

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

March 2014



All Things Ashridge
Local author interview
Petertide News



50p

In this issue...

Welcome to the March 2014 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

Hopefully we've now entered into Spring but it does seem strange to have had a Winter without snow; I certainly know a few children who are less than impressed at the lack of sledging and school closures.

So, let's turn our attention to the new season with an article bursting with information about what's happening in Ashridge. If you decide to venture in the other direction you can take a walk around Chesham Vale with the latest in our series of countryside ambles. Continuing that theme there's news of The Berkhamsted Walk which takes place in May to support The Children's Society, giving you plenty of notice to get your boots ready. Our focus on the arts turns this month to literature in an interview with local author Julie Mayhew and we also have an extract from one of her novels. Finally, looking further ahead to June there's news of this year's Petertide Fair and the charities that it supports. Combine all of the above with a recipe, a book review, sports news and local events and that's this month's issue in a rather large nutshell.



Helen Dowley, Editor

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Berkhamsted in the News | 3 |
| Local Noticeboard | 7 |
| Let's Talk Literature | 8 |
| All Things Ashridge | 12 |
| Charity News | 14 |
| Petertide Fair | 15 |
| Parish Pages | 17 |
| Hospice News | 20 |
| The Book Corner | 23 |
| The 2014 Berkhamsted Walk | 25 |
| Recipe | 27 |
| A Walk Through Chesham Vale | 28 |
| Your Sport | 30 |

Front Cover: 'Multiple Moos' by Jenni Cator.

P.3 and 5: Berkhamsted High Street, by Jenni Cator at Art at 88, 88 High Street, Berkhamsted.



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

This month's internet foray runs the gamut from 1066, 1920s job adverts and sartorial bananas.



This year marks the highly significant 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War, and YB will be doing its part in marking the occasion in a local context. But, an equally significant anniversary, and some say more influential on our history, will follow in a couple of years time as we mark the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. As many of you know Berkhamsted has a significant connection to this event as this was where William the Conqueror received the official surrender of the Saxons. Thus berkhamstedtoday.co.uk reports on a local businessman's plan to install a memorial to this event within the boundaries of the castle. However this has been stymied by English Heritage, the administrators of the site. Their decision has been supported by the Duchy of Cornwall, who owns the castle. English Heritage stated that "our role is to maintain its significance as a historic monument for future generations to enjoy, rather than installing new elements." As we know this has been studiously ignored by badgers in recent years. But it does highlight an interesting discussion about how we preserve such important historical sites for future

generations. We are assured that ways may be found for an installation to commemorate the event elsewhere, but we certainly need to celebrate our local role in such an extraordinary event in the nation's history and identity. The *Watford Observer* regularly runs its 'On this day' slot. So it was that watfordobserver.co.uk ran a snippet from 30th January 1926. Apparently a Berkhamsted tradesman had recently advertised: "Wanted, a boy – with brains if possible." Having received no replies, he duly amended his advertisement: "Wanted, a boy – with or without brains." He got a boy. Of course such advertising today would probably infringe both age and sex discrimination regulations now, to say nothing of requiring intelligence. If you have problems with dry skin, or more pertinently baby's dry skin, look no further than community.babycentre.co.uk. Never let it be said that I am not fully inclusive in my reporting for this column. I am pleased to tell you that Berkhamsted Waitrose's rapeseed oil will work wonders. Personally I swear by balsamic vinegar.

(continued on page 5)

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(continued from page 3)

No, wait a moment I think that was for salad dressing.

Berkhamsted has made both the *Telegraph* and the *Economist* recently, if only tangentially. The *Telegraph* reports on new research revealing the most prized property markets which form a halo of wealth around the capital. In its list of example locations it includes Ashridge, where the average house price is £1,030,250. And staying with homes, Mark Adams of Berkhamsted wrote to the *Economist* questioning the opinion that some parts of the greenbelt would look better with housing upon it. This would only work, he opined, if they replicated the garden cities of the early 20th century rather than “the ranks of

cramped housing that creep towards the south-east’s motorways.”

I leave the last word to Berkhamstedtoday.co.uk, which reports on a Fairtrade banana dressing competition. At first I thought this was some sort of tropical fancy dress a la Josephine Baker. However it turns out this was actually dressing the banana itself. Past entries have included pirates and easter bunnies. The world has gone pear shaped if you ask me.



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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Local noticeboard

LitFest '14

Wednesday 26th March, 7.30pm,
Berkhamsted Library – Poetry Panel:
As part of the Litfest events happening around Hertfordshire this month, you can hear George Stanworth, Leslie Tate, Belinda Hunt and Margaret Morgan-Owen talk about their inspiration and experiences in the art of writing poetry and see them perform readings from their own work. The cost is £2. For more information about what's happening in the rest of the county, pick up a Litfest '14 leaflet in your local library.

Happy Birthday OXFAM

Thirty-five years ago this month, in 1979, the first permanent Oxfam shop in Berkhamsted opened in Lower Kings Road in the premises occupied until recently by the pet shop. Ten years later the charity moved to its present location on the High St. The first volunteer manager Audrey Hope, who retired eight years ago after 27 years in the role, is still an active volunteer at the beginning of her 50th year supporting Oxfam. The latest addition to the range is the Oxfam Book and Music Shop which celebrates its third birthday this month. Why not give Oxfam a birthday present this month? Until the end of this month all donated sales will be match-funded by the Department for International Development, doubling the value and benefitting poor farmers, especially women, with training, seeds, tools and irrigation materials. And of course both shops are perfect places to find that unusual Mothers' Day gift.

Berkhamsted Live presents the following events at Dar Papillon café, 360-364 High Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HU

Thurs April 3rd: Don Perera, winner of the 2011 Montague Cleeve guitarist award, Bee Millar, resident artist at Berkhamsted School, and prize-winning authors Sue Hampton and Leslie Tate in 'Classic Passion' – a local culture show where invited artists/musicians/writers perform and discuss their work. Free show 8pm – 10pm. Optional pre-show buffet at 7.15pm.

