

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

April 2014

Local author motivates a generation

Schools go bananas for Fairtrade

Beer brewing revived in Berkhamsted

50p

In this issue...

Welcome to the April 2014 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

Now that Spring has arrived we can look forward to the annual spectacle of this year's bluebells. You can plan a seasonal walk to see some of the best in the UK with our walk in Ashridge. We have the runner-up stories from our short story competition for you to read and there's Easter fun to be had on the children's page, along with news of the recent banana-dressing competition!

This month we also welcome a new contributor and member of the team, Joanna Kaye, who writes her first article about the recently formed St Peter's film club.

As some of you may know this is my last issue as Editor, although I will be remaining on the YB team. I'd like to thank everybody who I've worked with, particularly Ian, Julian, John, Joanne and Jane. I've thoroughly enjoyed editing the magazine for the last two years and have gained invaluable experience, met many new friends and discovered a great deal more about our town.

So, to the future...Our new Editor will be Jacqueline Hicks who will be introducing herself in the next issue. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Jacqueline into the role and wishing her all the best. Helen Dowley, Editor



Berkhamsted in the News	3
Local Noticeboard	7
Church Schools Go Bananas for Fairtrade	8
Motivating a Generation	11
Short Story Competition	13
Carry on Screening	15
Parish Pages	17
Hospice News	20
The Book Corner	23
My Berkhamsted	25
Ashridge Walk	27
Your Sport	30
Young Berkhamsted	31

Front cover image kindly supplied by Chris Bourne. Chris paints English contemporary landscapes. For more information: Chrisbourneart@icloud.com; or visit Chris Bourne Art on Facebook.



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

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

Berkhamsted in the News

In this month's internet tomfoolery, Julian Dawson investigates town planning, aquatic badgers and patent nonsense



You can almost rely upon Graham Greene to make at least a monthly appearance on the webwaves. And so it is that on Edith's Miscellany (edith-lagraziana.blogspot.co.uk) a review is made of *Our Man in Havana*, and the usual references are made to the author's unhappy childhood in Berkhamsted where he made several attempts on his life. In this instance this is blamed on his bipolar disorder. And reminds us that creative genius is often marked by inner turmoil. Can one exist without the other?

But if you find that all a bit deep and overwhelming, take solace in the imminent arrival of Marks and Spencer, complete with downsized signage following representations by the town council and conservation expert. Good to know that all aspects of this new development are being given due diligence and care. This was reported in hemeltoday.co.uk, as was a more significant planning decision concerning the blocking of a development in Doctors Commons Road which some compared to a nuclear power station, and others to a Miami Beach-style concrete box. Essentially the five-bedroom home was

considered out of scale and the planning committee “voted to refuse it on grounds of loss of privacy for neighbours, insufficient amenity space, safety concerns regarding car parking and over-development of the site.” Shades of ‘Planning Impossible’ here, the recent BBC series which shone a fascinating light on the life of planning officers.

As I write this, the town's annual Ukulele festival was taking place. This was happily reported by the mudcat.org forum.

Where else indeed. If you happened to enjoy the occasion please do let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

Many of you will have noticed that in February the castle moat finally did what it was supposed to and deny access to intruders, whether human, mole or badger presumably. Unless the latter can swim. The moles were brought to the attention of a poster on archaeologist-d.livejournal.com, who managed to visit the castle before the onset of the waters of the deep. Berkhamstedtoday.co.uk subsequently reported on the closure of the historical monument, which quoted someone hoping that “something gets

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)
done about it soon". I'm not sure whether that was a request to alleviate climate change, global warming, or a Canute alike attempt to lower the groundwater.

I always enjoy spotting references to the town from publications further afield.

This month's guest publication is leicesterm Mercury.co.uk which runs a profile of actor Adrian Scarborough in which he declares his enjoyment of living in Berkhamsted and proudly talks of his children, who have in recent years showed a similar talent to their father's in various musical events at Ashlyns School.

You know how I like broadening your mind, so I draw your attention to a new

patent reported on 4-traders.com. The invention is for an integrated sensor for analysing biological samples, one of the inventors being a certain Geoffrey Roger of Berkhamsted. It was very much a joint effort, his fellow accomplices being from across both England and California. For a town that often cherishes its past, it's good to know that its inhabitants are also contributing to a brave new world. If you really want to know more about integrated sensors, after-see me wards.



Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator,

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Local noticeboard

New Microbrewery Revives Berkhamsted's Lost Brewing Heritage

The newly formed Haresfoot Brewery will be opening its doors to the public in time for Easter. The microbrewery's first tippie, Lock Keeper's Ale, will soon be available in local pubs and over the counter at its new premises: 2 River Park, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

The microbrewery is a result of the combined effort of eight entrepreneurs and businessmen who live in and around Berkhamsted. Haresfoot will be the first brewery in Berkhamsted for 100 years, the last being Locke & Smith which closed its doors prior to the Great War. Scott Carter, the Head Brewer, explained, "we are all passionate about beer and Berkhamsted and this is a great opportunity for us to contribute to the local community and resurrect the town's brewing heritage".

Haresfoot is unique in that it will comprise of two parallel brew houses, one for regular production and the other for experimental or special tailored brews.

The brewery will be officially opened by Berkhamsted Mayor Ian Reay on Thursday 24 April, and the first beer will be blessed by Fr Tom Plant of St Peter's Church. There will also be the opportunity to meet the brewers at Berkhamsted's Farmers and Saturday markets over the next few weeks and learn about the Friends of the Brewery package, which includes an invite to the open house, free beer, a limited edition T-shirt and commemorative glass.

