

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

July 2014

SARAH HOW

New shops and tea room:
more reasons to visit East of Berkhamsted

90th Anniversary of Berkhamsted Citizens Association

New Recipe page

What's on in July

50p

Exploring the past, reflecting the present and looking to the future in Berkhamsted

In this issue...

Welcome to the July 2014 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

With all the countryside surrounding us there are so many places to visit – Ashridge estate, the Canal, Dunstable Downs, Ivinghoe – these are just a handful. Also check out our “What’s On” page with up to the minute events locally and also out of town plus what is on ahead in August! In this edition we are reviewing the east end of Berkhamsted, as there are a few new shops popping up, which is more reason to walk the whole length of Berkhamsted High Street, as not to miss out. Berkhamsted Citizens Association is now 90 years, you can see how much they contribute to our lovely town. We also have our usual suspects - recipe, gardening etc. Enjoy!



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Picture credits: A special thanks to Art 88 for supplying the beautiful cover painting by Sarah How.

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

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Berkhamsted in the News

Julian Dawson



Eating places come and go in Berkhamsted, but I must admit that I have never heard of Dar Papillion. This ethnic café was highlighted by erixlife.blogspot.co.uk who praises its mix of Moroccan, Egyptian and Punjabi cuisine, together with woodland setting garden. Certainly sounds like adding to your list of places to try. Let us know what you think.

The Hospice of St Francis' Midnight Walk took place at the end of June, and this naturally drew plenty of publicity from the local press, including hemeltoday.co.uk/ which highlighted Annette Howard's winning the Biggest Loser campaign. That's weight by the way. An incredible 34 pounds of it in the challenge, and a further stone since. A fine example of feeling good about yourself whilst helping others. The walk was also publicised in watfordobserver.co.uk.

On a Christmas stroll, I made sure to properly explore Marlin Chapel, which is a mile or so west of the town. I'd studied it on the map, and at last made a point to find it.

hertfordshirechurches.wordpress.com

tells us more about this building dedicated to St Mary Magdalene. It is a very atmospheric spot, covered in ivy and nettles in the summer. Just like ruins are supposed to be rather than the somewhat aseptic ruins of Berkhamsted Castle. Though I quite understand that letting plants run riot isn't good for medieval masonry. Nevertheless, the 18th century aesthetes knew a thing or two about the picturesque, and would have surely flocked to this remote corner.

I shall just mention mix96.co.uk. You can rely on this local radio website to highlight the more lurid stories relating to your town. Just saying. You may as well just head straight to herts.police.uk and be done with it.

If arts and crafts are more your thing, then charlottevallance.blogspot.co.uk is the site to visit. Charlotte has a stall at the Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts market which takes place on the first Saturday and third Sunday of the month. Apparently it isn't always well patronised, so do make a visit if you wish to support local artists and crafts folk.

(Continued on page 5)

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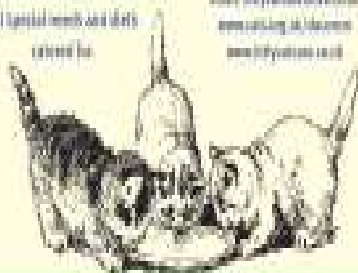
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(Continued from page 3)

I've had enough of Graham Greene this month, so I shall head instead to Thomas Hardy country and more specifically Tess' milieu, blackmorevale.co.uk. It reports on the wartime memories of local Clifford Lloyd, who was in the Gillingham detachment of the TAs. He remembers being in Berkhamsted in March 1940. His "billet was in a fruit shop in Berkhamsted and opposite was the Fish & Chip shop." Any thoughts about the exact location? It's safe to talk now. And a piece of juxtaposition

becclesandbungayjournal.co.uk refers to the First World War, Bungay Museum holding an exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the war's beginning. They have accumulated a collection of

photographs of local men in uniform, given to the museum by a certain Dr Bill Westgate of Berkhamsted.

If you are ever stuck with ideas to placate your children, or even yourself perhaps, check out familiesonline.co.uk. It's full of good ideas for days out, including such activities as badger walks. That's not taking badgers for walks I presume. It is about time our mustelid friend made another appearance in this column.



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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What's on

Every 2nd Tuesday at 12.30 to 13.15:
Lunchtime concerts – St Mary's Church,
High Street Hemel Hempstead

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts
Market (**1st Saturday every month**)
10am to 4pm. The Town Hall, 196 High
Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3AP
Through the double doors above
Carluccio's on the High St. Lift access at
back. If you would like a stall contact
Claire – Mob: 07968 627 179; Email:
berkhamstedmarket@hotmail.co.uk;
website:

www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk

Tring Farmers Market (**Alternate
Saturdays**)

The Marketplace, Brook Street, Tring
9.00am – 12.15pm

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produce including: meat, eggs, bacon,
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enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

July

1 July: 19.00 Dacorum Health Walk - Little
Gaddesden at Village Hall, Church Road
(HP4 1NX). [http://www.hertslink.org/cms/
content/15488274/16532575/
hwdacmaytoaug14.pdf](http://www.hertslink.org/cms/content/15488274/16532575/hwdacmaytoaug14.pdf)