Tues June 10th: Young, gifted songwriters with Joe and Anna Perry dancing, playing guitar and singing blues/folk/rock. Charlie Goodall singing his own original indie/folk and Huseyin Hodja playing pop-punk, R&B and acoustic guitar. Free show 8.00pm – 10.00pm. Optional pre-show buffet at 7.15pm. Booking/info for both events: suehampton@btinternet.com.

Dacorum Community Choir

The Dacorum Community Choir will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall on 16th March. The Choir will join the Hatfield and Welwyn Community Choir and the massed Hertfordshire Primary Choirs for the Hertfordshire Schools Gala 2014. People who would like to attend can book tickets online at <http://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/herts-schools-gala/default.aspx> or Tel. 0845 401 5045.

Let's talk literature

An interview with local author Julie Mayhew



This month we delve into the literary arm of the Berkhamsted art world. Literature in Berkhamsted is not just about Graham Greene, important though our annual festival has become. There is a wealth of talent living and

working amongst us, and I have spoken to one of these talents, Julie Mayhew. Julie has recently published her first novel, *Red Ink*, and we can enjoy reading an extract on page 10. The novel has had wonderful reviews from the major papers, has been selected for many reading lists and been short and/or longlisted for a number of prestigious awards. It features a teenage heroine, Melon, and is a bitter sweet story of growing up and mother/daughter relations. Supposedly for the 14+ age group, a number of reviewers loved the book as adult readers. (Your columnist, although a long, long way from teenage years, thoroughly enjoyed it.)

With the red ink hardly dry, so to speak, Julie has already completed her second novel, *Mother Tongue*. I interviewed Julie to try and find out what lies behind the production of a successful first novel. It's fair to say I got rather more than I had bargained for...

Julie comes from the flatlands of Peterborough, which doesn't seem to be much of a highlight in her memory. More interesting was Bournemouth where she did a degree in journalism but was discouraged to find that publishers

wanted only skeletal news bites and were uninterested in her literary approach to writing.

As is typical at that life stage, Julie did some part time jobs, the most formative of which was in radio, where, intriguingly, she was one of a team known as Black Thunder Babes! From this moment, radio became a bit of a passion; the fact that the only restriction on radio is the listener's imagination; that you can both write and act scripts; that the timescales are relatively short; all these attracted this ex-journalist. In the meantime Julie had trained as an actress in London, to find that most scripts she got to look at had very boring female roles.

So, if the roles don't exist, write some of your own. In collaboration with Josephine Teale, Julie co-wrote and acted in "Recruitment Stars" and "If no one loves you, Change", both at the King's Head Theatre, London. She has also written two well-received plays and a number of short stories, with her collection, "End of" receiving a nomination for the prestigious 2012 Scott prize. Still living with her love of radio, Julie's Radio 4 play, "A Shoebox of Snow" was nominated for the 2012 Best Audio Drama.

Such an eclectic mixture, what, I asked, led to the first novel? And where did the time come from to write it? The answer was a bit of a surprise. Julie confesses to working best under time pressure, and a novel is a big ask. So after the birth of her first child (she has two sons, 7 and 6), she found she had a couple of hours a day when babe was asleep, and she used this as the discipline to buckle down to the

novel. Like many novelists, whilst she has a structure in mind from page 1, she allows the work to take her in different directions if that is what the character seems to demand. I suppose most of Julie's skills and interests have come together in her founding of the "Berko Speakeasy". This is a series of events, mixtures of short stories, theatre, and, above all, fun. Essentially, Julie brings together a group of actors/readers who perform five or six short stories in the Greene Room at the King's Arms to around seventy people seated at tables round the room and perhaps enjoying the cocktail of the night along with the performance. Each performance to date has been sold out and thoroughly enjoyed (not least by your columnist). It is an innovative and fun addition to the Berkhamsted literary portfolio. As these events are quarterly, Julie is experimenting with an additional format whereby a writer will introduce his work to a group of diners/drinkers , the first


event to be held at the "Here" Cafe/Bar on Lower King's Road in March when Adam Marek will introduce his short stories.


I have a strong feeling that Julie is committed to adding real down to earth spice to Berkhamsted literary life via Speakeasy. It could be an exciting ride!

Like many of its residents, Julie came to Berkhamsted at first baby time, "Seemed a good mix of nice town and nice country". Seven years on, this initial perception has been confirmed..... "interesting town centre, excellent art core in the town." Julie sees the Berko population divided into the city commuters packing into the 6.56pm and 7.05pm trains, and the West End actors, musicians etc swapping stage gossip on the last train. She is certainly doing her bit to ensure we all get an opportunity to share in this artistic cornucopia.

By John Gerry

(continued on page 10)



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(continued from page 9)

An extract from Julie's novel *Red Ink*:

I run.

Down the gravel track towards the village.

My hands on my ears to begin with. Then I pump my arms, feel them scuff the dry wall, the prickly shrubs.

The night is black. Paul gives chase. He bellows my name. Then I hear him yelp in pain. He wasn't wearing shoes when we were out on the terrace.

I turn the corner, shy away from the lights and music of the taverna, keep my face in the shadows. I am a freak, a Minotaur, born as a punishment for doing wrong. A car grows past and I run faster now, away from the village, towards the sea, tears stinging my sunburnt cheeks. I hear my own breath. I hear Paul calling my name, his voice getting smaller.

"Melon! Melon!"

I reach the main road. The dark looming mass of the sea is in front of me.

On an island far, far from here, where the sea is woven from strings of sapphire blue...

No. All lies.

I am the daughter of a liar. The daughter of a junkie. I am nothing but a joke.

I run, on past the junction. Dust covers my sandaled feet, turning them to stone.

The insect buzz of a motorbike sends me onto the verge, backs me up against a tree. The burgundy dress snags on the bark and I lose my footing. I fall, yell out, then clamp a hand to my mouth. I don't want anyone to hear me, to see me. But the motorbike has stopped, it is turning around. It pulls up close and I draw back from its thundering motor.