Haresfoot is a small area within Berkhamsted with a school, farm and

park, located around the site of the historic Harefotes Hall. There is also an old proverb, which says "you must kiss the hare's foot post *festum venisti*", meaning to be too late for dinner, possibly due to staying on too long for that one last pint. The new brewers believe that Haresfoot has meaning to those who know the town but will also appeal to those beyond Berkhamsted. Further enquiries should be sent to info@berkhamstedbrewing.co.uk or directed to Nigel Oseland on 07900 908193.

DENS Action Against Homelessness Sponsored Walk 17th May

The walk starts from Berkhamsted School at 10am and takes a 10 mile circular route via Ashridge, with an optional 5 mile route available. Call now for more information or to register: 01442 800268. Email: fundraising@DENS.org.uk. Visit: www.DENS.org.uk. Registration Fees are £10.00 per adult, £2.00 per young person, £20.00 per family. Register by 10th May.

Chiltern Chamber Choir

Sun 13 Apr at 8:00pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – 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.

Berkhamsted Art Society

Spring Exhibition, Civic Centre, May 18th – 24th: Sunday 2pm-4pm, Monday-Friday 9am-6pm, Saturday 9am-5pm. Entry is free.

Church Schools Go Bananas for Fairtrade



Were you there on Shrove Tuesday when Victoria School children entertained and delighted us with their very own banana dance and songs? They told us we should support hard pressed banana farmers and showed an astonishing understanding of and enthusiasm for Fairtrade. Our thanks go to Colette Millar their inspirational Eco and Fairtrade teacher. We enjoyed delicious orange and chocolate buns made by the Nursery class, they sold like hot cakes. Our Town Mayor Ian Reay had two! He then



admired the children's handmade decorations urging us to, "Go bananas for Fairtrade."

The 122 entries for the schools, "Best Dressed Banana" competition, 21 from Potten End, 28 from Victoria and 73 from Thomas Coram, showed imagination and many skills. The Mayor found judging a challenge and after choosing his ten favourites, we declared the bananas were all winners and each one was awarded a Fairtrade Easter Egg. See some of the



decorated bananas at stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk and berkhamstedfairtrade.org.uk.

Tea and homemade cakes were served and Fairtrade stalls perused, then from 3pm the Court House was packed with parents and children when Father Tom and Chris Clegg made pancakes for all. My thanks to them, to the staff and children at our Church Schools and the Fairtrade team for making this such an enjoyable finish to Fairtrade Fortnight.

More School News...



Rob Halls, Headteacher at Thomas Coram reports on recent events.

It seems unbelievable that we're heading towards our Easter break already – that's what comes of being busy, which school always is!

402 dialogues between parents/carers and teachers took place over our two Consultation Evenings earlier this term, and parents were at school again for our PTA Boden Evening.

It's not been additional events just for parents, as pupils enjoyed a visit from author Richard Monte and, along with all the staff, dressed up for World Book Day as one of their favourite book characters.

Pupils have also had the opportunity to take part in the competition to dress up a banana for Fairtrade fortnight – with almost 80 entries being submitted. There are several photos of both World Book Day characters and Fairtrade bananas on our Twitter and Facebook pages.

For Ash Wednesday the whole school came to St Peter's for our first Ash Wednesday service and were offered the opportunity to receive ashing from Fr Tom or Fr John. As our worship programme moves us through Lent – complete with a Lent desert we created in our worship during the first week – Year 5 are preparing for their end of term production (hoping to replicate the success and professionalism of Years 3 and 4 at Christmas) with their Eastertide production.

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Motivating a Generation

Local author Polly walker talks about her new children's book



Continuing with our series of artist and author interviews, I met with local lady Polly Walker who has recently written and illustrated a new

children's book. As well as being an entertaining story, it also aims to help children find more positive ways of dealing with the challenges that they can find themselves facing in today's society.

Polly's background is in children's education. Originally training as a primary school teacher she made a swift transition to specialising in Special Educational Needs – specifically to the teaching of children and young people that were permanently excluded from their mainstream schools. Most recently, Polly led a team of Primary Behaviour Support Specialists whilst also training to achieve a qualification to become an accredited mediator, working to resolve conflict within the workplace, community and educational settings.

It was through Polly's experiences of working with children and young people exhibiting complex emotional and behavioural difficulties that she developed a strong desire to produce a piece of fun, age appropriate literature

which focuses on raising self-esteem.

When Polly took a break from her career in education in order to parent her two young children, she seized the opportunity and put pen to paper to produce *Worm, Slug, Maggot and Leech and their Troublesome Transformation*.

"A sorrowful slug;

A woeful worm;

A lamenting leech;

A miserable maggot...

Are deeply troubled by the way they look!
Wishing for a miracle, they are befriended by a mystic meditating stick insect who makes incredible things happen through the power of her mind. She has an important lesson for the troubled creatures but will they heed her wise words?"

As the synopsis suggests, Polly is hopeful that her story may be used as an aid to promote discussion with children about feelings of self-worth, self-esteem, perception of others and possibly as a school resource to support both guided reading and the teaching of PSHE / SMSC.

She says, "If my story were to motivate just a finite number of the appropriate children to think differently - optimistically - about their abilities, their appearances, their attributes and those of their peers, I will feel satisfied that I have made a small step in the right direction."

