

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

December 2014

Christmas in days gone by

New Rector at St Peter's

Recycling in Berkhamsted

Young Enterprise at Ashlyns



50p

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

In this issue...

Welcome to the December 2014 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

All Souls and Remembrance Sunday always ensure that November is a time for reflection and remembering, and it is especially so this year with the commemorations of the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War. We are now into the final month of 2014 and there is no escaping that Christmas is round the corner, with this in mind we have tried to include something for all ages including a traditional poem, a festive recipe and much more. We also would like to welcome the new rector of St Peter's the Reverend Timothy Pilkington. ***Do check out the What's on page for events in December in and around Berkhamsted***, also look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Please get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may want to share. Have a lovely Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Front cover image: Winter Canal Scene by Mary Casserley



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

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

Berkhamsted in the News

Julian Dawson



The admirable Tom Daley allows me to dive off this month's article with a flying forward one-and-a-half somersaults, pike. herts24.co.uk reports on the diver's endorsement of the Hospice of St Francis' Chocolate Ball by giving organisers an auction prize offering a group of six people the chance to spend the afternoon watching him train at Stratford's Olympic Pool. The chocolate themed event was due to take place in St Albans on November 14th. No mention was made whether the Olympic Pool itself would be filled with ganache. If you find that opening rather too indulgent on many levels, then let me be more prosaic and guide you to hemeltoday.co.uk's list of planning applications. Get your pulse racing by finding out what your neighbours have in mind with alterations and extensions to existing roof, demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of two storey rear extension, or works to trees. Grand designs this ain't. But such local planning vocabulary steers us neatly to wikipedia.org's entry for Dacorum. The modern political district was created in 1974, a year that for many of us led us to be emotionally scarred by the demise of the county of Rutland. A decision that thankfully has since been rescinded. Despite Dacorum's relatively recent

creation, the hundred was in fact first recorded in 1196, though its origins lie in the 9th and 10th century when it was situated on the margins of the southern boundary of Danelaw and the River Lea. The word is from the Latin "of the Danes". In case you were wondering, the authority's coat of arms is an amalgamation of the former local authorities that make up the borough, symbolised in the seven oak leaves which surround a Tudor rose.

berkhamstedtoday.co.uk reported on Berkhamsted's annual firework display at the cricket club, an event that has lost some of its attraction in recent years due to the lack of bonfire (the clue is in the name "Bonfire Night" guys). Apparently the dictates of health and safety prevent the creation of a conflagration visible from the moon. I rather suspect that if Guy Fawkes had been responsible for the risk assessment of their explosive escapade then they might well have gone for an alternative method of removing the members of the Houses of Parliament, using what we might call a "General Election".

This month's rogue forum is ukmonster.co.uk. "How about to Berkhamsted to help me strip calipers, replace seals and new brake fluid?" reads

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

one post. Sounds like a rather dodgy personal to me, but it turns out that Monster is a 1992 Ducati, a motorcycle that “shocked the world”. Never let be said that I don’t broaden your horizons in my column. And whilst I am discussing matters mechanical and electrical, connectingindustry.com breathlessly reports on Bunting Magnetics Europe Ltd, which has their European manufacturing facility in Berkhamsted. They specialise in designing and manufacturing separation technology including magnetic separation, metal detection and eddy

current separation. Oooh, I think I need to lie down.

Let me leave you with a revelation from abundanceoxford.wordpress.com, which tells us that Berkhamsted has its own apple, the Lane Prince Albert created in the town in 1850. The RHS tells me that it is a culinary apple, the tree having showy flowers. According to the Wordpress blog, it makes an excellent chutney. But that is quite enough of a pickle for me to get into for one month.

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;
www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk (**Sat 6th
Dec 10am-4pm: Berkhamsted Arts, Crafts
and Vintage Christmas Market**).

Tring Farmers Market (**Alt. Saturdays**)
The Marketplace, Brook Street, Tring
9.00am - 12.15pm
Tring Farmers Market promotes local food
for local people and offers a full range of
produce including: meat, eggs, bacon,
cakes, biscuits, preserves, pies,
vegetables, cheese, fish, plants, jewellery,
crafts and much more. More info email:
enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk.

December:

**Sat 6th and Sun 7th Dec: Wine and gift
shopping.** Frithsden Vineyard. Contact
Natalie Tooley 01442 878723 or
info@frithsdenvineyard.co.uk.
Plus Wreath Making Workshop – 10am to
1pm. £25 inc all materials. Refreshments
and mulled wine available. To book call
07708 643313 or email
helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk.

**Sat 6th Dec at 7.30pm: Berkhamsted
Music presents Caliente – Flute,
Saxophone and Harp.** Exploring the
dynamic between composer and
performer, Caliente perform music by

Andy Scott alongside works by Milhaud,
Ibert, Prokofiev and Fauré. Civic Centre.
Season £45, visitors £13, U18s free.
www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk or
862798.

**Sun 7th Dec 10am-3.30pm: Christmas
Fair.** Ashridge Estate Visitors Centre.
01442 851227 or
Ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk.