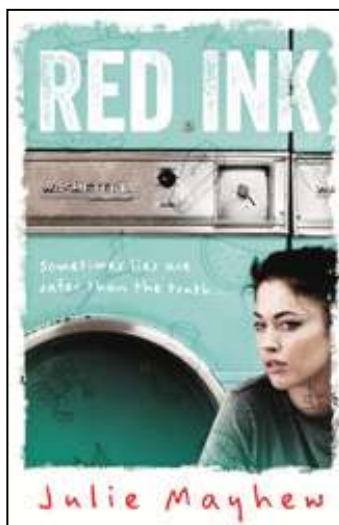
It is Haris. And he looks at me like he knows.

Did everyone know? Everyone except me? I take his hand. I have no choice. It is just like he said it would be – I will scream and he will come rescue me.

We stare at each other for a moment, until I feel too ashamed and have to look away. I wipe tears and snot from my face. He pulls me towards the bike.

"You want come with me?"

What else do I have? Nothing. Nothing.



Red Ink by Julie Mayhew is published by Hot Key Books, price £10.99.

All things Ashridge

The National Trust and Friends of Ashridge tell us what's happening in the coming months at one of our most stunning local attractions.

We're open!

The Visitor Centre re-opened on Saturday 15th February. We will now be open all year round 10am – 5pm (or dusk if earlier) with just a few days closed over Christmas. So come on up for a visit.

Spring is a time of great change in the natural world. Through late March and April trees and shrubs will be bursting into leaf, transforming the countryside from brown to green in a few short weeks. On the ground some early wildflowers can be spotted including Coltsfoot, Lesser Celandine, Wood Sorrel, Primrose, Cowslips and Violets.

Birds will be migrating north along the Chilterns in spring time. Ivinghoe Beacon is a great place to witness this as many birds 'rest up' on their spring migration from their warmer winter homes back to their breeding sites in the remote highlands of the North of England, Scotland and Scandinavia. Standing at 233m above sea level the beacon is an excellent place to see migration in action. It is certainly an exposed spot but a walk on a spring morning could be rewarded with some bird sightings as well as the beautiful views. Spring can bring sightings of Wheatear and Ring Ouzel. Also keep your eyes open for raptors as Osprey and Marsh Harrier are recorded here regularly on passage.

Ashridge Uncovered: The story of Ashridge

This year we are introducing a new series of guided walks of the Estate led by our resident experts: our Foresters and

Rangers. If you would like to know more about the beautiful Ashridge Estate, its history, its habitat, its wildlife inhabitants and its conservation then join us. At the end of the walk there will be a chance for questions and a chat back whilst enjoying a cup of tea and a slice of cake, the perfect end to a nice walk.

Each walk is led by a different member of staff who will be sharing their incredible in-depth knowledge of the Estate. The first walk will be an overall introduction to Ashridge held on Sat 29th March 1pm – 3pm with others in the series including forestry, parkland, commons and the Ivinghoe Hills. The walks are £15 each for adults and £10 for children. Contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 to book your place.

We have a new season of exciting events lined up including:

Cadbury Easter Egg Trail: Fri 18th – Mon 21st April 10am – 4pm.

Put on your wellies and join us for our annual Easter Egg Trail. Follow the trail through the woods and answer questions along the way to earn your chocolate reward! £2.50 per child.

Dawn Chorus: Sat 26th April or Sat 3rd May 5am – 7am.

Yes, we know it's early! But getting up to experience the dawn chorus should be on everyone's list of things to do. As a reward for your early start we will provide you with a cup of tea and a bacon sandwich at the end of the walk. £15 per adult, £10 for children.

Spring Trail: 15th Feb – 30th May. £1 per child

Pick up your copy of the trail from the Visitor Centre to help you look for the first signs of Spring at Ashridge and complete some of the 50 things to do before you're 11 ¾ along the way!

Book Fair Saturday 10th May

We are planning a Book Fair to be held at the Visitor Centre on 10th May at which we will be selling all the rare, antique and collectable books that have been donated over the last few years. We will also have an extensive selection of paperbacks and hardbacks to purchase.

Don't forget if you have any second hand books you would like to donate we would be happy to receive them, just drop them up to the Visitor Centre.

Friends of Ashridge Spring Plant Fair

Spring is on the way and the gardening year will soon begin again. Once you have taken the first faltering steps towards reacquainting yourself with the beds and borders, you might find time to think about what to do with any unwanted plants or surplus stock available from your garden. If you do have plants to spare, The Friends of Ashridge Estate would love to hear from you!

The National Trust at Ashridge is holding its annual Spring Plant Fair on 11 May 2014, 11am till 4pm and sells donated plants from the public to raise money exclusively for the upkeep of the Ashridge Estate and maintenance of the mobility vehicles, access paths etc. The volunteer organisers would be happy to receive any number or variety of plants - most commonly we receive perennials, grasses, shrubs, and vegetables prove especially

popular. We ask that the plants come labelled, noting the colour of the bloom if ornamental.

The event is run entirely by volunteers, and is able to raise thousands in funds for essential works at Ashridge and the upkeep of the estate. Ashridge is ours and for everyone and needs to be continually nurtured with the right resources to ensure that enjoyment of such a beautiful, ancient site of natural woodland is preserved for future generations. Please come along and contribute to the annual Spring Plant Fair! Many individual commercial nurseries support the event and set up stall too. They will be open for business and come from local areas and represent all three counties in which Ashridge is situated. They will be selling unusual hardy perennials, border plants, roses, herbs and more. Please come early as queues form. The fair is situated at the top of Monument Drive.

To donate any plants, find out further information, or if you require assistance in potting up any surplus material, please contact John Cartwright on 01442 864 984. Last date for plant donations is 4th May 2014. Pots and compost can be provided.

For a full list of the National Trust events at Ashridge you can visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge.

We are also currently looking for new 'front of house' volunteers to help on the reception desk and welcome visitors to the Estate. If you have a good local knowledge, enjoy talking to and helping people and would like to apply for this role please contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227.

Charity News

Local events raising money for worthwhile causes

Make a Mother's Day

This Mothering Sunday help change a life

Mothers' Union

The Mothering Sunday project, Make a Mother's Day is an opportunity to buy a gift with a difference! Included in the catalogue are training someone to read for the first time, providing emergency supplies in times of disaster, supporting parents and helping campaigns like violence against women.

