football clubs do their own hats, scarves and gloves.

I hope I've managed to suggest some good ideas for your wish list.

Or, if you're a parent reading this and have a sporty child, I hope I've managed to give you some inspiration as to what to send to Father Christmas for him to deliver to your sons and daughters.



# Young Berkhamsted

## Why do we celebrate Bonfire Night on 5<sup>th</sup> November?

Guy Fawkes (1570 to 1606), who was also known as Guido Fawkes, was one of a group of Catholic plotters who tried and failed to blow up Parliament in 1605 – now known as the Gunpowder Plot. At the time, King James I was on the throne. England had broken away from the Catholic faith and the Church of Rome in Henry VIII's reign (by 1536), but there were still many Catholics in the country. Guy Fawkes joined up with a group of thirteen Catholic plotters, led by Robert Catesby, who planned to overthrow the King and put a Catholic monarch back on the throne. The plotters rented space in the cellars of the House of Lords and filled it with gunpowder. Guy Fawkes was put in charge. They planned to set off the gunpowder during the opening of Parliament, on 5th November 1605. One or more of the plotters, however, were worried that some of their fellow Catholics and friends would be at the opening and get caught in the explosion, and must have written to warn them not to be there that day. We know that a certain Lord Monteagle received a letter warning him to go to the country because Parliament would 'receive a terrible blow.' Lord Monteagle showed the letter to the

King, and the cellars were thoroughly searched and Guy Fawkes caught.

After several days of horrible torture, Guy Fawkes gave up the names of his fellow plotters and eight of them went to trial in January 1606. All were found guilty and executed.

On 5th November 1605 Londoners were encouraged to celebrate the King's escape from assassination by lighting bonfires and an Act of Parliament soon followed, declaring 5th November as a day of thanksgiving throughout the country.

Try making these Bonfire Night snacks:

## Breadstick sparklers

Bread sticks

Melted chocolate

Hundreds and thousands

Take some long, plain bread sticks

Dip one end of the bread stick in melted chocolate.

Dip into sprinkles/hundreds and thousands.

Stand the bread sticks in a cup, and leave to set for a few minutes.

**Have a safe and enjoyable  
bonfire night**

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