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

We were kindly given an excerpt from the story along with some of the artwork which Polly has drawn herself:

...‘All day long we gaze around,
Up above and on the ground
Are creatures that buzz from leaf
to leaf
They make us sigh with disbelief!



Grasshoppers, pretty dragonflies,
Flit around us, filling the skies.
Curling, twirling, gracious things
Hover quietly on delicate wings.
We love shimmering beetles,
dainty bugs,
It’s awful being worms and slugs!
Slimy, sticky, colourless blobs,
We want to be GORGEOUS HEART-
THROBS!’

In order to secure a publishing deal Polly is currently working hard to demonstrate demand for her book: she has to reach a target of 250 pre-orders before the end of June. You can pre-order her book and also read about this new approach to authors having their work published at www.britainsnextbestseller.co.uk.

We wish Polly every success with the book and hope it becomes the next bestseller!



Short Story Competition

In February we printed the winning stories from the Year 6 entries in our Short Story Competition. This month we bring you the runners-up.



Runner-up, Year 6, Girls' category: Francesca Strach

'The Mistake' by Francesca Strach

This year my family and I were going to the hot and sunny Italy. Although it was December and we were going in March I started packing straight away. I knew that this year's holiday was going to be the best holiday EVER!!!

"Emily hurry up or we'll be late for the plane we were due at the airport five minutes ago and the airport is ten minutes from here!"

"Coming" said Emily happily as she skipped down the stairs. She was in her all-pink onesie with extra short sleeves, her hair was up and kept back with a pretty pink hairband and pink hair clips, she had her pink socks on and her pink and brown shoes. "Wow Emily" exclaimed her mum you look amazing and very pink.

At the airport Emily sang a happy song about hot stuff and sunshine. As she ran down all the aisles she bumped into a man. This man looked really creepy as he stood towering over her. His skin was all shrivelled and wrinkly and he looked as though he'd seen a ghost or he was hiding from something. Behind him he pulled an enormous suitcase that looked exactly like hers. Before she could look at him properly or ask him a question, she heard her mum calling her worriedly, she was looking around everywhere just like she had lost

her. Emily ran towards her and her mum started hugging her like mad, when Emily looked for the man again he was nowhere to be found.

On the plane Emily was fidgeting with excitement, Italy was just one hour and five minutes away. During the journey Emily started drawing on a napkin where they were going in Italy and it pictured a sunny day on the beach. She and her mum were sunbathing and her dad was swimming in the blue crystal waters of the sea. This picture only took ten minutes so Emily had to find something else to do. After five minutes of staring out of the window and daydreaming Emily suddenly fell asleep...

"Emily" shouted her mum after getting impatient with shaking her. Emily shot her eyes open "are we in Italy yet?" she asked.

"If you weren't asleep for about forty minutes then you could gather we are. We're just about to land, it's your favourite part of the journey I always know because of your facial expressions, there so funny. Hold on". As the plane started bumping around Emily remembered the scary man: I wonder what he was doing at an airport and why he had such a frightened expression on his face?

They got their things together and walked off the plane, Emily searching everywhere to see if she could see the man again. Through passport control and into the baggage area. Mum and Dad went to get the luggage trolley while Emily waited for the baggage. Suddenly she saw her enormous silver suitcase and lunged to pull it off the carousel. Mum and Dad

(continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

arrived and put all the luggage on their trolley. Emily caught the man out of the corner of her eye, pulling off an enormous silver suitcase just like hers. Mum and Dad called for a taxi and off they went towards the hotel.

Emily saw the man running after their taxi he seemed angry and was waving his hands about a lot. "Look! Doesn't he look mad, Mum?! I wonder what has got into him?". They laughed and Emily leant forward looking out of the window, she couldn't wait to get to the hotel. They arrived at a Sunny beach hotel twenty minutes later. Emily dashed off ahead of her Mum and Dad, pressing the lift button frantically as she couldn't wait to see her room. Dragging her enormous silver suitcase behind she pushed the door of her room open, heaved her suitcase on to the bed and fumbled to open the case. The lid sprung open and to her surprise she found something unexpected, she stared inside the suitcase she was looking at hundreds and thousands of notes of cash.....she realized her mistake at once!!!!!!!!!!!!

Judge's comment::

"I liked this story because it had a good sense of atmosphere and a nice twist in the tale."

Runner-up , Year 6, Boys' category: Ted Holland

'The Mistake' by Ted Holland

It was a dark stormy night and Vladimir, a retired soldier from the Soviet Army was waiting on the jetty. In the blackness of the night a fishing boat suddenly appeared in the freezing squall. It slowly stopped next to him, and he hurriedly jumped on board. There were two other men on the boat, there was a captain and a mysterious

individual. The shadowy and hidden man turned around, his face was horrendous and disfigured with deep scars.

Vladimir was frightened of the man, but he hid it well and confidently went to shake the man's hand. The man had a strong, firm handshake but he had an unmistakable angry stare. The man guided Vladimir below decks, which smelt of dead, rotten fish. The underdeck was densely dark, apart from a tiny little table in the corner lit up by a glowing lamp. The man told Vladimir to sit down. He started talking to Vladimir and the man's voice was deep and slow. Vladimir listened closely to what the man had to say, and he nodded every so often in agreement.