Gifts can be purchased for mothers, grandmothers and Godmothers, or in their memory, and if you wish you will receive a card. All this supports MU work to change the lives of families all over the world. £160,000 was raised in 2013 and it is hoped to increase that this year.

Catalogues will be in church during March, or order on line at www.makeamothersday.org. Order in time; Mothering Sunday is on 30th March.

Christian Aid Lent Lunches.

These will be in the Court House on Thursday 20th March and Thursday 3rd April. Please note they are on Thursdays this year, between 12 noon and 1.30pm. Home-made soups and fruit crumbles, with or without

custard, are on the menu and donations support the work of Christian Aid in helping the world's poorest people lift themselves out of poverty. All are welcome; do come!

Margaret Burbidge: Tel: 862139

Lent Lunches



Thursday 20th March and
Thursday 3rd April

From 12 noon until 1.30pm

.....or as long as our delicious
homemade soups last!

The Courthouse

Donations for the work of Christian Aid



The Petertide Fair 2014

The annual event that keeps on giving

St Peter's announces 2014 Petertide Charities

St Peter's church in Berkhamsted has announced the charity beneficiaries of its 2014 Petertide programme of outreach, which includes two town causes.

The church is delighted to be raising money to provide gym equipment for

Ashlyns School's

new Sports Hall,

funding

chaplaincy

provision at The

Hospice of St

Francis as well

as supporting

overseas charity

Silent Voices,

which helps

deaf children in

Uganda.

Alongside the

popular

Petertide Fair

(this year set for

Saturday 14th June), the church runs

various events throughout the year to

raise funds for its chosen charities. A

recent Christmas raffle event has already

raised just under £500 to start off the

year's fundraising.

Julian Dawson, Petertide committee

member and St Peter's PCC Secretary

comments, "We wanted to fundraise this

year to help different groups at the heart

of Berkhamsted. In time, Ashlyn's new

Sports Hall will be used by community

groups as well as by pupils and The

Hospice of St Francis has an ongoing need

for funds to provide vital care to those

with a serious illness, together with

support for their families through services like their chaplaincy provision.

"One of our parishioners has a close

contact with the Silent Voices charity.

Deaf children in Uganda are marginalised

and have little access to sign language,

meaning they struggle to learn or

socialise with

others. We will

be funding

some sign

language

summer schools

and making a

real difference

to the future

lives of these

disadvantaged

children.

"We ask

everyone in

Berkhamsted to

support our

programme of

events and in particular, our quiz night on

Friday 21st March and the Petertide Fair in

June to enable us to raise as much as we

can for these deserving charities."

Find out more about Petertide events on

Facebook: Petertide Fair

<http://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/asa/>

[index.htm](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/index.htm); www.stfrancis.org.uk

Petertide support for Silent Voices

Silent Voices is an NGO for the parents,

teachers and carers of deaf children in the

Bushenyi District of South West Uganda

(continued on page 16)



(continued from page 15)

set up with the support of a VSO volunteer, my good friend Hilary Pickup.

Earlier another VSO began to train teachers in Ugandan sign language in five government primary schools in the District, and also give some training to parents and carers. But these are few in number and most deaf people outside Kampala, six hours away by road, lead a very solitary life unable to communicate with anyone. Sadly it is usually assumed that the deaf are incapable of learning, of having a job or leading an independent life.

If they are very lucky parents will allow their deaf child to attend school and learn some sign language. The teachers do their best but they are not absolutely fluent and have little opportunity to practice their skills outside the classroom. Many deaf children live at their school during term time due to the isolated nature of their villages. However during school holidays they experience loneliness, often being the only deaf child in the village with very few people, if any, who can sign.

With the help of Petertide we would like to hold a series of residential 'Summer Schools' for these primary school children. Each school would be held for two weeks at a centre in Bushenyi town, each time for 32 children. In the mornings they would have intensive sign language training given by a well-qualified instructor from Kampala. The afternoons would be devoted to sports, arts and crafts, helping the children to develop social skills, confidence and a

sense of independence. In the evenings they could practice their sign language and see films and videos from the deaf community around the world.

A summer school would improve the ability of these deaf children to communicate, act socially, give them a sense of self-worth and improve their prospects for the future. We believe these two weeks of intensive sign language classes would establish a cohort of fluent sign language users and younger children will learn from them. Once a critical mass of signers has been established a deaf culture will develop which will make an enormous difference to the hundreds of deaf children living in south west Uganda.

Each summer school would cost the equivalent of £2,600, so the cost of three summer schools would be £7,800 giving 96 deaf children this experience at a cost per child of £81. I have the budget for the project if anyone would care to see it. I appreciate Petertide funds will cover only one of the Summer Schools but intend to continue my fund-raising until the project, to which I am deeply committed is complete.

Christopher and I supported Silent Voices from its beginning and I presently help Denis, a 16 year old deaf boy who recently came third out of 124 children in exams in a government school. I met Denis in October on my most recent visit to Uganda shortly before he has begun his A Level exams.

By Jean Green

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

By Canon Anthony Lathe

I used to see him going to and from the village using his bike as both a walking aid and a shopping trolley. Then I got to know him as I was asked to visit him in his two up and two down end-of-terrace cottage. Apart from a short break, he had lived in that house all his working life. It came with his job on the farm. The farmer allowed him to live on there in his retirement. The cottage had only been modernised by having electricity put in. He did not want anything else, so he sat by the same grate he had always sat by; I had the feeling he used the same large iron kettle too, always on the hob. His bed had moved downstairs into the other room, and the WC was at the end of the garden. He and I shared one thing: we had both been in the same corps in the army.

The short break he had taken from farm work was to go to the First World War, the western front. He was not in the trenches because he was a horseman. So he found himself taking ammunition to the front. I persuaded him to talk about it, partly because I was curious, but also because as he entered his memories in talking he overcame his natural reticence. Soon the tears filled his eyes and then dropped down his cheeks. He told me the Germans knew exactly where the duckboard paths were, down which the horses pulled the carts loaded with ammunition to the troops at the front. So every night as they crossed the sea of mud they were shelled. "My stars!" he said as he described the fear and the slaughter of men and horses. The silent darkness with just the sound of the cart

wheels and the clank of harness, no talking was allowed, and then ... "My stars!", the noise, the flashing, the explosions, the bucking horses, the shouting and the screaming!