**Wed 10th Dec 8-10pm: Berkhamsted Lo-
cal History and Museum Society present**
A Victorian Christmas. Dr Catherine Grigg
is the Curator at Wycombe Museum. The
talk will be followed by 21st century
mince pies and festive drink. Annual sub:
joint £12, single £7. Visitors £2.50 at door
(no conc), DC £1. For info
www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk.

**Sun 14th Dec 5-6pm: Carol Concert in the
Chapel.** Annual carol concert held in
Ashlyns Chapel. All welcome. Donations
on the door for Thomas Coram Charity.
For info [www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/
information/index.htm](http://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/information/index.htm) or
admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk.

**Mon 15th Dec 7.45pm: Talk - Archaeology
& Biomechanics by Stacy Hackner.** Music
Room, Berkhamsted School. Annual sub:
£15, family £17.50, junior £5. Members
£1, visitors £3. 254801. DC.
www.berkhamstedarchaeo.org.uk.

**Many events in December at Ashridge
Visitors Centre - [http://
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge-
estate/things-to-see-and-do/events](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge-estate/things-to-see-and-do/events).**

Christmas in Days Gone By

By the time this issue of *Your Berkhamsted* comes out the Christmas lights will be on in the town and people will be checking their Christmas card list and making last-minute preparations for Christmas. In the frantic rush it is easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas and its significance for today. Since the beginning of November, or even earlier, shops and supermarkets have been promoting their Christmas wares in what has become the most profitable commercial enterprise of their year. It is also hard for the children of today when many schools have replaced the Nativity Play with multi-racial or humanist stories. But in celebrating Christmas we should not forget that we are celebrating *Christes Messe*, or *Christ's Mass* the birth of the Christ Child.

How was Christmas celebrated years ago and what was the origin of many of our Christmas customs? In medieval Berkhamsted celebration was focussed very much on the religious ceremony, with the church service in Latin. During these times seasonal pagan traditions became more common and fused with the religious ceremony of Christmas. These included the decoration of homes with native evergreens, which had berries thus brightening up the darkest time of the year. People would have gathered holly and ivy just as they still gather holly today. At this time also we have the origins of the kissing bough. A round ball of twigs, greenery and seasonal fruit was hung from the ceiling. Later mistletoe took on this role.

Another custom, which we can trace back to medieval times, is carol singing. Carols were Christmas songs in the vernacular, which the ordinary people could understand and enjoy. Soon these were accompanied by dancing but were too lively and noisy for a religious service. They were ordered out onto the street and became the carol singers of later times.

Sadly carol singing does not occur today to the extent it did in my childhood and even in that of my children. A ring of the door bell, a slight pause and then the cheerful singing, not always tuneful, of a well-known Christmas Carol. Regulations about collecting money and fears about the safety of young children out on the streets have curtailed many of these earlier customs. We still have the Round Table Father Christmas on his sledge collecting money for charity, but the groups of children 'carol singing' are rare now.

The greatest influence on Christmas and how it is celebrated today can be traced back to the Victorians, or rather Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. In 1848, the *Illustrated London News* published a drawing of Queen Victoria and her family celebrating around a decorated Christmas tree. This began a trend for every family to have a tree, laden with candles, sweets, fruit, home-made decorations and small gifts.

The Christmas card was invented in 1843. As card production costs dropped and the cost of postage fell the card industry took off and by the 1880s millions were produced. The tradition was especially popular with children who often designed their own.

Christmas crackers come from the same era being invented by a confectioner, Tom Smith, as a way of selling sweets inside the cracker. Gradually these were replaced by small gifts and paper hats. The giving of gifts had originally been only a small part of the festivities but over the years became increasingly a more central part. To start with fruit, nuts, sweets and hand-made trinkets were hung on the tree but soon bigger gifts were placed under the tree. Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', which illustrates the family feast of Christmas with charity, goodwill and redemption appeared in 1843.



We cannot forget the Christmas food. Christmas pudding has been a favourite since the Middle Ages, when plum pudding was made from dried fruits and citrus peel and spices. Mince pies were made with minced meat, suet, fruits and spices. By the 19th century the sweet mince pie we have today became widespread. In the Middle Ages the meal depended on the wealth of the family, meat ranging from beef, game and chicken. Turkeys appeared first in Tudor England but only became widespread in late Victorian times. We normally eat far too much at Christmas but couldn't compete with the family at Audley End in 1868 and probably similarly at local grand houses for example, Ashridge House. The Christmas lunch had

ten courses, 500lbs of meat were consumed by the family and household staff over the holiday period. Thirty-four rabbits, seven hares, two ducks, 4 chickens, nineteen pheasants and eighteen partridges were consumed by the family and servants.