All of a sudden the man pulled out a black leather briefcase from under the table and placed it on the table in front of Vladimir. The man slowly opened it, and to Vladimir's amazement, he pulled out a sniper rifle. Vladimir took the briefcase and they stood up and walked back on deck. Suddenly the boat stopped under an old bridge. Vladimir jumped off the deck and onto the path, and ran hurriedly off into the night with the brief case. The boat chugged off sluggishly into the gloomy distance. Vladimir had been running for a while, and feeling exhausted he was very relieved to finally reach a long, deserted road. A solitary car appeared and he jumped in front of the bonnet, dragged out the petrified driver and got in behind the wheel. He drove through the relentless night and arrived at his scheduled destination on time in the first light of dawn.

Vladimir walked to the back of the large, grey building carrying the brief case, and entered the building through a fire exit door very stealthily. He then ran up three flights of stairs as fast as possible – he was

(Continued on page 16)

Carry on Screening

With the ever popular Rex cinema in town, Joanna Kaye tells us of an another local film venue which is growing in popularity



What started out as an idea amongst friends and wanting to share our enthusiasm for off-beat, World Cinema and Classic films became reality, as I, together with my friend Uli started the film club 'Carry On Screening'.

We always envisaged a film club that combined the advantages of a cinema and the atmosphere of a living room. We found the perfect location in the mezzanine of the Court House next to the Church of St Peter's.

Friday November 15th saw our first screening. 'Some Like it Hot', the 1959 classic was the perfect choice to open with. Fancy dress was optional and taken up by a fair number of the audience. There were Mafiosi, flapper girls, and we even had someone turn up as Junior, heir to Shell Oil in full Captain's regalia. Inspired by the film, we served delicious canapés and Manhattan cocktails not shaken in a hot water bottle as depicted in the movie, being afraid of a rubbery taste. The opening night was a great

success with our audience looking forward to the next one.

We followed with Francis Veber's film adaptation of his stage farce 'Le Diner de Cons' which is about a competition among a group of friends to see who can find the stupidest person to bring to dinner, which occurs every Wednesday evening. The bringer of the best klutz wins a prize. Pierre Brochant (Lhermitte) invites a real buffoon François Pignon (Jacques Villeret) to the weekly party as a guest and the two of them get trapped in a situation that turns Pierre's life into a priceless nightmare. True to form wine, French cheese, pâté and baguette were on the menu for this performance.

The New Year started off with Les Liaisons Dangereuses known through the novel from 1782 by Choderlos de Laclos, set prior to the French Revolution, about sex as gamesmanship and devilish self-satisfaction. A keen volunteer, Robin provided a brilliant introduction to 'Dangerous Liaisons' who pointed out things to look out for, like the accompanying music and symbolism used. Revenge may be a dish best served cold, as the novel suggested, and so keeping with the French theme for the provisions more trays of canapés and cheese were offered, together with sparkling wine for our sparkling guests.

For anyone who has read the novel, Glenn Close portrays Marquise de

(Continued on page 16)

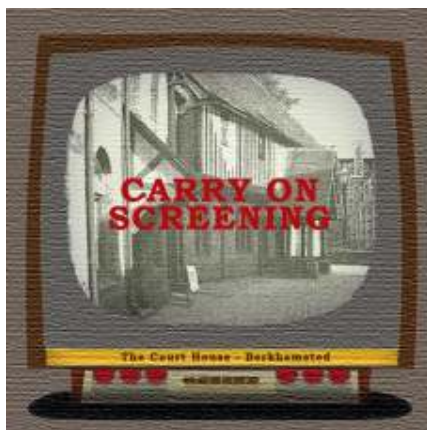
Carry on Screening

(Continued from page 15)

Merteuil to perfection and gets so close to the camera that you can almost hear her whispering in your ear rising colours to your cheeks. What begins as cynical amusement soon escalates into tragedy and in the end isn't what one expected at the beginning of the film.

In February, it was off to Albuquerque to accompany young Olive and her dysfunctional family to the 'Little Miss Sunshine' beauty pageant at Redondo Beach travelling in a rickety VW van. Popcorn, mini hotdogs and Coca-Cola were just the thing for American movie night.

Our audience is growing steadily each month. Although we operate by



donations only and the films are free we are confident to raise a considerable amount to help with the deficit that St Peter's Church is experiencing currently.

You can find us at
www.carryonscreening.wordpress.com.

Short Story Competition

(Continued from page 14)



rushing because his target would be there any moment now. He finally got to the top of the tall building and set his sniper rifle up into a comfortable position. Vladimir looked through his scope, and like clockwork he saw the target and knew exactly what to do. He aimed the sniper at the enemy and pulled the trigger...

He had killed the target, but at that very moment he realised something awful. A big mistake. He had killed a civilian, an innocent man, sprawled on the ground, with the wrong face. The enemy appeared, driving away into the distance, wheels spinning. There was nothing Vladimir could do about it, the moment was gone. He had failed his first assassination.

Judge's comments:

"This was an imaginative and exciting story with a surprise ending".

Next month we announce the winners, runners-up and highly commended entries in the Years 7 and 8 Category!

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Fr John Russell

Dear Friends,

With Easter falling so late in April this year, in writing this, I find myself contemplating the end of Lent already, with the penitential season hardly begun. Early in Lent, there is very much a sense of entering a longish journey with no real thought of the ending, merely the introspective reflection on our relationship with God – perhaps symbolised by fasting or some other act of penance. Our relationship with God is after all, ultimately a personal journey, because even though Christians do much together, in the end, it is God and you and God and me, that counts.