5 July 16.00 – 16.30: Church Fete at St
Mary's Northchurch at the Rectory

5 July 10.00 – 13.00: Garden School with
Helen Reeley at Frithsden Vineyard Herbs
& edible flowers £25 to inc some tastings.
More info 07708 643313

4 – 6 July: Chilfest, Pendley Meadow,
Tring. For info: www.chilfest.co.uk

7-12 July: Art Exhibition – recent works by
students from Berkhamsted School.
Upstairs Gallery.
www.upstairsgallery.co.uk

12 July: Tring Carnival – Pound Meadow,
Tring 12noon – 5pm. Back for its 4th
year! This year we have a Commonwealth
Games theme so get planning how you
want to get involved. Tickets: £2 on the
gate (children free)

12 July 19.00: Tring Carnival Band Night –
Tring Brewery Marquee on Pound
Meadow, Tring. Old Country Union are
back and they are headlining this evening
with two support bands. Tickets available
from 1/4/14 at Tring Brewery and
Beechwood. Tickets: £12.50 (£5 for
accompanied under 12s)
info@tringtogether.org.uk

12 July 19.00: Pirates of Penzance at
Berkhamsted Castle grounds. Gates open
at 18.15. Tickets £20 or £35 for 2. Please
bring your own seating and picnic. For
information and tickets:

www.berkorotary.org or contact: Ian
Kinghorn: 01442 872726 /
iankinghorn@btopenworld.com, Jerry
Duncombe: 01442 872709/
jerry.duncombe@ntworld.com, Matt
Wotherspoon 01442
863819/ wothers@nildram.co.uk

19 July 12 noon to 17.00: Frithsden
Vineyard Food and Drink Festival. Free
Admission. Contact Natalie Tooley 01442
878723 info@frithsdenvineyard.co.uk

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28 July to 29 August: Guided House and Garden Tours – Ashridge house. Excludes Bank Holiday Monday.

www.ashridgehouse.org.uk/guidedtours

30 July 19.00 for 19.45 start: The Berko Speakeasy – Voices from WW1 – short stories, dispatches, poems and letters. The Greene Room, Kings Arms, Berkhamsted in association with Waterstones.

Tickets £12 from

www.berkospeakeasy.co.uk (includes £2 donation to the Royal British Legion)

Out of Town:

5 July: Go Brazilian St Peter's Church, St Albans – Go on the beach for a light hearted programme with a Brazilian twist – a mix of South America. £13/child £1
Tel: 07570454744

www.stalbanschamberchoir.org.uk

11, 12 and 13 July: Penn Street Beer Fest. Penn Street Village HP7 0PX Information: Tel: 01494 713109 or www.pennstbeerfest.co.uk

20 July 1800 20.00: Music at Myddelton – The Music of Charlie Parker – join for a laid back summer evening enjoying jazz from saxophonist Charlie Parker – in beautiful gardens. Bring a picnic. Myddelton House Gardens. Adults £9, conc £7

August and later:

4 to 16 August: Art Exhibition – Michael Lee – paintings. Upstairs Gallery.

www.upstairsgallery.co.uk

17 August 14.00 to 17.00: Garden open for NGS – Patchwork, 22 Hall Park Gate, Berkhamsted. £3. Jean and Peter Block 01442 864731

25 August 11.00 to 17.00: The Lions Summer Bank Holiday. Berkhamsted

Cricket Club. Adults £3.50, children free.

www.berkhamsted-lions.co.uk

Until 31st August: Explore Maleficent's Enchanted Forest Trail – Ashridge. You can explore this bewitching woodland with a Maleficent – themed trail. Collect your map from the Visitor Centre, follow the trail and return to collect your reward. Check out "Walk in Hertfordshire" For more information on times and locations, call 01992 588433 or visit

www.hertfordshirehealthwalks.org

The next Berkhamsted Live on Thurs **September 25th** has a children's show 5.00-6.00 and an adult show at 8.00 (which includes Cynthia Nolan's 'Ted Talk' about taking photo-portraits). If you can't make that, we now have a second show arranged for Thurs Nov 20th. Our reward.



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Your High Street

Brand new M&S Berkhamsted Simply Food unveiled

The brand new Marks & Spencer Berkhamsted Simply Food opened its doors to customers on Wednesday 28th May, revealing almost 4,500 quality food and drinks lines to excited shoppers, there is also a 50 seat M&S Café.



Notting Hill comes to Berkhamsted

If you take a wander down the whole of Berkhamsted High Street you will notice a few changes, especially on the east side, which has the feel of being in an arty part of a city. It really is worth the walk to this end of town! Please see below a more in-depth look at the new ventures.

Angels Boutique

Just opposite the The Gatsby is Angels Boutique. The shop is beautifully laid out with a wonderful array of colours and styles.

Karen Stephens, the owner, quoted: "We sell Italian and French clothing, jewellery, handbags and scarves all at great high street prices. We offer unique styles, limited amount of each design, and have new deliveries in every week. We cater for all sizes, 8 to 24, and all age groups".

We opened last October, and have already got a loyal, regular customer base, but still need to let people know we are at the far end of town. With new shops opening up, we hope to be even busier, as mostly customers recommend us to their friends and family".