Although the inmates of Berkhamsted workhouse enjoyed nothing comparable, they were not forgotten as this extract from *the Bucks Herald* of 02 January

1892 shows.
'As usual on Christmas Day the inmates, sixty six in number, were treated to a good dinner of beef and plum pudding by

the kindness of the guardians, and under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Jesty, the master and matron. Mrs. Dudley Ryder (Westbrook Hay) again sent tea and sugar, oranges, and Christmas cards. The Rev A Johnson, one of the guardians, sent 6lbs of tea and 2lbs of tobacco. Miss Proctor, cake, tobacco and Christmas cards for the sick. Mr Harding, nuts and oranges, Mr C. Tompkins, oranges and apples, Mr F Q Lane (a guardian) six bottles of wine and evergreens. Mr Dickman (another old friend of the inmates) a quantity of oranges, fruits etc, Mr D Clarke and Mr D Pike, fruit.'

Jenny Sherwood

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What's on (continued from page 7)

Out of Town:

Tues 2nd Dec – Weds 24th Dec : A Photographic Story of Hemel Hempstead – Stories of Lives: Stories of Nations by Lynda Sargent. Free. Old Town Hall, High St, Old Town. www.oldtownhall.co.uk.

Sat 6th Dec: Amersham and Chesham Bois Choral Society – Classical choral Amchor will be performing Haydn's Te Deum in C and Beethoven's Mass in C together with a performance of Mozart's Symphony No 29 at St. Mary's Church Old Amersham starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £15, students £7-50 available from Janie Taylor 01494 721466/ www.amchor.com.

7th Dec, 14th Dec and 21st Dec from 12.30 – 3.30pm. Our special festive lunches are held at Knebworth Barns from 12.30–3.30 pm. Enjoy a two-course festive lunch in the Cobbold Barn. There

will be a gift from Santa for each child. Booking is essential for this popular event via the www.knebworthhouse.com or call 01438 813825. Tickets are £24 adults £10.00 child (up to 13 years).

Thurs 11th Dec at 8pm: Court Theatre – Get Stuffed presents Russell Kane. Tickets £18.50. For info www.get-stuffed.biz.

Sat 27th Dec – Sun 4th Jan: The Court Theatre presents Aladdin. Tickets £10, children (16 and under) £6. For info www.courttheatre.co.uk.

Future dates

Thurs 1st Jan at 10.30am, Berkhamsted Station: BCA Traditional New Year's Day Ramble. A circular walk with a stop for lunch in Aldbury. Leader Paul Crosland. The walk is undertaken at your own risk. Free. www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk.



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Please feel free to pop in and chat about your holiday ideas over a coffee. We will be joined by representatives from companies specialising in Africa and Latin America as well as Europe and beyond. Sue, Michelle and Sarah will be on hand to talk about some of their specialist destinations which include Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA as well as Sri Lanka, Mauritius and the Caribbean.

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Your Garden

Adventures in Boots from Helen Reeley

There is only one thing more beautiful than a garden full of flowers and that is a garden full of frost and maybe a little bit of snow thrown in for good measure.

During December the frosts start to visit on a regular basis and our outdoor spaces take on a different atmosphere so take a small magnifying glass along when you next stride out and take a closer look at seed

heads and frosted leaves. And when it snows on your coat marvel at the intricate details of the tiny crystal miracles, it is the simplest things which give us most pleasure.

I'd like to visit Trentham Gardens in Staffordshire this winter. It's a bit of a trek but there we are-no pain no gain. In particular I'd like to look at the 'Rivers of Grass' borders designed by Pied Oudulf and the restored Italian Gardens which will be quite something to see on a cold quiet winters' day. Trentham has in recent years undergone a huge restoration project and several people I know say it's looking very good.

A bit closer to home Waddesdon Manor

has re-opened the house and gardens for the festive season. There is a new light display in the gardens which will be worth a look if you're passing that way but

choose your time carefully as it can get crowded.

December is the time we bring greenery into the house to liven the place up a bit. It doesn't always



Frosted Sarcococca leaves

work if you don't choose the right combinations of plant material and baubles. Sometimes a simple willow wreath adorned with dried flowers and seed heads does the trick; finish it off with a couple of gay bits of ribbon and a smidgen of bauble and your ready to go. Less is more so they say...

With such short days there's been time to catch up with some telly. The BBC teases us with one episode of Monty Don's Italian Garden series (or similar) and leaves us gasping for the remaining four or five programmes so I've invested in a winter treat to oneself.

Merriment in abundance and all that,
TTFN Helen

helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk

07708 643313

Your Parish

Richard Hackworth

The *Berkhamsted & Tring Gazette* recently reported that Berkhamsted High Street had been selected by the Academy of Urbanisation as a finalist for its award of Great Street 2015. The day of judgement was Friday 14th November and the title went to Bridge Street, Taunton; of course we congratulate them on their success. Several other awards were announced the same day and details are on the Academy website.

It is quite a compliment to Berkhamsted that we were shortlisted at all and it reminded me again – as if I needed reminding – how fortunate we are to live in such a pleasant town in such a lovely part of the world. I think this award is not about being picturesque – not about being chocolate-box pretty. It is about design and function, about being in many ways a great place to live. For me that would include not having empty shop fronts (at least, only rarely), about having some street-café society (weather permitting), and facilities like book shops and a cinema, and a flourishing market. It is also about architecture and history and community, which of course includes our churches.