That ‘end’ of the Lenten journey and indeed the acid test of our faith, is of course Easter, because if we aren’t able to accept all that that God achieved through the resurrection of his only Son, then we have never really started the journey. To go on that journey means engaging with God, through prayer and bible study, but also through our engagement with the world; for we will see signs and wonders, as well as heartache and misery all around us. Our response to the world will be governed by our relationship with our heavenly Father.

So Lent begins, (with Sunday respites) - even in Lent, the church recognises the day of resurrection as a Feast Day – and as the days pass, so we turn from looking inward to outward; celebrating first Mothering Sunday, giving thanks to God for our Mothers, as well as our Mother the church, as we move forward through Passion and Palm Sundays to Holy Week, through Maundy Thursday, into Good

Friday and on to the great day itself.

St John Chrysostom in his Paschal Homily describes the great day of Easter as “God’s banquet”;

“Let everyone who loves God rejoice in this festival of light! Let the faithful servant gladly enter into the joy of his Lord! Let those who have borne the burden of fasting come now to reap their reward! Let those who have worked since the first hour receive now their just wage! Let those who came after the third hour keep this festival with gratitude! Let those who arrived only after the sixth hour approach with no fear: they will not be defrauded.

If someone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him come without hesitation. And let not the worker of the eleventh hour be ashamed: the Lord is generous. He welcomes the last to come no less than the first. He welcomes into his peace the worker of the eleventh hour as kindly as the one who has worked since dawn. The first he fills to overflowing: on the last he has compassion. To the one he grants his favour, to the other pardon. He does not look only at the work he sees into the intention of the heart. Enter then all of you into the joy of your Master. First and last, receive your reward ... Abstinent and slothful celebrate this feast.

You who have fasted, rejoice today.

The table is laid: come all of you without misgivings. The fatted calf is served, let all take their fill.

All of you share in the banquet of faith: all of you draw on the wealth of his mercy. “

I am yours in Christ, John.

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

Sun 13th 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.

Thu 1st May at 6.15am: MAY MORNING MADRGALS sung from the Tower of St Peter's Church under the direction of Adrian Davis, followed by BREAKFAST in the Court House.

Donations for breakfast please

Sat 14th June Petertide Fair, 10am

All Saints'

Sun 6th Fifth Sunday of Lent 10am Morning Worship, Revd Brian Tebbutt, 4pm, Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

Sun 13th Palm Sunday, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Mon 14th 8pm Monday of Holy Week Meditative Worship, David Williamson

Tues 15th 8pm Tuesday of Holy Week, Service for Holy Week (Friendship Club) Audrey Cox

Wed 16th 8pm Wednesday of Holy Week Meditative Worship, Ruth Treves Brown

Thurs 17th 7pm Maundy Thursday Meal with Holy Communion followed by Vigil until midnight Revd Rachael Hawkins

Fri 18th Good Friday 11am Service for Good Friday Revd Rachael Hawkins

Sun 20th Easter Day 10am Holy Communion Revd Barrie Allcott,

Sun 27th Second Sunday of Easter, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Janet Ridgway

Registers

Baptisms

23rd Feb Genevieve Mary HURRELL, Alfie Ray Alan SUGGETT, Ryan David Owen JOHN (St Peter's)

Funerals

24th Feb Peter Phizackerley (St Peter's)

14 February Sidney Francis Rance (All Saints')

1 March Pamela Vivienne Ruse (service to be held at All Saints' on her birthday)

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'.

Further information available from our church websites:

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

News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary

A Happy Easter from everyone at the Hospice!



Easter Chicks

Do visit our shops especially Number Twenty on Lower Kings Road to browse our range of Easter gifts. And, if you're spending time spring cleaning over Easter, remember we welcome donations for our Hospice Love to Give shops. Please drop off your bags at your local shop or at Returned to Glory on the Northbridge Road. We can also collect larger items (01442 859565).

Care Quality Commission Report

We received an excellent report from the Care Quality Commission following an unannounced inspection in February. The report's overall conclusion was that the Hospice staff were 'just so caring'. It highlighted that staff and doctors communicated with people very well, keeping them informed of any changes in their health and wellbeing and that all staff, from the chef and nurses to the volunteers and doctors, were 'willing to help'. The full report is available at: www.cqc.org.uk.

Back in the Driving Seat

The Hospice of St Francis is reaching out to local men living with prostate cancer with the introduction of a new initiative, Back in the Driving Seat, funded by Prostate UK.

Specialist prostate nurse, Tina Smith will be working alongside men living with prostate cancer, and their families, to find out what initiatives would be most helpful to them to understand and manage their symptoms. A future programme may include clinics offering medical and practical advice, a peer-to-peer support network and specific workshops for men.

Contact education@stfrancis.org.uk to find out more or call 01442 869556.

Mud Pack Challenge

The Mud Pack Challenge is a brand new five mile adrenalin-fuelled obstacle race for all fitness levels, taking place on Sunday 19th October in the beautiful gardens, parklands and forests surrounding Champneys, Tring.

The event is open to anyone with a basic level of fitness and no specific training is



required. It's perfect for individuals and also fantastic fun for friends or as a team building activity for work colleagues. All that's needed is a sense of adventure and a willingness to 'get muddy'!

Register interest now at www.stfrancis.org.uk/mudpack.