Lately, as we have been seeing a lot of old film taken on the western front in the First World War, in my mind I have been hearing those words "My stars!". Now, inevitably we are but viewers and listeners, separated by time from the actual events. Only by imagination can we enter into the history to feel the fatigue and the fear; admire the bravery. We can only imagine the bond of comradeship between people in that kind of situation, and the bonds between men and their animals.

For me this time of year, Lent, is a time for this kind of imagination. It leads up, of course, to the suffering and death of Jesus. We have the Gospels to show the cost of unconditional love. Lent can be a time to enter into that Gospel story and to consider carefully the consequences of violence of every kind. It is not something to turn away from, thinking we can do nothing about it. It is something to enter into imaginatively. We have enough help with the amount of news we receive every day. But, remember, each conflict is personal and individual. One day someone will want to speak of what they have endured, not just in battles but also in everyday life and relationships. Then it might be our privilege to listen and cry with them, as we may do, through the Gospels, with Jesus and his friends at this time of year.

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 at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, presented by The Cowper Society supported by the Friends of St Peter's

The next Berkhamsted Week of Accompanied Prayer will be from Sunday 12th – Sunday 19th October 2014. Application forms and further information will be available from March onwards.

Sat 1st Mar at 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church - Bridgewater Sinfonia, Director Adrian Davis. Weber Overture: Der Freischütz; Brahms Violin Concerto; Schumann Symphony No 4; Tickets: £15, U18s free from 873205, www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk or Aitchison's, High St, Berkhamsted.

Mon 10 Mar at 8:00pm: The Cowper Society WINTER TALK in the Court House Julian Bly, OB (son of John Bly) 'Antiques'. Free entry. Retiring collection.

Sun 16 Mar at 3:00pm: RECITAL in St Peter's Church followed by refreshments in the Court House - Michael Newman cello, Tyler Hay piano. Entrance £10.

Fri 21 Mar at 1:10pm: LUNCHTIME RECITAL in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's Church – Berkhamsted School. Free entry. Retiring collection.

Mon 24 Mar at 8:00pm: The Cowper Society WINTER TALK in the Court House – Roger – Roger Moorehouse, OB 'The Nazi-Soviet Pact, 1939'. Free entry. Retiring collection.

Sat 29 Mar at 2:00pm: Rachel Gordon PIANO PUPIL CONCERT in St Peter's Church.

Mon 13 Apr at 8:00pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Chiltern Chamber Choir with string quartet and organ directed by Adrian Davis. Pergolesi Stabat Mater, Duruflé Messe Cum Jubilo, Rachmaninov Vespers (by Candlelight). Tickets: £10 & U18s free - www.chilternchamberchoir.com, or Cole Flatt, High St, Berkhamsted.

All Saints'

2nd Sunday next before Lent: 10am, Morning Worship, Karen Noble & Malcolm Lindo

9th First Sunday of Lent: 10am Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby, 4pm: Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group.

16th Second Sunday of Lent: 10am Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins.

23rd Third Sunday of Lent: 10am Holy Communion, Revd Gill Hulme & Rob Wakely, 4pm: Healing Service Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Tracy Robinson, and Audrey Cox

30th Mothering Sunday: 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am: All Age Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Registers

Baptisms

5th Jan: Felix Alexander Sharples, Clementine Nancy Margaret Jenkins (St Peter's)

Funerals

17th Jan: Ronald Martin Cowie (St Peter's); 14 February: Sidney Francis Rance (All Saints')

Memorial services

1 March: Pamela Vivienne Ruse (All Saints')

Key Church contacts: Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong & Kate Perera, Court House, 878227. Fr. Tom Plant, 382633 (day off Fri) St Peter's, Curate, St Peter's; The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints'.

News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary



Senior Sister celebrates 25 years at the Hospice

Senior Sister, Jenny Burrell celebrated 25 years of nursing at the Hospice last month. The longest serving member of staff to date, Jenny is responsible for a team of 50 nurses and oversees the care for hundreds of patients every year in the Hospice's Inpatient Unit.

"My 25 years at The Hospice of St Francis have flown by," says Jenny. "It's such a privilege to look after patients and their families at such a poignant time in their lives. Whilst there are inevitable sad times, there is a happy atmosphere too and I'm grateful that the care my team and I give enables patients and families to step away from being carers and enjoy spending precious moments together as a family."

Alison Allard, Director of Clinical

Governance at the Hospice, adds, "Jenny is an absolutely first rate leader who is a perfect clinical role model. She always ensures high quality, individualised care maintaining privacy and dignity at all times, every time, to all her patients and their families. Every week I am privileged to receive glowing reports from families that the care is outstanding and this is all down to her leadership."

Jenny and her partner Paul are participating in this year's Strictly Learn Dancing to raise money to fund patient care at the Hospice. Anyone who remembers Jenny's care and would like to support her should visit: <http://www.justgiving.com/Jen-Paul-Strictly>.

Spring Makeover

Some parts of the Hospice have been refurbished and repainted over the past few months including areas of the Inpatient Unit, our Spring Centre and Chapel. We also have some new car parking spaces to increase capacity for visitors. This has been made possible by a grant from the Department of Health.

Make a Will Month

Running during March, the Hospice has teamed up with selected local solicitors including Austins Penny & Thorne, Harrowell & Atkins and Sumner & Tabor, who will waive or reduce their fees for preparing a standard Will in lieu of a donation to The Hospice of St Francis. Donations from last year's Make a Will month appointments raised over £4k.

Kate Rogers, the Hospice's Trusts & Major Gifts Manager, comments, "I meet many people who just haven't got round to making a Will yet but it's a big thing on their 'to do' lists. Our Make a Will month is a prompt to encourage people to think about their future wishes to ensure their assets and wishes are safeguarded for family and friends.