High Streets would be less civilised places without active and attractive churches, including St Peter's amongst others. The Friends of St Peter's was set up as an independent charity to help care for this church and ensure it will always be a

focal point of our High Street. Please support them, or better join them. We are of course most fortunate of all that we live in a community with the wealthy to keep our High Street and our town so attractive.

I wonder how we missed out on winning the award? I hope the Academy of Urbanisation might publish its comments in due course. But whatever they think, everyone I speak to in the town shares an appreciation that we are truly well off to live here, and want to preserve the best features of the town. Sometimes that appreciation appears as resistance to change, like new housing and facilities to accommodate our growing community. We have to balance development pressures against preserving the best of our town of course, but Berkhamsted didn't gain its charm by standing still, and nor did Bridge Street Taunton. Let's hope the Academy of Urbanisation will visit us again in a few years to see if we have made the right decisions.

The New Rector of St Peter's Church

Introduction by Father Timothy Pilkington



I consider it an enormous privilege to have been instituted by the Bishop of St. Albans as the team Rector of Greater of Berkhamsted and I thank so many of you already for the warmth of your

welcome. I guess a little personal history may help. I was born in South Lincolnshire and come from a background of hard working butchers and farmers, went to college to train as a secondary school teacher and, through a fellow student met her best friend, a young nurse training up in Birmingham. The rest is history as they say....I'm married to Alys these past 37 years and we have three rugger loving sons, two of whom are married; we have two grandsons and a third grandchild on the way. In order to find the money to start a family, Alys and I left our respective professions to run a business in our early twenties. All was going well until the parish priest called one afternoon and asked me if I had ever considered becoming a priest! Rather like getting married, ordination just happened; in spite of a total of thirteen interviews no-one said "no". God and the Bishop of St. Alban's willing, next year will see the 30th anniversary of my ordination, so I hope that we shall raise a glass or two on that occasion!

Some may ask, what is the difference between being a Rector or a Vicar? These days, the answer is that there is no difference; the ancient titles are linked to

how the priest used to be paid. Whichever title is used they denote the same thing, namely that the priest has what is called, "the Cure of Souls". This means that on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop (Bishop Alan of St. Albans), the priest exercises a ministry of pastoral care, not just for the congregations of the church for which she or he has responsibility, but for those in the community who would not call themselves regular church attendees; that ministry is a unique part of what it means to be the Established Church of England, until such times as that changes. I am essentially a community priest and would hope that if we meet in the street we might exchange a greeting, a pleasant one at that! Please do not hesitate to stop me for a conversation and if anyone would value a visit, whether at home or in hospital, please do contact the parish office on 01442 878227 to arrange a mutually convenient time. (In order to give myself wholly to those whom I visit I do not use a mobile telephone). Folks sometimes ask, "What shall we call you: "Canon", "Rector?" In every parish I have always simply been known as Father Tim and would be very content with that, after all it is a mere English translation of the same term afforded to priests in H.M Forces as "padre".

This comes with thanks from Alys and myself for the tremendous welcome that we have received so far, together with the assurance of my prayers and good wishes for a Happy Christmas to you and your loved ones wherever they may be.

Fr. Tim

Minstrels A Christmas Poem

by William Wordsworth

The minstrels played their Christmas tune
To-night beneath my cottage-eaves;
While, smitten by a lofty moon,
The encircling laurels, thick with leaves,
Gave back a rich and dazzling sheen,
That overpowered their natural green.

Through hill and valley every breeze
Had sunk to rest with folded wings:
Keen was the air, but could not freeze,
Nor check, the music of the strings;
So stout and hardy were the band
That scraped the chords with strenuous hand.

And who but listened?--till was paid
Respect to every inmate's claim,
The greeting given, the music played
In honour of each household name,
Duly pronounced with lusty call,
And "Merry Christmas" wished to all.



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, 3 Sherwood Mews Park Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HX
- 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 8am; Saturday 9:30am.

Eucharist Monday 5:15pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road; Wednesday 8:30am; Thursday 12:45pm at Thomas Coram School (St Peter's during school holidays)

No Friday Eucharist; Saturday 10:00am

Evening Prayer Monday – Saturday 5:00pm

(Continued on page 18)

This Month's Diary

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

Mon 8th Dec, 8:00pm: ORGAN AND TRUMPET RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Adrian Davis organ and Giles Fowler trumpet. Free Entry, Retiring collection.

Sat 13th Dec, 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Berkhamsted Choral Society with Brass Ensemble. Conductor Graham Wili. John Rutter Gloria and a selection of festive music and carols. Tickets: www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk £13, cons £11, DC £6, U18s free 07500 431643.