Vintage Vagabond

Anna opened Vintage Vagabond three weeks ago and already has had to restock the shop three times. You can see why, as it is a delightful shop – there are many one off items including unusual and quirky gifts, soft furnishings, ornamentals and lovingly up cycled furniture. The shop is more like a boutique where the items are displayed in such a way you can picture them in your home.

Anna lives in Berkhamsted and ran the after school art club at Victoria school. She studied Art and Design and has a lot of experience in interior design in property development. So you can see she has a real passion in making things beautiful and giving them a new lease of life!

Three other ladies contribute to the shop items - Celia does upholstery, two sisters up cycle furniture and another lady does



(Continued on page 11)

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(Continued from page 9)
wonderful soft furnishings such as bedding, patchwork items and much more.
Vintage Vagabond is open Tuesday to Sunday. 76 High Street, Berkhamsted HP4 2BW.
If you have one-off items to sell, require a house clearance or for any other information, please contact Anna on 07745276558.

House of High Tea

Another new face to pop up in Berkhamsted's ever expanding High Street is the House of High Tea. It's a lovely traditional-looking tea room from



the outside but as you step inside it's also full of quirky little pieces that make this a very

special and refreshing independent addition to our town's list of places to eat and drink. Being a bit of a fan of tea and cake (to put it mildly), I needed no convincing when our editor asked if I would do a piece for this month's magazine.

On entering the House of High Tea there's an impressive chandelier hanging above which oozes class along with traditional pictures and artefacts from Victorian cafe society. But this place is in no way old fashioned; it has a very modern twist: an old clock case sits behind the counter filled with stacked cups and saucers and a

funky table and chair hangs upside down on the ceiling in one corner. The uniqueness even extends to the chairs which may look traditional but have their own quirky images on the seat pads: you could find yourself



sitting on a picture of a top hat, some old sheet music or even their own logo which features a chap in a top hat, sitting on a very high stool in a very tall house — drinking 'high' tea of course.

Intrigued and wanting to find out more, I met Jennifer, the owner, and asked how it all came about. She explains that she's always baked and her mother was a good cook who taught her everything. Three years ago she finished a job in London and decided on a new path, which led her to open the Lady Grey tea room in Wendover with a partner. It was a great success and after two years she decided to open up in Berkhamsted where she's lived for the past 12 years. It's a family business with her husband and son both serving and helping out and you can feel the passion and care in everything about it.

It's a lovely location to meet up with friends; the perfect antithesis to the bustling, often over-noisy, high street chains of coffee shops that can sometimes feel so soulless. This is a place to enjoy the moment. Jennifer describes tea as being 'like a ceremony that people take time over' and this is definitely somewhere that you can forget about everything else and take some time out.

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One of the reasons Jennifer preferred this end of town to open her tea room was 'because it seems more relaxing and away from the very busy centre'. Maybe another reason for more little shops popping up here giving this part of Berkhamsted an almost 'village' feel. ('Berkhamsted Village' — now there's a unique selling point for the estate agents out there!).

Back to tea...This is a proper tea room where tea is served in china cups from a teapot — loose leaf of course so don't forget to use the strainer! However, despite serving 26 different loose leaf teas, which you can even buy weighed out in lovely waxed paper bags, they do a very good Italian dark coffee along with hot chocolate and juices. The delicious fresh cakes tempting you from the counter are all hand made by Jennifer in her own kitchen at home (whole cakes are also available to order)— in fact her house even used to be an old bakery! They serve light breakfasts, light lunches (I'm definitely going back to try the quiche and



the huge sausage rolls!), and all the food is prepared freshly in the kitchen downstairs when you place your order. Vegetarians are well catered for and they also offer three different gluten free cakes. And finally, if you really don't have time to sit down, you can always grab a take-away drink or cake.

The House of High Tea is a real gem and I wish it every success. Incidentally, it's already received a large amount of votes to go through to the final of the 6 best tea shops in the Chilterns this year and it's only been open just over a month! Good vibes all round.

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YB Young Writer competition

WINNER: BOY: Oscar Johnson

Judges comments: This was really great. It has a great premise, a complicated plot, structured well in a short space, great use of language and sentence structure to create pace and plot, and a fantastic twist. I really loved the circular nature of this story, very accomplished.

The Mistake - Oscar Johnson

It was an ordinary morning for Boris, or was it? He crawled out of his old squeaky bed and slipped his feet in his fluffy slippers. It was a Monday morning and Boris hated Monday mornings. But it was going to be worse today because today was the day the mistake was going to happen. However, Boris was unaware of this so he carries on as usual.

Boris lived in a small grey house, in a small dull village called Cove; where the most interesting thing that had happened was the Mayor had got a new hat. The reason Boris hated Cove so much was because it was so dreary, he had bigger plans for when he was older; Paris, Milan, London..... New York! He loved New York, from the skyscrapers towering over you to the peaceful, tranquil parks.

However Boris wasn't in New York, he was in plain old Cove and it was going to stay that way, forever! As Boris walked to school he never seemed to be going anywhere, even though he was definitely not standing still. It was almost as if he was stuck, in time!