"Make a Will month is not about leaving all your money to The Hospice but if you do want to include a gift to help fund our work it's a lovely way of helping others from your local community in the future." Details can be found at

www.stfrancis.org.uk/MAW.

Calling all local Businesses!

Join the Corporate Partner Network and enhance your company's reputation in your local community. Enjoy regular business networking events, increased opportunities for web, social media and local press coverage and boost staff morale by demonstrating your commitment to a local cause. You can join the Corporate Partner Network by becoming a Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze Partner. Further details at www.stfrancis.org.uk/company.

Berkhamsted Writing Competition

Budding writer? Enter the Berkhamsted Writing competition which is open to children and adults of any age. Entrants are asked to write a short story on the theme 'Beginnings'. Deadline for entries is 4th April 2014 and further information can be found at www.stfrancis.org.uk/bwc.

Trustees Wanted!

The Hospice is looking to recruit up to five new trustees to join its Board from September. The Board of Trustees meets

six times a year on a Monday evening, with an annual conference on a Saturday to review strategy and performance. In addition, trustees are asked to serve on Board Committees, which involves attending additional meetings throughout the year. The posts are voluntary. Interested candidates should contact Judeth Neville, Company Secretary on 01442 869556/ Judeth.neville@stfrancis.org.uk.

Dates for your Diaries

Berkhamsted Golf Day – Friday 25th April, all day.

The Hospice of St Francis Garden Party – Sunday 1st June 2-5pm.

Midnight Walk – Saturday 28th June from 9:30pm.

Cycle London to Paris for the Hospice – 2-6th July 2014.

Ride Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 for the Hospice – 10th August 2014.

For further news on the Hospice, why not register for our Spring newsletter – sign up on the home page of our website.

www.stfrancis.org.uk.



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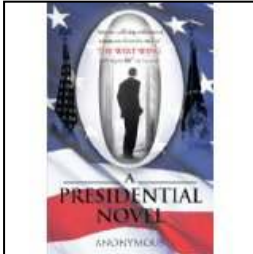
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The Book Corner

Julian Dawson evaluates his latest read

O: A Presidential Novel. By Anonymous.
Simon & Schuster; 353 pages 978-0857204950

This thinly disguised work of American political fiction is clearly based upon Barack Obama's re-election campaign of 2012.



Anonymously penned, the publisher's claim that the author has been in the same room as the president, but it is not really clear how intimate the relationship actually was. The action spans the 18 months leading up to the 2012 election. On first being elected the new president had wanted to shake-up Washington politics, but his wishes for change had turned out to be bitterly unrealistic. We learn that ingrained habits of lawyers, consultants and political hacks are just too embedded and self-serving. We learn how family life is affected, and how even a harmless game of weekend golf is denied the most powerful man simply because of the outcry that ensues.

The tale reveals the lives of the advisors, donors and ambitious staff whose whole life is wrapped up in the campaign machine. The main plot line is set around the attempted undoing of the republican contender, and there are some neat twists and turns. Although we find it difficult to identify with the other worldliness of the political elite, we nevertheless engage with and sympathise with the characters and have a genuine

interest in the final outcome. We also learn about the battle between the old media of the newspapers, and the upcoming new media of blogs and provocation.

Ultimately though, one feels that the political shenanigans become self-perpetuating. Campaigners become lost in a morass of opinions polls, focus groups and television interviews and somehow become disconnected with the electorate who quite frankly become bored with the charade. Whilst clearly set in the specifics of an American presidential election, there is somehow a lesson for politicians the world over where cynicism has replaced a perhaps naïve wish to actually engage with changing the world for a better place. And in the final analysis the anonymous author is himself so much part of the political establishment that he offers no alternative and ultimately justifies and celebrates the status quo.

Fancy yourself as a writer?

If there's a subject you feel we haven't covered in
Your Berkhamsted
or you have something you'd like to write about, please send your suggestions or articles to:

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Walk for Charity

Kathie Lally invites you to dust off your walking boots for this year's Berkhamsted Walk on Sunday 11 May



After the wet and gloomy weather of the past couple of months it's time to dust off your walking boots, put spring in your step and join us for this year's Berkhamsted Walk raising money to support the work of The Children's Society here in the UK.

We're so lucky to have wonderful walking country right on our doorstep. The National Trust Ashridge Estate is a huge area of stunning Chilterns countryside featuring five thousand acres of woodlands, commons and fine chalk downland. The Berkhamsted Walk takes full advantage of this countryside. So join us on 11th May to feast your eyes on the miracles of nature, benefit from a healthy and sociable outdoor activity, and support The Children's Society in its work with disadvantaged children.

The 12 and 18 mile routes start from The Court House, next to St. Peter's Church in Berkhamsted High Street between 10am and 11.30am. There is also a 6 mile route starting from Ashridge College (free car parking) any time from 11am to 2pm. Check points sited every three to four miles serve drinks and give a lift back to the start for those who can walk no further. All the information you need about the walk is on our website: www.berkhamstedwalk.com.

You can download a sponsor form, register for the walk and use the link to collect your sponsorship on line.

Alternatively sponsor forms are available from Berkhamsted Library and The Complete Outdoors, Bourne End. Or you may make a donation (£20 - £30) on the day.

The Children's Society works with over 48,000 children and young people in this country each year. They face danger or disadvantage in their daily lives and include runaways, children in care, young carers and children with disability. Look at www.childrenssociety.org.uk to find out more about the Society's work.

To support this charity The Complete Outdoors is generously offering two prizes of £100 each to the individual and to the small group who raise the most sponsorship for this walk.

Do please join us on 11th May - bring along your family, friends and work colleagues for an enjoyable day out in the Chiltern countryside to support The Children's Society. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter. If you need any more information call 01442 863526.





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Luscious Lemon Drizzle Cake

Mother's Day is a very special occasion when we honour our own mothers or important

female figures in our lives. This month we combine our recipe and children's pages to bring you the perfect treat to give to that special someone. There are not many things more pleasurable than having someone make you a cup of tea and sit you down with a delicious slice of homemade cake! (well not for me anyway...no hints there boys!) So get out your aprons and mixing bowls and cook up this mouth-watering treat.