Tue 23th Dec, 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Chiltern Chamber Choir with Bridgewater Sinfonietta, leader Stuart James. Director Adrian Davis. Monteverdi Vespers of 1610. Kathryn Jenkin soprano, Jeanette Ager mezzo-soprano, Oliver Brown treble, Daniel Auchincloss tenor, Phillip Conway-Brown tenor, Harry Bagnall tenor, Piran Legg bass, Joseph Padfield bass. Tickets: www.chilternchamberchoir.com, Adrian Cole, 124 High St Berkhamsted. £15, Seniors £13, DC & U18s free.

Mon 5th Jan, 8:00pm: TALK in The Court House – Cowper Society Winter Talk 1 - Icons by Dr Derek Bird. Free entry, retiring collection.

Mon 12th Jan, 8:00pm: ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Richard Dunster-Sigtermans, St Andrew's Rugby. Free entry, retiring collection.

Services

30th November, 6:00pm: Advent Carol Service

1st December, 7:30pm: Institution of Revd Canon Timothy Pilkington

21st December, 9:30am: Sung Eucharist with Sunday School Nativity

24th December (Christmas Eve), 4:00pm: Crib Service; 5.15pm: Crib Service, 11:30pm: Midnight Mass

25th December (Christmas Day), 8:00am: Eucharist

9:30am: Sung Family Eucharist

All Saints'

7th Dec, Second Sunday of Advent: 10am, Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 4pm: Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group.

14th Dec, Third Sunday of Advent: 10am, Holy Communion, Revd Valerie Rockall; 4pm: Carol Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins.

21st Dec, Fourth Sunday of Advent: 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 10am, All Age Worship (Nativity), Revd Rachael Hawkins.

24th Dec, Christmas Eve: 4pm, Crib Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 11.30pm, Midnight Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins.

25th Dec, Christmas Day: 10am, All Age Worship followed by Holy Communion, Revd Brian Tebbutt.

28th Dec, First Sunday of Christmas: 10am, Morning Worship, Chris O'Reilly.

Registers

Baptisms

19th October: Aika Maria Fujita Plant, Nao Fujita, Benjamin Timothy Nugent Marshall,

26th October: Oliver Smith, Darcy Charlotte Hudghton

Weddings

11th October: Andrew Mark Edwards and Hannah Felicity Lyus

18th October: James Edward May and Sharon Elizabeth Simms

Funerals

15th October: Priscilla Mary Coombs

Further information available from our church websites:

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

Key Church contacts:

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong & Kate Perera, Court House, 878227.

Fr. Tim. 879739, Team Rector, St Peter's; Fr. Tom Plant, 382633 (day off Fri), Curate, St Peter's;

Sunday
8am Said Eucharist
9.15am Sung Eucharist
11.15am Sung Eucharist
6pm Evening Prayer

Monday
5.15pm Eucharist

Tuesday
9.30am Eucharist (All Saints, Cross)
12.45pm Eucharist

Wednesday
8.30am Eucharist
(Sung by the choir)

Thursday
12.45 Eucharist (Thomas Green)
Sung

Saturday
10am Eucharist
4.45 Evening Prayer (Sung by the choir)
10.15am Eucharist

**SERVICES
AT ST PETER'S
BERKHAMSTED**

**Morning Prayer
weekdays 8am**

**Evening Prayer
weekdays 5pm**

Confessions, spiritual guidance
available by appointment

**Newcomers'
leaflets and
information
available
inside the
church**

News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary



Happy Christmas from the Hospice

We would like to wish everyone in Berkhamsted and beyond a very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Our medical staff and volunteers will be working hard over the festive season to make Christmas a special time of year for patients being cared for at the Hospice, and their families. Patients receive a Christmas stocking courtesy of Santa



himself and are treated to a delicious home-cooked Christmas dinner prepared by Head Chef Chris Took and his dedicated catering team.

We know that Christmas can be a very poignant time of year, particularly if you have lost a loved one. At the beginning of December we light our Remembrance Tree in our beautiful hospice grounds and give thanks for friends and family who we have lost.

This year we are also lighting stars on a special page on our website. If you would like to make a personal dedication you can do so here and a star will shine brightly in memory of your loved one for the whole of the festive period. To dedicate a star, and make a voluntary donation to support the Hospice's work with patients and the bereaved, please visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/lightupalife.

Christmas Tree Festival!

Do pop along to All Saints Church to see their Christmas Tree Festival from Friday 12th–Sunday 14th December.

Commencing with a short service at 9.30am, the Festival will be open from 10am–5pm on Friday and Saturday and from 2pm on Sunday, concluding with a Carol Service at 4pm. There will be refreshments, stalls and live music throughout. The Hospice will be one of three charities benefiting from funds raised at this event.

Dress as Santa for us!

Perfect for all the family including grandparents and children, do come and join our annual 2.5 mile Hospice Santa Dash on Sunday 14 December at 10am in Hemel Hempstead! It costs just £15 for adults, £5 for children and £35 for the whole family, including dogs to register and we ask Santas to raise what they can to help fund our Hospice services. To keep our Hospice beds open over the 12 days of Christmas we need to raise just under £80k so dressing as Santa and dashing for us will really help!