Boris was 14 years old, medium height and had brown hair that flopped over his freckly forehead. He wasn't the cleverest of people, but he wasn't stupid and he

knew something was wrong, really wrong. He also kept seeing the same cyclist cycle past him over and over again. It was at the exact moment he realised what was happening it, it was as if his village was stuck in time, going in a loop, replaying the last 30 seconds again and again, without anyone realising or remembering, except for him.

It just hit him; he had 30 seconds starting from now to save the world. But where to start, he thought to himself, "I mean they don't teach us this in school". But he only had 30 seconds, it was as if he was in a video game with 30 seconds to complete the level and it restarted if he didn't complete it. "WHAT TO DO?" he said to himself. "I'm going to have to get the world unstuck from the loop. He whispered quietly "By creating a big chemical reaction to knock the world back into place." But how? Then it came to him 'an explosion'. "They have dynamite at the mine".

He knew the way there off by heart, it was the only thing he found interesting about the town. He sprinted down the street then BOOM he was back where he started. He sprinted back down the street, he made it 2 blocks this time then BOOM, it was almost as if he had been dragged back. So the next time he ran when he got to 30, he held onto something then BOOM, he felt this immense force pushing against him, but he didn't let go then it was over and he hadn't moved back.

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He carried on to the coal mine, holding on to things as he went.

He got to the safe with the dynamite in it; his dad had told him the code. There were only 3 sticks, that wasn't going to be enough. He needed to magnify the power. If he could get the dynamite as far down into the Earth as he could, he might be able to get the dynamite to the Earth's core and that's definitely powerful enough to blow up the world. He had been looking on the internet and apparently there was an abandoned hole that went right to the centre of the Earth and it started right here in the mine. He picked up the dynamite and held on to the door just as the 30 seconds had ended.

He stepped into the mine, adrenalin rushing through his body. It quickly got pitch black. He fumbled through his bag for a torch. He'd lost count of the seconds in the darkness but he didn't seem to be getting dragged back, the mine seemed to be protecting him. He ventured deeper into the mine; down he went further and further into the endless darkness. He'd lost all his bearings by now. His legs ached, his stomach churned, he had only had a piece of toast this morning and he was starving.

BANG! He whacked his head on the ceiling. He had to crawl on all fours now which made the going even tougher, scratching his hands and knees. Cramp was starting in his left leg as well now. He couldn't remember how long he had been going for now, it might be half an hour or it might be 6 hours. All he knew was he

had to keep going.

His torch had died and he had to go on his stomach. "Where is this stupid hole" he muttered to himself. He was starting to doubt it even. BANG! He had smashed his head on what felt like a metal pole, he felt the top, hollow! Maybe this was it, he dropped a rock down, and he could hear it falling for ages. He got the dynamite out of his pocket, reached for the matches. MATCHES! He'd left them behind, wait he was dropping into fire, he didn't need matches. He dropped the dynamite down the hole. BOOM! Bright lights blinded him, then there was nothing.

It was an ordinary morning for Boris. He crawled out of his old squeaky bed and slipped his feet into his fluffy slippers. It was a Monday morning and Boris hated Monday mornings.

Winners and runners-up from Year 6
Berkhamsted School:



John Gerry from YB presented them with their tokens at their Monday assembly. Their names are Elizabeth Aston, Ted Holland, Sam Misan and Francesca Strach.

Berkhamsted Citizens Association's 90th birthday

Early in 1924 a group of citizens felt there were ways in which a non-statutory but widely representative body might work for the general betterment of Berkhamsted. Its title was carefully chosen – Citizens, not residents; the emphasis on contribution to, and a stake in the community. And so, on 6th July 1924, in a marquee in the Castle grounds, the Berkhamsted Citizens Association was born, with an initial budget of £1/10/9d. That's £1.53. Initial membership was approximately 70; subscription per person one shilling (5p) per year, so that no-one was excluded on the grounds of cost. From small but enthusiastic beginnings a significant and resilient organisation emerged. Even in today's cynical world, where pressure groups to 'stop things' really attract the numbers, the BCA's membership is 350 member households (and, in keeping with its founding ethos, subscription only £5 per annum per household) representing close on 700 members covering Berkhamsted and Northchurch. It is nonaligned and without bias, except in its unwavering commitment to the quality of the built environment, the countryside, and amenities of the town.

In 1924 Berkhamsted was still a country town, but since then it has grown in size and its character has changed, but not as much as its neighbours Hemel Hempstead, Chesham and Dunstable. It can still claim to be a town in the country, and the preservation of its character is in no small part attributable to the Citizens. Local government

structure may have changed fundamentally, and administrations at district and town level come and gone, but the BCA input and influence carries on.

The BCA established from the beginning the things which concern it to this day: the quality of new development; the conservation of the historic fabric of the town; the preservation of the tree line on both sides of the valley; the paucity of open space within the town; the impact of traffic and parking; and the control of the dumping of rubbish. Recognise the issues?

But it has its lighter side. A number of **talks** on relevant town topics, or by local personalities, are held each year. And then there are the General Election **Hustings** (candidates facing their potential electorate), the most recent of which was in May 2010, packing the Great Hall in the Town Hall. Next up in 2015.

The BCA also organises and judges the **Best Christmas Shop Window competition**, now 16 years old, its contribution to the very successful Festival of Light run by the Town Council.