Ingredients

- 225g unsalted butter, softened
- 225g caster sugar
- 4 eggs
- finely grated zest 1 lemon
- 225g self-raising flour

For the topping:

- juice 1½ lemons
- 85g caster sugar

- Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4.
- Beat together the butter and 225g sugar until pale and fluffy, then add the eggs, one at a time, slowly mixing in each one.
- Sift in the flour, then add the lemon zest and mix well until combined.
- Line a loaf tin (8 x 21cm) with greaseproof paper, then spoon in the mixture and level the top with a spoon.
- Bake in the pre-heated oven for 45-50 mins (or until a thin metal skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.)
- Allow the cake to cool in the tin.
- While the cake cools, mix together the juice of 1 1/2 lemons and 85g caster sugar to make the drizzle. Prick the warm cake all over with a skewer or fork, then pour over the drizzle. This juice will sink in and the sugar will form a crisp topping.
- Leave in the tin until it is completely cooled, then remove and serve on a cake stand or plate.

The cake will keep in an airtight container for 3-4 days or, if you're really saintly, you can freeze it for up to 1 month.

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A walk through Chesham Vale

This month's walk, kindly supplied by The Chiltern Society, takes us slightly further afield

Start: The Black Horse Inn, Chesham Vale, Bucks HP5 3NS. Grid ref SP 963 045.

Parking permitted at far end of car park.

Distance: 5.7 miles, with c140m of ascent

Terrain: An easy walk, with two gentle climbs and one steep descent

MAPS: OS Explorer 181 and Chiltern Society 8 and 17

Route: Exit the pub car park and turn right down the road for c100m.

1. Turn right over a stile, continue ahead to cross the next one and then follow the transmission cables up to the top of the hill. Go over the stile on the right into the next field. Turn right and continue uphill, keeping to the left of the hedge. Follow the field edge round to the left to a gap in the hedgerow and turn right through it. Continue straight across the middle of two fields to a kissing gate. Go through it and the next one directly ahead.
2. Turn left and follow the hedgerow, passing through two further gates, down to the bottom of the hill. Turn right and follow the valley floor for 400m to cross a stile to a wide track: Hawridge Lane.
3. Turn left along the track as it climbs gently and then continue to a busy road. Cross with care, turn left along the verge and then right into Two Gates Lane. After 100m bear left and follow the lane as it bends left and then right. Continue for c150m to a kissing gate on the left.
4. Go through it and across the middle of the field to the next gate. On the other side, bear diagonally left to a gate in the corner of the field. Go through it and stay in the same general direction past the next four gates to meet a wide track. Turn right along the track and where it bends

to the left, keep straight ahead through a gate. The path then emerges at the top of a field.

5. Turn left and follow the hedgerow along the top of the hill for over 800m. Just before a hedgerow joins from the valley floor, bear left into Captain's Wood. Stay on the wide track for another 800m, ignoring all paths left and right and always maintaining the same height.

6. The path then sweeps to the right by a line of garages on the brow of the hill. Here, turn sharply left and go gently uphill to a playing field. Keep to the left of a playground and cross to the far right-hand corner of the field. Go past a barrier on the right to an access road. Turn left, go through the smaller gate and continue ahead. Just before the path swings to the left, turn right through a large metal field gate. Go through the smaller gate directly opposite into a field. Bear left across the corner of the field and over a stile. Stay in the same direction, bear to the right of a paddock and go through a gate onto the drive to Mount Nugent Farm.

7. Turn right down the drive to a busy road. Cross it, go through a kissing gate opposite and follow the wide track round to the left. After 200m, follow the track round to the right. Go past a field gate and stile, and continue to the entrance of a wood. Go over the stile and then straight ahead for c170m.

8. As the main track swings to the left, bear right to exit the wood at a field edge. Follow the fence down to a kissing gate and onwards to meet a byway. Turn right to reach a busy, narrow road. Taking great care, turn left along it to return to the Black Horse.

Points of Interest :

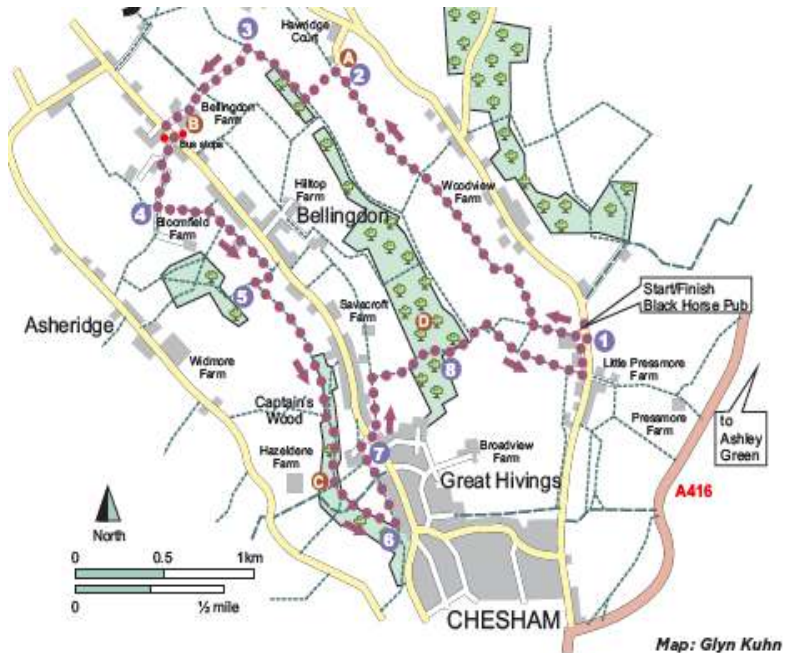
The Black Horse pub is over 500 years old and reputed to be the oldest in the Chilterns. The current building dates from the 18th century.

In medieval times, most of the land in Chesham Vale was farmed using an open-field system, where there was a mixture of common fields and narrow strips.

These strips, sometimes called lynchets, were usually cultivated by the tenants of the Lord of the Manor. This area is also known for its ancient hedgerows, some of which could be 1,000 years old. Recently they were the subject of a survey carried out by local people on behalf of the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Biodiversity Partnership.