New Year, New challenge?

If 2015 is the year you and your partner would like to emulate the BBC Strictly contestants, then why not sign up for our Strictly Learn Dancing challenge, starting at the end of January? You will be taught to dance the Charleston and Paso Doble in just six weeks and then get to perform your routines in front of family and friends at Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted. We're also looking for dieters who want to lose weight for our Biggest Loser 2015

challenge, again starting in January! More details on our website:

www.stfrancis.org.uk/events.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Find out more at: www.stfrancis.org.uk

01442 869555

Facebook: TheHospiceofStFrancisTwitter: HospicstFrancis



**Sunday
14th Dec
10am**
Hemel Hempstead

Santa Dash

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Ready to register?
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01442 869555

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Talking Rubbish

By Ian Skillicorn

Changes to rubbish collections in Dacorum mean it will now be easier than ever to recycle our household waste. Gone are the separate boxes for paper, plastic and glass, to be replaced by one bin for most of the items we can recycle. The new system starts the week beginning November 24th.

Until now, residents have had to sort and separate their recycling themselves, but it will now be sent to a large Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Kent, where, according to the Dacorum Council website, it will be "sent through a series of machines using rotating drums, magnets, lasers and air jets to separate each material."

So, in case you haven't read, or have misplaced, the leaflet that came with your new bin, here is a handy guide to what goes where and when it will be collected ...

Blue-lidded Bin

This is the bin for everything you used to put in the recycling boxes: glass, paper, mixed plastics, tins and cans, as well as cardboard and Tetra Pak food and drinks cartons. This bin will be emptied every fortnight.

Green Bin

You will no longer put cardboard or food waste in your green bin. This will be solely for garden waste, which will be collected every fortnight between February and November.

Kerbside Kitchen Caddy

The kerbside caddy is for both cooked and uncooked food. The idea is to put food from your existing kitchen caddy into compostable liners (52 supplied by Dacorum Council) and then leave them outside in the kerbside kitchen caddy, for collection every week. The caddy has a lockable lid to deter vermin (let's hope the foxes that live in our street don't figure out how to unlock it ...).

Grey Bin

The only things that need to end up in your grey bin are any objects that you can't put into those mentioned above. This bin will still be emptied every fortnight.

Don't forget, you can still take other items such as batteries, light bulbs and old electrical appliances to the Recycling Centre on Northbridge Road.

Christmas recycling

Christmas is a time of celebration and fun for many, but it also creates a lot of waste. At the time of going to press Dacorum Council didn't yet have details of the annual Christmas tree chipping which usually takes place in January, so visit their website after the festivities to learn more. Your Christmas wrapping paper can go in the blue-lidded bin, as can any Christmas cards that don't contain glitter, foil or other non-paper extras (look out too though for local charity Christmas card recycling bins in ²³supermarkets etc.)

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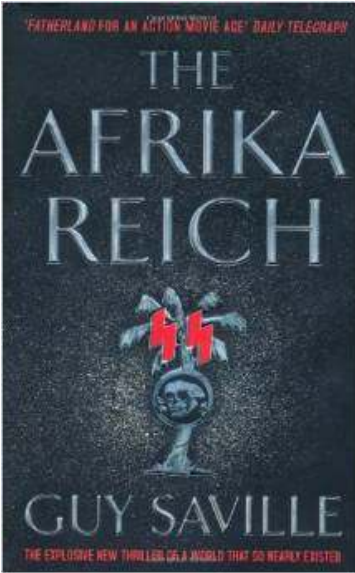


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Book Review

by Julian Dawson

The Afrika Reich. By Guy Saville. *Hodder & Stoughton; 433 pages*



Guy Saville's first work is a politically sophisticated novel of what-if, but follows the literary traditions of the dark heart of Africa. In this visceral thriller, the author takes us down the road that the second world war could so easily have taken. It's sometimes forgotten, now that 1939-1945 has become so ingrained in our national consciousness, that the British Cabinet could very well have sought an accommodation with Hitler in 1940. Churchill convinced his Cabinet colleagues of the need to continue to resist alone and make a stand. But in this book it is his rival for post of Prime Minister, Halifax, who signs a deal with the Nazis that preserves the British Empire in

exchange for German domination of Europe, and more importantly in the context of the tale, dividing Africa between Germany and Britain.

German plans for Africa, including creating Madagascar as a land to dump the Jews, are based in documentary fact. Saville extends the fact to create the fictitious but realistic Afrika Reich of the novel. A land where the actual brutal realities of Nazi policies in the east, take effect with chilling efficiency in tropical and desert Africa.

The novel is set in 1952, and follows the travails of Burton Cole, former mercenary, who is given the task of assassinating the megalomaniac Hochburg, governor of a German Kongo. The two have a history which is gradually unveiled as the story progresses. This novel has a searing power, it involves you totally in the characters. The pages fly by, and quite often leaves your stomach behind in both its realism but also its utterly unexpected twists and turns. It is not for the squeamish, but for all that, once you pick this book up you will be totally absorbed.