The **Footpath Map** is the BCA's most significant contribution to its interest in the care of our footpaths. First published in 1938, it is now in its 6th incarnation, and a new edition is to be published this year to celebrate our 90th anniversary. It is available through local bookshops and the NT Ashridge Visitor Centre.

(Continued from page 15)

That, combined with a new town notice board and the restoration of the Sparrows Herne waymark, makes the trilogy of the BCA's commemorative projects this year.

But our work on the **Planning** front is the cornerstone of activity for which we are best known. Since 1972 the Association has been inspecting plans and planning documents on a monthly basis and putting forward its views, via its Town Amenities Sub-Committee, to DBC.

In 1981, to promote good development, the BCA started its annual **Environment Award** to recognise good design in new building or renovation. This is made following every AGM in March, and proves to be the award that feeds into those given by other organisations later in the year. Article 4 Directions, Local Listing of significant houses, and the extension of the Berkhamsted Conservation Area now becoming a reality, are built upon the work of the BCA in this area over the last 25 years; and its co-operation with DBC's Conservation Department.

"So please join us" says current Chairman, Susan Johnson, "and help us celebrate our first 90 years! Any person living in Berkhamsted and Northchurch, or with an interest in this area, is welcome. Keep up to date through our quarterly Newsletter and our website. Be a Citizen!"

Berkhamsted Citizens Association is the civic & amenity society for Berkhamsted and Northchurch. It promotes interest in the built environment and surrounding countryside; and organises local events, like talks, walks, awards and

competitions. It is a member of ANTAS, the Association of North Thames Amenity Societies.

www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk

Contact: Secretary 01442 866075 or email

chairman@berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk

Christian Aid Week - £6278.62 plus Gift Aid was collected in Berkhamsted and Northchurch; the largest amount for several years! Thank you for your support. **Margaret Burbidge**

Berkhamsted Live - Charlie Goodall, Jo and Anna Perry and Huseyin Hodja (thank you guys for your great music and dancing!), raised £130 for The Pepper Foundation. Pictures of the event can be seen at Shoot Me Studio's Facebook page.

Oxfam and WW1 - The Oxfam shops in Berkhamsted will mount special window displays for the World War One Centenary to coincide with the Remembrance events in the town at the end of July.

Oxfam was born out of a concern for the victims of war in enemy-occupied Greece in 1942. The Oxford Committee for Famine Relief petitioned the government (unsuccessfully) to lift the Allied naval blockade to allow food supplies to reach the starving population. Money raised was eventually channelled through the Red Cross.

Bringing help to victims of the aftermath of war has occupied a great deal of Oxfam's effort in the decades since then. Currently two major conflict zones, South Sudan and Syria, are absorbing significant quantities of Oxfam's resources. Buying or donating would help this essential war effort.

Parish Pages

When this article makes it to print we should hopefully be basking in the tentative and sporadic patches of sunlight that we rather charmingly refer to as the British summer and (provided we even make it out of the group stage) cheering on that equally unpredictable and often lacklustre force in the land – the England team. Yet as I write now, I reel from the end of another excellent Season of HBO's *Game of Thrones*, a television adaptation of George R. R. Martin's colossal books detailing a global conflict in a mythical world that almost rivals the drama and passion of our own World Cup.

If you haven't seen it yet, you may well have heard something of the lashings of (sometimes deeply questionable and often disturbing) scenes which include sex and violence and gore – but at the heart of it is an extremely gripping narrative of family struggles and brutal *realpolitik* as various characters vie for political domination– carrying devastating repercussions across mediaeval-esque continents. Many have praised this perceived 'gritty realism' of the series (if we just ignore the dragons, zombies and wizards of course). In contrast to some fantasy works, the *Game of Thrones* philosophy doesn't have good and evil; just 'evil and more evil' while those who conform to traditional 'Heroic' tropes- acting with justice, honour and integrity, are frequently butchered by more underhanded characters. As the delightfully wicked Cersei Lannister summarizes it at one point: '*When you play the game of thrones you win or you die.*'

A corrupt politicians, declining prosperity, a widening gulf between rich and poor, increasing global conflict – perhaps the show's popularity stems from a sense that its world somehow reflects our own. Certainly there are many out there who would declare of our own social order that '*Winter is Coming*' (to borrow another show catchphrase). Strangely the *GoT* worldview actually matches the Christian one- appreciating how mixed human motivations can be and pessimistic about the ability of humans to build a just and good society by their own power. Moreover the fate of Jesus conforms to that pattern of the destruction of good people who challenge societies riddled with corruption and hypocrisy.

Yet the *GoT*'s solution; a raw fight for power, is inadequate, Christianly speaking. Jesus' resurrection is the other side of the story – there is a power beyond our mere human powers which can, ultimately, overcome evil. By making this Absolute Good, (or God), our first ambition, rather than the *GoT* ambitions of money, sex, power or even family, duty or honour – we can be transformed as people, because such an inexhaustible goal as Goodness Itself can never bring us into conflict with other people, unlike the more finite and worldly goals . If indeed we are in a period of decline I wonder which worldview will prevail – The *GoT* 'Will to power' or a more hopeful vision of society that believes it's what we share, rather than what we own that is truly a mark of a great people?