Golf Days

Are you a keen golfer? Sign up for our golf days to enjoy friendly competition and help raise funds for the Hospice. The next golf day takes place at Berkhamsted Golf Course on Friday 25th April and will consist of an 18 hole stableford competition followed by a gala dinner. Contact golf@stfrancis.org.uk or call 01442 869555.

Other news!

Look out for information on Dying Matters Week (12 - 16 May 2014). Remember it's our Hospice Garden Party

on Sunday 1 June 2014, 2-5pm and our Midnight Walk on Saturday 28 June. See you there!



Support the Hospice by playing the Hospice Lottery

Did you know you can support our Hospice by playing the Hospice Lottery? Be in with a chance of winning the star prize of £1k a week either by buying a single £1 ticket or signing up for regular weekly play online. Also look out for Peter, the Hospice Lottery representative who can sign you up at events. The Hospice Lottery raises over £100k for The Hospice of St Francis annually which keeps one of our beds open for a whole year. www.hospicelottery.org.uk.

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The Book Corner

Julian Dawson evaluates his latest read



Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption. By Laura Hillenbrand. *Fourth Estate*

This is the story of Louis Zamperini, a name that I had not personally come

across, but whose fortitude and courage in the face of apparently insurmountable odds is quite extraordinary. His story has been written by Laura Hillenbrand who made her name with her novel *Sea Biscuit* in 2001. She spent much time in the company of Louis and has lovingly and reverently transcribed his tale to the written page. The extraordinary thing about Louis, born in 1917 and still alive, is the way that he survived each crushing setback and returned stronger.

His tale starts as a tearaway child in California with a habit of thievery who found his way by becoming one of the most talented upcoming middle distance runners in the mid-thirties. He competed well in the infamous 1936 Olympics, even briefly meeting Hitler, and was set to be in his prime by the 1940 games. Hitler of course ensured that wasn't to happen, but it was in the Pacific theatre that Zamperini's athletics days ended. Flying in Liberators across the empty ocean his notoriously unreliable craft ditched in the sea, yet he survived way beyond what could be considered reasonable in a raft surrounded by sharks. But worse was to come when he was captured by the Japanese, threatened by death and then

transferred to a POW camp where he was victimised by a sadistic guard. He was one of many POWs who were on the brink of death when the atomic bomb fell on Hiroshima and the timing of the surrender saved his and many other's lives.

Not surprisingly Zamperini found it difficult to adjust to normal life, and was never fit enough to run competitively again. An encounter with Billy Graham set his life back on track, and even now at 96 he inspires young people with his lectures on how to deal with stress, the meaning of the Olympic spirit, and the freedom he found through a personal relationship with God. He even helped the author, who suffers from chronic fatigue, promote her book.

The tale lends itself to cinematic endeavour, so not surprisingly the story will be released on film at Christmas directed by Angeline Jolie and scripted by the Coen brothers. I urge you to read the book first though. You can read more about this extraordinary man at <http://www.louiszamperini.net/>.

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editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

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My Berkhamsted

This month we meet local lady Rosemary Crawford

If you're new to Berkhamsted or have lived here a while you may have noticed a lady on a bicycle pulling a trailer! She has even featured in a TV programme about unusual things and people in the Chilterns. Her name is Rosemary Crawford and she tells us her thoughts on our town.

I moved to Berkhamsted because...We were tired of living in Muswell Hill, all houses and no countryside, and wanted some clean air in which to bring up a family. We went house hunting to the north & west of London and settled on Berkhamsted. There was a good rail service which had been updated to diesel and electrified and the M1 for car journeys. House prices were within our budget; though they rose rapidly thereafter.

I think the most beautiful sight in Berkhamsted is...It is difficult to pin down any one beautiful place, but the many historic buildings, like St Peter's Church, the Town hall, the Almshouses, the Castle, and the many open spaces, Butts Meadow, The Moor, Canal fields, together with the Canal and river Bulbourne all combine to make a most attractive town.

The local place where I like to relax and reflect is..This also very difficult. I can relax almost anywhere, depending on the weather.

I'm proud to live in Berkhamsted

because...of the friendly people one meets and the many voluntary organisations which work in the town, from the well known countrywide and international groups to much smaller groups. There are just as many people who work for others without any acknowledgement. The Town Mayor's annual lunch tries to include as many volunteers and groups as possible. When I broke my arm recently so many friends offered to shop or cook or transport me it was very warming and comforting.

If I could change one thing about

Berkhamsted it would be...that we had more say in the things which concern us locally, rather than the overall government by Dacorum and the County Council. I'm sure they do their best but they seem so remote and busy, and don't always understand the problems on the ground. Three times I have had to write to our Member of Parliament, because "They were looking into it" sometimes for months, and once for three years.

Berkhamsted is crying out for...more care and consideration for the needs of cyclists; including more cycle tracks and racks. I know this is very difficult in a long narrow High Street, but the narrowing of the High Street after the A41 Bypass, by a County Council Civil Engineer "for traffic calming" brought danger and misery to

(Continued on page 29)



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Under a carpet of blue

Take a walk to see some of the best displays of bluebells in the country

The National Trust Estate at Ashridge is one of the best places in the country to see bluebells. Not only does this gentle walk take the visitor through carpets of this beautiful plant, it also looks at the history of the estate. If that isn't enough, there are wonderful views over the valley from Duncombe Terrace. *(Also included are alternative routes for when the bluebells are not in season).*

START: National Trust Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre car park. Grid ref: SP 971 130. Nearest postcode: HP4 1LT

DISTANCE: 4.6 miles, with 110m of ascent over the length of the walk

TERRAIN: An easy walk that can be muddy after rain

MAPS: OS Explorer 181 and Chiltern Society 19

REFRESHMENTS: Brownlow Café at the Ashridge Visitor Centre

PUBLIC TRANSPORT: On Monday to Saturday, buses 30, 31 & 32 stop at the end of Monument Drive.