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Your Community

Dacorum Community Choir

Over the last weekend of the summer, choir members raised almost £500 for charity in two events. On Friday 19th September, at the annual quiz hosted by Di and Bill Stevens, the raffle made £105 for our nominated charity *hope for children*. It was a most enjoyable evening. Thanks to Di and Bill, all those who provided the delicious food, those who donated raffle prizes and last but not least those who came and put their knowledge to the test in supporting the event.

On an autumnal morning on Saturday, 20th September thirty-six singers, plus musical director, Rufus Frowde and accompanist, Judi Kelly, braved the horrors of long delays on the M1 and the atmospheric mist shrouded rural lanes of deepest Hertfordshire (the SatNav came in very handy) to sing in the Festival of Village Choirs held at the Princess Helena College in Preston, near Hitchin.

The concert was organised to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Centre at the Lister Hospital in Stevenage and our singers contributed £380 toward a total of £4,800 collected for the cause.

Eight choirs sang, including a polished performance from the year 7 choir from the college, comprised of girls who had joined the school this term and therefore had had only two weeks to rehearse.

All the singers had the great pleasure of singing, and listening to a variety of songs by the other choirs, in a wonderfully acoustic hall. We sang 'Deed I Do', the Hebrew song 'Al Shlosa', and

the Appalachian folk hymn 'Wayfaring Stranger' from our repertoire which includes music from all around the world. Rufus compered the event and at the end he told a story which illustrates the unique experience offered by community choirs. He recounted that at the end of one of the early rehearsals after the choir was formed in 2009, a lady came up to him and said that she was eighty years old and had never believed that she could sing, but the choir had helped her to find her voice. So it's never too late to try something new and singing has been proved to be good for both physical and mental health. It's also a great way to meet new friends.

After the concert Judi said: "Working with the choir is the musical highlight of my week. The energy, enthusiasm and sheer enjoyment of the singers makes it a truly joyful experience".

The choir reached the final six in the most innovative creative organisation category at the Heart of Flame awards held at the Weston Auditorium in Hatfield. The winners were Rhythms of the World - congratulations to them.

But the Hertfordshire Schools Music Gala held at the Albert Hall, in which we took part, won the Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership Award.

Congratulations to Herts Music Service and in particular to our very own Rufus Frowde, who was the artistic director for the event. Very well deserved!

(Continued on page 28)

(Continued from page 27)

We have a full programme of events planned over the Christmas period. On Saturday 29th November from 4pm we will be singing at the Christmas Lights Switch-on at Frithsden Vineyard, Frithsden, Hemel Hempstead HP1 3DD. On the same day another group of our singers will be at the Christmas Lights switch-on at Henry Wells Square, Grove Hill, HP2 6BJ from 4.30 - 5pm. The following Sunday, 30th November, from 4pm, we will be at the Christmas Lights switch-on. Queens Square, Adeyfield, HP2 4ER.

Over the weekend of December 5th, we welcome members of the Melodia Choir from Neu Isenburg, Hemel's twin town, on a return visit. Some of the choir went to Germany last year and had most enjoyable time. We hope we can reciprocate when they visit us. We will be hosting a barn dance to welcome them on the Friday evening and on Saturday, 6th they will be joining us and the Dacorum Youth Orchestra in our concert 'The Song Goes On' – music for Advent at St. John's Church, Boxmoor. The concert starts at 7pm and tickets, priced at £10 and £5 (under 18s) are available from choir members or by phoning the box office on 07597 195814. There may be some available on the door.

There will be a collection for our nominated charity this year which is **DENS** (www.dens.org.uk), the local charity in aid of the homeless.



The Dacorum Community Choir
presents
'THE SONG GOES ON'
MUSIC FOR ADVENT
7pm Saturday 6th December
at St. John's Church, Boxmoor
with
The Melodia Choir from Neu Isenburg
The Dacorum Youth Orchestra
Conductor Rufus Frowde
Accompanist Judi Kelly
tickets £10 and £5 (under 18s) available from
choir members or 07597 1958148
and on the door
There will be a collection in aid of
DENS
dacorum community choir is a registered charity no. 1149811

On the 18th December from 9.30am to 11.30am we will be singing in the Probus Christmas Event at the Boxmoor Playhouse.

November 10th saw the 5th anniversary of our foundation, in a collaboration between the Hertfordshire Music Service, Astley Cooper School and Rufus Frowde. The choir started with about 30 members and, at the last count we numbered over 100.

Further details are available on our website www.dacorumcommunitychoir.org or through our page on www.streetlife.com.

Young entrepreneurs launch new company

Chef-A-Saurus launches new recipe book to capture younger children's imagination.

A talented team of sixth form students from Ashlyn's school has taken up the challenge of participating in the Young Enterprise's flagship 'Company Programme.'

The programme aims to teach students what it's really like to set up and run a business. Spanning an academic year, the students make all the decisions about their company, from raising the initial share capital through to designing their product, selling directly to customers, making a profit and ultimately winding up the company and paying their taxes! They are supported through the process by voluntary Business Advisers.