Nathan Mulcock

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

Diary

St Peter's

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

Fri 11th July at 1:00pm: LUNCHTIME RECITAL in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's Church. Fiona Duncan (violin) and Kevin Vockerodt (piano). Retiring collection

Sat 19th July at 3:00pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church - Singing Workshops Groups' 'Summer Strawberry Sing'. Songs from around the world directed by Yvonne Brener. Strawberries and Cream after. Retiring collection in aid of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

All Saints'

6th: Third Sunday after Trinity, 10am Morning Worship, Peggy Sear and Rob Wakely

13th: Fourth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Valerie Rockall, 4pm Messy Church, Messy Church group

20th: Fifth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Morning Worship (Action for Children), Revd Linda Woollacott, 4pm Healing Service, Audrey Cox, Jenny Wells and Tracy Robinson

27th: Sixth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Registers

Baptisms

St Peter's:

1st June Imogen Loveday Rosemary FREEMAN,

8th June Oliver BIDDLE, Tabitha Evelyn REES

15th June Natelie Rose SCOTT, Elsie Jane Finlay KNOWLES,

22nd June Oscar Pierre William MAYNARD, Joshua James PINSON-ROXBURGH, Reece Taylor WELSHMAN, Bonnie Loraine WELSHMAN, Roxy Irene WELSHMAN

Weddings:

St Peter's:

4th May Oliver Ross and Emily Rose Harris

17th May Michael David Lee and Elizabeth Louise Cramer

7th June Neal Rutherford and Karen Dell

All Saints':

17 May Stephen Paul Rickard and Claire Elizabeth Jellis (Dell)

Funerals:

All Saints:

21 May Philip Johnson

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.

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

Thank you!

We wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone who attended our Hospice Garden Party at Ashridge House at the beginning of June. The sun appeared (after a wet week) and around 3,000 people came to support the event, helping us raise in excess of £25k for the Hospice.



Thank you also to anyone who walked our Midnight Walk at the end of June. This is our largest community fundraising event of the year and we were delighted to welcome hundreds of supporters wearing pink to walk for us along the streets of Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead! We are still waiting for all the sponsorship money to come in but

hope to raise at least £75k to help fund our care.

Spring Centre Support

Our Spring Centre offers help for those living with a life-shortening illness and those supporting them, as well as the bereaved. There are nurse assessment clinics, rehab and relaxation sessions, gentle exercise classes as well as fatigue management workshops and complementary therapy such as acupuncture and reflexology on offer. New courses for the summer include 'Blether for Blokes' on Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30pm for men to come and enjoy a drink and talk about what's important in their lives and a beginners'



computer course on Wednesdays 5:30 – 7pm. This is perfect for individuals or carers that want to learn how to email a friend, Skype the grandchildren or shop online. Call 01442 869550 for further information.



Dacorum Annual Steam and Country Fayre – Saturday 26/Sunday 27th July 10 – 5pm

This popular event, for the whole family, takes place at Green Croft Farm, Potten End. On offer are tractor and train rides, birds of prey demonstrations, food and craft stalls, a vintage car display, beer tent and refreshments, plus a circus skills workshop. Do go along as all profits for the day come to support the Hospice!

Good luck!

We have 20 cyclists who are going to be pedalling furiously to raise funds for us

this summer. At the beginning of July, some of our intrepid bikers will be cycling from London to Paris whilst, in early August, others will be riding the Prudential Ride London-Surrey 100 road race, which follows the route of the 2012 Olympic race route. Thank you to all of them! We have places available next year on various cycling events so do get in touch if you'd like to 'get on your bike' to help raise funds for the Hospice.

Other dates for your diary!

Hospice Running Club – every Wednesday at 9:30am at the Hospice, suitable for all abilities. £3

Hospice Coffee morning – Friday 25th July 10:30am – 12pm. We hold regular coffee mornings for people to gather and chat plus there's also the opportunity to take a tour of the Hospice and its beautiful grounds.

Hospice Film Forum – Wednesday 6 August 6:45pm. Come and watch Le Weekend starring Jim Broadbent and Lindsay Duncan who revisit Paris to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary and reflect on their time together. Funny and poignant! £5 donation to the Hospice, refreshments inc.

www.stfrancis.org.uk

Facebook: TheHospiceofStFrancis

Twitter: @hospicstfrancis



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Free art classes on Chilterns commons this summer



The Chilterns Commons Project is holding a free art competition in 2014 called Imagine... In association with the competition, there is a series of free half-day art and photography workshops on commons this summer.

About Imagine... The competition has different categories for children and adults and art works can be in any medium, but need to have been inspired by a common in the Chilterns. Submit your entry form and a photo of the entry by Friday 19 September. The original will be required if the entry is shortlisted for exhibition. Winners receive up to £100 of vouchers for art supplies and their work will be showcased in a public exhibition in High Wycombe.

About the art classes: Professional artist (and archaeologist) Dr Jill Eyers and photographer Hayley Watkins will run the sessions. Jill's group will concentrate on painting and give advice about how to compose and add colour harmony to a picture. Attendees will paint using inspiration from the natural materials they gather on the common. Paper and paint will be supplied, but bring your own if you prefer.