NOTE: This walk has been produced with the assistance of the National Trust. To ensure that the bluebells are not damaged, please follow NT signage at all times. Many of the habitats are sensitive, so please stick to the paths. Dogs should be kept under close control at all times. For further information see www.nationaltrust.org.uk and search for Ashridge.

Route:

From the Brownlow Café turn left past Monument Cottage and take the bridleway ahead. At the top of the hill bear left on the Meadow Trail and follow

the fence until it bends to the left.

*(Alternative route detailed below *1).*

1. Continue ahead for c30m to a fork. Bear left along a level path through the woods. Follow this path as it twists and turns through the woods to a wide track.

2. Turn left along the track and stay on it for c500m, ignoring all tracks on either side. Continue past the estate cottages on the right and to the main road ahead. Cross the road with great care and continue straight ahead on the tarmac driveway, signposted to the Bridgewater Arms.

3. After c50m, take the path diagonally left through the woods and follow the markers to the edge of the golf fairway. Once on the other side, turn right along the edge of the fairway and then past a bunker to an access road.

4. Turn left along it past Old Park Lodge. Note the part sundials on its walls.

Where the road bends to the left, keep straight ahead to the right of a barn and through a wood. Stay in the same direction across the golf course and up the hill to the left of the clubhouse. At the top turn left along an access road to a junction.

5. Turn left and after c50m bear diagonally right. Follow the marker posts across the fairway and into a wood. The path then meets a crossing path that runs along the side of garden fences. Do not go straight ahead on the narrow path, but turn left and follow the fencing all the way to the main road. Cross with great care to the wide track ahead. Stay on this for c1km ignoring all tracks left and right.

6. Shortly after a wide clearing the track narrows slightly and then divides.

*(Alternative route detailed below *6).*

Take the track that swings round to the right and follow it through a car park to a road. Cross into Dockey Wood. Walk round the Wood as directed, taking great care not to trample any of the bluebells. Return to the road at the top end of the Wood and turn right along it to some small wooden posts on the verge on the left.

7. Take the grassy woodland track directly behind the posts. Go over a crossing track and follow the path as it winds through the woods down to a major track. Turn left and follow it for just over 1.5km back to the café.

Alternative routes, out of the bluebell season

*1. Follow the fence round to the left for c100m. Where the fence begins to bend again, turn right on a wide, often muddy track to rejoin the main route at a five-way path junction. Take the second path on left and head for the estate cottages as described in point 2 above.

*6 Do not take the path that swings to the right, but continue straight ahead for c300m. Near the road, look for the crossing path that joins from wooden posts at Point 7 above. Turn left to rejoin the main route.

Points of Interest

The Ashridge Estate dates back over 700 years to when a monastery was founded by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. The monastic order was known as the College of Bonhommes because of the colour of their robes. It continued to flourish until Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in 1539. He bequeathed the estate to the future Queen Elizabeth I.

She lived there for eight years before being arrested by her half-sister Mary and taken to the Tower of London. After Elizabeth's death the estate was bought by Thomas Egerton, whose son bought the title the Earl of Bridgewater. In 1720 the fourth Earl became the first Duke of Bridgewater. The most famous member of the family was the 'Canal Duke', who commissioned the building of The Bridgewater Canal which opened in 1761, and is regarded as the first true canal in Britain. In 1853 the estate passed to Lord Brownlow, whose family held on to it until 1925 when it was split up, with much of the parkland and surrounding area passing to The National Trust. The parkland is a haven for wildlife and is famous for its herds of fallow deer.

A Thunderdell Lodge: A grade II listed building which used to be the gate lodge to the house. There are a total of three lodges on each corner of the deer park.
B Ashridge House: Grade I listed. The building of the current house was started by the 'Canal Duke', but he did not live to see its completion in 1814. It was designed by the architect James Wyatt, while the parkland was the responsibility of Capability Brown and later Humphrey Repton. The house was used as a hospital during both World Wars. After WWII it became a teacher training college and then a finishing school. It was also used to store public records. In 1959 the Ashridge Management College was established at the house, specialising in personal and organisational development. Guided tours are available.

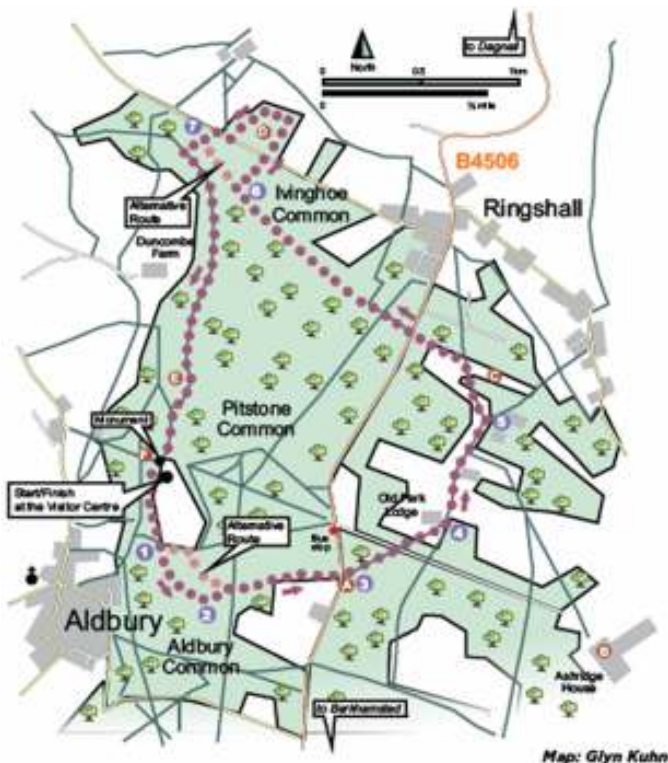
C Golden Valley: The valley is little changed since its design by Capability Brown. It got its name while under wheat