Ashlyns have set up a company called Chef-a-saurus, which offers a refreshing new take on recipe books for younger children. It is a brilliant idea aimed at providing educational, engaging material for budding young cooks with the goal to encourage them to participate with their



parents in producing finished family meals. The book features a range of recipes such as pizza cupcakes, teriyaki salmon and mini lasagne.

As Chef-A-Saurus' Managing Director Jodie Kitwood commented 'By including clear stages of competency, sticker charts

and fun dinosaur characters its progressive format guides aspiring young cooks through stages of

culinary competence from a trainee chef right the way through to the head chef of the home kitchen.'

The book will be available soon and will make a great Christmas present or stocking filler.

For more information on how to get a copy please contact Chef-a-saurus at youngent@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

For more information on Young Enterprise please visit <http://www.young-enterprise.org.uk>.

Your Sport

Footgolf by Matthew Dawson

Footgolf is the sport taking the UK by storm, and judging by the current weather you will literally be playing in storms if you're to try your hand at this relatively new sport over the winter months.

Footgolf is exactly how it sounds; all you're doing is essentially playing golf, just without a club, and a much bigger ball. A football in fact, as some of you may have guessed already. The aim of the game is to kick the ball into a hole, a hole much larger than that of a normal golf course, but the same principal as golf applies.

It can be played over the course of 9 or 18 holes, and the player with the least amount of kicks will reign victorious.

Now that you've got the basics, where did it originate from? Well, some say the first footgolfers were playing the sport in 2006 but the first major tournament took place in the Netherlands in 2008 when a group of Belgium and Dutch professional footballers tried their hand at the sport. Argentina was introduced to the game in 2010 and since then there has been a mass arrival of countries on the Footgolf scene. As of October 2014 the USA have over 240 courses and recently the UK have recognised the game that is quickly becoming a popular sport for both footballers and golfers together. The UK currently has 55 footgolf courses.

The nearest course to us in Berkhamsted is at Little Hay golf complex on Box Lane

in Hemel Hempstead.

The course there has only just recently opened and is a nine hole

course compared to a standard eighteen holes. If you want to try out footgolf in the local area then that is the place to go. Most games are completed within an hour and the price is very reasonable. Adults can have a round of footgolf for £4.50 whilst U16's can enjoy it for just £2.80. Size 5 footballs will be provided on site but in line with the footgolf rules you cannot wear studded or bladed boots. On weekdays the course is open from 8am until one hour before dusk, whilst on weekends it's open from 7am until an hour before dusk.

The UK's number one ranked player Ben Clarke is a Berkhamsted lad himself and at the time of writing he currently has 435 total ranking points, putting himself ahead of Nick Iron in second place by 50 points. Clarke tried the course at Little Hay last month and completed it with a very impressive 17-under par and even got a hole-in-one on the second hole.

To find out more about footgolf, visit the following website: www.ukfootgolf.com.



Your Charities

All Saints' Christmas Tree Festival

Excitement is mounting at All Saints as the Christmas season approaches, heralded from Friday 12th December by the Christmas Tree Festival.

Forty trees sponsored by local businesses and decorated by community groups, will deck the church which will be open from 10am-5pm on Friday and Saturday and 1.30-4pm on Sunday, culminating in a Carol Service at 4pm.

Musical entertainment will feature throughout the weekend and there will be cake and craft stalls. Refreshments will be available throughout.

Programmes, price £1, children free, are available now from church members, the Way Inn or at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Hospice of St Francis, Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter and Food Bank and the church's community projects.

Christmas at Oxfam

A giant teddy bear for Christmas will go to the person who correctly guesses its weight in the Oxfam competition in the run-up to the Festival and vulnerable people will benefit from the supply of mosquito nets. One of Oxfam's alternative gift range ideas, Oxfam Unwrapped, and costing just £7 each, the nets protect against the spread of deadly malaria.

Unwrapped gifts will also feature as decorations on one of the trees in the All Saints Christmas Tree Festival in December.

They make great Christmas presents but there are plenty more traditional gifts to choose from in the High St shop, as well as Christmas cards and festive food. That's really in the spirit of Christmas.



Your Berkhamsted needs a Treasurer



Your Berkhamsted is the monthly magazine for town and parish. It has a vibrant and varied range of writers and articles reflecting the life and interests of our town. We need someone to take over the voluntary role of Treasurer. This includes overseeing a bank account, making payments and banking cash, issuing invoices and similar jobs. All current records are in very good shape. The Treasurer would also be a member of the yB editorial team and would be invited to attend monthly evening meetings when available. Meetings are sociable and you will join a friendly, committed group of people.

If this sounds like you please contact Jacqueline Hicks editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk or Richard Hackworth (r.d.hackworth@googlemail.com) who can tell you more.

Copy Dates: 5 December (for January 2015)

11 January

11 February

Your Berkhamsted Team

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