Hayley's group will talk about the basics

of photography and a bit about equipment, lenses and kit, though it won't be a technical session. She'll also discuss angles, perspective, composition, rule of thirds and how lighting affects the image. Bring your own camera – a phone camera is fine.

Booking is essential as places are limited – contact Rachel Sanderson on 01844 355525 or

rsanderson@chilternsaonb.org

Workshops open to: anyone aged 5-105. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

The free classes will be held on the following commons from 1.30-4pm:

- Nettlebed: Monday 11th August, meet 1.30pm at the cricket pavilion
- Ashridge : Tuesday 12 August, meet 1.30pm in the field by the Visitors' Centre
- Dunstable Downs: Wednesday 13 August, meet 1.30pm, field behind the Gateway Centre.
- Booker: Thursday 14 August meet 1.30pm at the Memorial Hall

Bring suitable clothes, a chair or rug to sit on and an open mind.



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The Book Corner

Julian Dawson's review of his latest read



Levant: Splendour and Catastrophe on the Mediterranean. Philip Mansel.
Yale University Press;

Modern nationalism is still distorting the history lessons in schools across the eastern Mediterranean. But fortunate children can listen to their grandparents, or take note of the perplexing mix of architecture that surrounds their home. The artificiality of recently created states relying on homogeneity for their existence hides the real story of their region. This is demonstrated clearly in Philip Mansel's book which investigates the history of Smyrna, Alexandria and Beirut. When cosmopolitanism was at its height, each of these places had a unique daily life with a bitter sweetness of competing cultural forces, both internal and from without. The author has a firm understanding of the flourishing of Smyrna (today's Izmir),

before the first world war, and his eye for detail is brought into sharp relief in his portrayal of Alexandria in the days before Nasser came to power in the 1950s. In both places the commercial and strategic interests of the European powers held sway. The French connection was particularly strong, Armenians escaping from the torching of Izmir's Christian quarter using their fluent French to seek refuge on French naval vessels. Today Izmir is firmly Turkish, Alexandria a Muslim city. However, Beirut remains an alluring place rebuilding after each round of fighting. It has somehow escaped becoming a mono-religious, mono-cultural centre against all the odds. Mansel has recreated through intricate story telling former everyday life in these fascinating cities, and brings an almost wistful air to the glory of days gone by. A book to escape into, if not always a particularly comfortable place to be.



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Your Community

Do1Thing for your Community

Community Week is just one benefit to being a Scout

In early June across the UK, Scouts of all ages undertook projects to help their community. Community Week activities included litter picking, grounds maintenance, painting and fund raising events. In addition learning new skills and building confidence, it was a chance for young people to develop closer links with local groups and feel proud of achieving things for others.



As part of this initiative, Beavers of 1st Berkhamsted Scout Group helped to plant seedlings for the Sunnyside Rural Trust. Over 40 children from the two successful Beaver colonies run by the Group potted up more than 100 seedlings. These will be sold to help fund the services of Sunnyside Rural Trust to support adults with learning difficulties. Scouting is the UK's largest youth organisation for girls and boys from 6 years and up, and helps young people in many ways. It builds their social skills, encourages self-sufficiency, broadens their friendship groups and gives them access to activities and opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable to them. Behind the 'fun' of Scouting is a detailed

educational programme, covering outdoor and adventure, global, community, fit for life, creative and beliefs and attitudes. Scouts welcome members of many different faiths and religions, as well as those with no formal religion.

1st Berkhamsted is a long established Scout Group which maintains several community links. In addition to supporting local charities, it manages the Berkhamsted Christmas tree collection service and is involved in the Lions Summer Fete, the Santa Sleigh and both the Remembrance Sunday and St Georges Day parades.

The Group is passionate about providing



opportunities to develop the lives of young people. It is looking for several extra adult volunteers with similar enthusiasm for a variety of roles (no previous Scouting experience required). A volunteer commitment guarantees places for your children in the Group.

Your Recipe

Pan Roasted Seabass

With new potatoes, chorizo, broad beans and baby leaf spinach

Serves 2

Ready in 25 mins

Kcal 650 fat 38g carb 30g pro 55g (per serving)

Ingredients

200g Seabass fillet

140g Chorizo

100g Broad beans

300g New Potatoes

100g Baby leaf spinach

50g Butter

1 Lemon

Here's what to do ...

Start by putting the potatoes into a pan of water and bringing to the boil. Boil for approximately 20 minutes, until the potatoes are soft. Then, drain the potatoes and cut in half

Wash the baby leaf spinach, blanch the broad beans in boiling water and dice the chorizo into small cubes.

Heat a frying pan with some olive oil until really hot, and then add the chorizo. Once the chorizo has heated through, add the halved potatoes, broad beans and spinach. Toss them all together and season with a little salt and a squeeze of lemon juice. Remove from the heat and set to one side.

Using the same frying pan, add a little more oil and place the seabass fillets into the pan, skin side down. Cook for approximately 2 minutes and then turn

over and cook for a further 1 minute on the other side. DO NOT overcook. When you are cooking the second side, add a small knob of butter – once this has melted your fish should be cooked.



Once the seabass has been cooked, take the fillets out of the pan and set aside. Add the remaining lemon juice and butter to the pan and then remove the pan from the heat.