crop and is often used as a film location.

D Dockey Wood: The Wood is one of the best places in the UK to see bluebells. It's a working oak plantation, with a remnant of semi-natural ancient woodland along the roadside.

E Duncombe Terrace: First on the right is a replica of a Victorian shooting lodge that was destroyed by fire in the 1980s. It has been used as a scout hut in the past, but is now used for filming. Next on the right, behind a fence, is a Bronze Age barrow. Shortly after that a bridge passes over a hollow-way. Historically, it was used by farmers to bring livestock onto the ridge.

F Bridgewater Monument: The monument was erected in 1832 in



memory of the Duke of Bridgewater. It is 33m high, with 170 steps to the top. It is open to the public – check opening times.

My Berkhamsted

(Continued from page 25)

cyclists and resulted in many returning to their cars. He said that 3 metres in each direction would slow the traffic down and that cars, vans and HGVs would “wait behind the cyclists” and thus be safe. When I asked if he cycled he said “No it is too dangerous!” That was 20 years ago. Surely by now with the explosive increase of parked cars and air pollution it should be correct to provide better conditions for both pleasure and working cyclists.

When I tell people about Berkhamsted I always tell them...that we are a small town, but a very friendly one with lots of places with tea and coffee. And if you want to join a club or evening classes, just go into the public library and work your way along 16m of notice boards. Also there are many local green public places to walk, ride or cycle, Ashridge, Berkhamsted Common, Hockeridge Woods, The Hale woods at Wendover.

Your Sport

Matt Dawson explores what's on offer at Berkhamsted Sportspace



Berkhamsted's Sports Centre is one of the best all-round sporting facilities in the area and consists of lots of brilliant facilities to make use of. With the days getting longer, it's a great time to get out and play more sport throughout the day. Therefore go and make use of the great

facilities that are on offer:
25 metre swimming pool
A gym



A fitness studio

Two small all-weather 3G football pitches
Sports Hall – possible to play both indoor football and cricket

Squash court

Badminton court

Meanwhile, it also consists of more relaxing areas such as:

Treatment rooms

Sun bed

Sauna

Spray tanning

Café

To top it all off there is even free parking available to all users of Berkhamsted Sportspace next to the centre itself. In the week the Sports centre opens at 6.30am and closes at 10pm, apart from on a Friday when the closing time is 9pm. Weekends have slightly shorter opening and closing times. It opens at 8.00am on

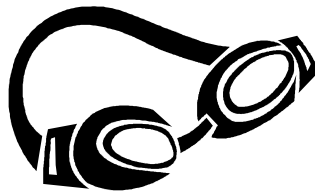
both days and closes at 8pm and 9.15pm respectively.

Lessons are available in most sports including swimming which is a part of the swim school at Berkhamsted Sportspace. I myself took lessons there when I was younger.

Meanwhile lessons are available in martial arts and even line dancing for those who

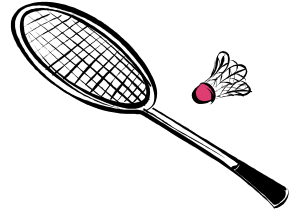
fancy something a little different. Other classes available at Berkhamsted consist of fitness programmes such as circuit, Zumba, body conditioning, boxing, indoor cycling, weight training, dancing and aerobics. Memberships at Berkhamsted Sports Space come in the form of a gym or pool membership which are priced at different rates for different types of memberships.

During holiday time there are lots of different courses on offer for children.



Meanwhile you can also have your birthday party there. Activities on offer for

parties are: football, swimming, extreme sports and a mixture of sports together. For more information, visit www.sportspace.co.uk/sportspace-berkhamsted.



Young Berkhamsted



Method:

Line a 12-hole fairy cake tin with paper cases.

Melt the chocolate, golden syrup and butter in a bowl set over a pan of gently simmering water (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture until smooth.

Melting chocolate:

Remove the bowl from the heat and gently stir in the cornflakes until all of the cereal is coated in the chocolate.

Divide the mixture between the paper cases and press 3 chocolate eggs into the centre of each nest.

Chill in the fridge for 1 hour, or until completely set.

As well as the real reason behind the Easter festivities, it's also a time when many of us indulge in chocolate, especially if we've given it up for Lent. So, why not celebrate the end of your 40 days of self-restraint with this simple recipe which requires hardly any cooking.

Chocolate Easter Egg Nests

Ingredients:

225g/8oz plain chocolate, broken into pieces

2 tbsp [golden syrup](#)

50g/2oz [butter](#)

75g/3oz cornflakes

6 mini [chocolate](#) eggs



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