A Hawridge: To the right of the second gate are the grounds of Hawridge Court, a medieval manor house dating from the 13th century. It's enclosed by an earlier ringwork, comprising a single rampart and ditch. Hawridge gets its name from the Anglo-Saxon *Aucrug* which means 'ridge frequented by hawks'.

B Hawridge Lane: On the left at the top of the hill is Animal Farm. This is a small farm producing a wide variety of free-range fresh and frozen meat. Further along on the left are Bellingdon Farm Cottages. They are Grade II listed and date from the 17th century. DH Lawrence rented one of them between August 1914



and January 1915, during which time he wrote *The Rainbow*.

C Captain's Wood: There is little evidence to show how the Wood got its name; perhaps it came from a local landowner, Captain Spratly. The Spratly Islands in the South China Sea were named after him. Captain's Wood is an ancient woodland and, since 1995, a designated nature reserve. Its lower bank is one of the most diverse hedgerows in the Chilterns and may date back to the 7th century. Much of the top edge is hornbeam, which was grown for firewood. Since spring 2013, the Chiltern Society has been organising regular conservation working parties to ensure the Wood is kept open for all.

D Ramscoat Wood: At the entrance to the Wood were the Baker family brickworks, which, it is said, made the finest bricks in Chesham. They were used in the construction of Park Royal Underground Station in London.

Your Sport

Berkhamsted in the FA Vase by Matt Dawson

Previously in *YB* I've featured Berkhamsted's overall history and their progress in the World's most famous cup competition, the FA Cup. In this article though, I'll be taking an insight into a lesser known cup competition in the form of the FA Vase.

What is the FA Vase I hear you ask? Well, it is the Football Association Challenge Vase which takes place annually. It consists of teams playing below the fourth step of the English National League System. The NLS is the system that follows the Football League, which consists of teams from League 2 up to the Premier League. The NLS goes from the Conference Premier all the way down to various regional divisions. Step four of the NLS though begins with the Regional Evo-stik and Ryman south and north divisions who compete in the FA Vase. Confusing stuff!

The former Berkhamsted Town had limited success in the competition but 11 years after its inauguration they managed to reach the last 32 for the first time in their history. The 1984-85 season saw a cup run that was eventually ended in round four after a 2-0 defeat away at Collier Row who are situated in Essex. During that season Berko managed to beat Haringey Borough 4-2, Ruislip Manor 2-1, Baldock Town 1-0 in a replay after drawing 1-1 and finally Hazells 1-0. The team that went on to win the competition in that season was Halesowen Town after they achieved a 3-1 victory over Fleetwood at Wembley. However, in the 2000/01 season Berkhamsted Town managed to reach the final, which because the new Wembley



was currently under construction, was held at Aston Villa's 'Villa Park'. The incredible cup-run didn't end in success though as they succumbed to a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Taunton Town. I myself went to that game at the tender age of just 4 years old (see photo). During that run the Lilywhites beat Leighton Town 5-2, Hythe United 2-0, Hornchurch 2-1 in a replay after drawing 1-1, St Helens Town 3-1, Brigg Town 2-1 and finally Bedlington Terriers 3-0. The newly formed Berkhamsted FC first entered the competition in the 2010/11 season in which they were beaten 3-2 at home to Eton Manor in the second qualifying round. That same season, Whitley Bay went on to win the competition, beating Coalville Town 3-2. The next season saw the Comrades reach the same stage of the tournament. They beat Stotfold 1-0 before losing 3-2 to Hoddesdon Town. That year Dunston UTS won the competition. Last season, the 2012/13 campaign, saw Berko reach the second round for the first time since the club was re-founded. They beat Cransfield United and Hadley before bowing out to Southend Manor. This season they went out in the same stage, losing to Hullbridge Sports after beating Hertford Town, Buckingham Town and Baldock Town.

A final word...

Have you ever wondered what the Parish Administrators get up to tucked away in the office? Jean Green tells all...

As a retired Parish Administrator I was entertained to receive the following from my one-time colleague, Kate Perera:

“The job description of parish office staff includes changing light bulbs (I changed 5 this morning, lots of the little ceiling bulbs were on strike), re-building photocopiers, filling in a Mission return for churchwarden, washing tea-towels, knowing how to turn Excel docs into Word 2003 compatible, oiling locks, sorting out curates, correcting deacon's spelling mistakes and grammar, supervising Court House income and expenditure, repairing photocopier again, making tea-and-coffee, occasional vacuuming and wiping down tables, repairing photocopier and laminating machine, talking to people on the phone, being fierce with people on the phone, shouting at people on the phone, instructing funeral directors in how to do their job, replying to people who want to chip bits off the church as souvenirs for their retirement bungalow (Yes, really!) - oh, and mending the photocopier and then there's always the pew leaflet and the Friday mailing, that we might just be able to print before we need to mend the copier again...”

Intrigued I asked Hilary Armstrong, who now works with Kate, if she had anything to add. Hilary replied:

“I'd like to add...counting pennies from the jam jar army, mending the

photocopier again, looking for lost earrings, gloves, hats, coats, counting service booklets, mending the photocopier again, trying to find items that have gone missing (e.g. the Hoover), tracking down who's used the tea towels, emptying the bins and policing the car park. Did I mention the photocopier?” It would appear that some things have not altered greatly since I left the Parish Office!

...and in between changing light bulbs and repairing the photocopier Kate Perera has also written a farewell poem to Father Michael...

The Licensing of Father Michael

The great day looms – and will it snow?

And where shall all the people go?

Who shall lead us here below,

And who with unction grace bestow?

These are the things we need to know –

Uncertainty is comfort's foe,

And Margaret Street is far to go

When winds and flooding make it so...

But comfort ye, and cease to fret,

There is a grain of solace yet:

We've booked a bus; though ways be wet

Pray book your seat! Your needs are met.

Now all the flock may go and sing

At Father Michael's Licensing.



In next month's issue...we will be printing more of the winning stories from our children's short story competition. Don't miss it!

Copy Dates:

4 February 2014

10 March 2014

7 April 2014

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