Impress your diners by plating up with the seabass on top of the chorizo, new potatoes, broad beans and spinach. Drizzle the lemon butter over the top.

Chef's tips: Fish fillets have a tendency to curl up when cooking. To ensure even cooking, run your finger along the middle of the fish to flatten whilst in the pan.

Thank you The Naked Radish for the recipe



WWW.THENAKEDRADISH.CO.UK

Your Garden

by Helen Reeley



The word on garden street right now is herbs. But what is a herb? It's generally understood a herb is a plant that has a part of it (leaves, flowers,

stems, fruit, root) that's used for food, medicine, flavouring or scent. I grow herbs on the allotment for bees & flavouring and this year I've been searching for some new types to grow that will withstand a certain amount of inattention during the winter months and that look the part.

I've selected Angelica, tarragon, chervil, chamomile, Viola, Tanacetum and milk thistle for the time being to add to my existing collection of what I call 'standard' herbs; parsley, sage, rosemary & thyme, dill, fennel, bay etc. If we were a warmer country I would grow ginger not just for cooking savoury dishes but to make into crunchy candied ginger.

If you're making some space in your garden this year for herbs consider the aspect of the area; herbs like lots of sun and well drained soil. Don't plant a marjoram or thyme in shady claggy soil as it just won't do for you I'm afraid. Always find the sunny spot in your garden and if necessary use pots & containers. There

are herbs that will grow in shadier spots and heavier soil and I'll be covering these and more in my next Garden School class on Saturday July 5th 10-1pm at Frithsden Vineyard. Do give me a call if you're interested in coming along to learn more about growing all types of herbs in your garden.

I'm doing lots of shrub pruning in the gardens over the next few weeks; as the flowers finish it's time either for a light trim or a hard cut back in order for the shrub to regain its shape for the winter. Some shrubs can even be cut down to the ground to grow again if the current shape doesn't please you. If you have a query drop me a line on my Facebook page Helen Reeley Gardens and I'll be happy to answer in detail.

Enjoy your garden in July.

Helen Reeley
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Your Sport

This month James Dawson looks at Ashlyns Sports Centre

Following on from the successful building of Berko Astro in 2010, Ashlyns is to extend its sporting project by building a new sports hall next to the astro itself. The blueprints have been laid and following the building being granted planning permission, the hall is scheduled to hopefully be finished sometime in 2015.

The new Ashlyns Sports Centre is set to be a modern multi-sport complex with state of the art facilities. These facilities will consist of a fitness room, a dance studio, changing rooms and of course the hall itself. As well as benefitting Ashlyns School hugely, as seen with Berko Astro it will also be welcomed hugely amongst the local community and should hopefully prove a valuable asset to Berkhamsted.

The Sports Centre will offer of course PE lessons during school time, therefore meaning that the main hall inside the school will now take a respite from its sporting commitments during the school day to more theatrical and social events. It will also help to deal with the new income of year seven and eight pupils to Ashlyns that first arrived in September. After all the, the school now caters for over 1,200 people and having the sports hall would be a huge addition to an already large school. Not just will the new building be available to students during school, it will also offer activities after school, at the weekends and during the school holidays.

The funding for the project has been huge, and it is expected to cost around £2.3m. A large amount of that funding has come courtesy of the County council. There have also been a lot of fundraisers. One of which was the Petertide fair who split a total across three worthwhile causes including the Sports hall, and in particular for sports equipment, which amounted to almost £3,000. Meanwhile, Ashlyns have also put in an application for £150,000 from Sports England which they are hoping to hear a response from around September time as to whether they've got that funding granted. That money would be spent towards the lighting and flooring inside the hall.

If you yourselves want to get involved and help out the funding for the Sports Hall then you can lend your support by making a donation to buy key bits of kit for the sports hall by visiting www.ashlynssportscentre.com



Your Schools

More from Thomas Coram's roving reporters



In our May issue Year 5 pupils reported on the health of our town. This month we have more of their articles, this time addressing the subject of dropping litter.



Thomas Coram Times

This summer we are aiming to get people who smoke to stop dropping the cigarettes on the floor. We asked some people in the school and wanted to know their thoughts.

"It's too messy because they get stuck to your shoes and other people have to pick them up".

"We think the government should get a cigarettes bin so people don't have to pick them up."

Also, it makes the streets look scruffy and dogs could swallow them and it can get stuck in their throat.

This is happening because people can't be bothered to put them in the bin. Smoking doesn't just affect you, it affects people around you. **By Matthew M**

In Bekhamsted town there has been litter on the loose. At Thomas Coram school we are trying to change all of that

around. We have been trying to make that change and making the town change and becoming a non litter place.

...In Berkhamsted town I have seen people throw lots of things away when there is a bin only a few steps away. We are doing this to make the town and school a healthy place. Do you agree with us? **By Phoebe King**

In Berkhamsted there has been too many people smoking then chucking cigars on the floor.

....We decided to take this to matter and look at why people do it. I have seen people walk past bins and just throw it next to them. One day someone might throw a cigar on the grass and just set the whole place on fire. This world is not a dump, it is our home and the world doesn't deserve it. **By George Ivory**

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