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**YB**

**Your Berkhamsted**

February 2015

**Vernon Mildew's Valentine's Day**

**New Chief Executive at Hospice**

**Things to do in Ashridge**

**Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society**

**50p**

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

# In this issue...

Welcome to the February 2015 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*



In this edition we have a very important plea for help from the Berkhamsted History and Museum Society. They are working on a project to produce a book on life in Berkhamsted during WWI and its aftermath. Jenny Sherwood has information on a very rare booklet from that time, worth the read. We have Vernon Mildew's view on Valentine's Day, the Great Berkhamsted Bake off competition and much much more. Please check out the 'What's On' page for events in February in and around Berkhamsted, and look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Please get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may want to share. Jacqueline Hicks, Editor

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Front cover image: Our lovely front cover was designed by Sarah How – thank you to Art 88 for supplying this.



*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



thisislocallondon.co.uk reported on a New Year's gift from the Cabinet Office, to Peace Hospice Care to help fund compassionate care for those nearing the end of their lives. This is good news too for our own local Hospice of St Francis, with whom Peace acts in partnership as part of the Herts Neighbours Project. Continuing the community theme, Jane's Dog Walking Service offers, according to freeads.co.uk, "a professional and friendly dog walking and pet care service" in local towns and villages. Call now for a free walk and consultation. And give the mutt in your life a proper walk in good country air.

Remember to check on those planning applications in [berkhamstedtoday.co.uk](http://berkhamstedtoday.co.uk). Catching the eye this month is Lloyds TSB in the High Street, who wish to replace their air conditioning condensers. It doesn't say with what. Equally perennially, the annual rail season ticket increase is reported extensively, including [nottinghampost.com](http://nottinghampost.com) no less, who reports on an East Midlands resident from Bulwell whose regular trip to Berkhamsted costs £36.30 return on her senior railcard. Strikes me that sounds rather better value than some rail journeys I know. Though I can't imagine it is the most direct of trips. I better consult

my Bradshaws. Perhaps she would be better off seeking local accommodation using [flatshareonline.co.uk](http://flatshareonline.co.uk). Roughly 15 minutes drive away (though I think closer) is a "double room available with en suite shower bathroom, in the lovely village of Dagnall". It's probably a freight container. [hemeltoday.co.uk](http://hemeltoday.co.uk) reports on the football nursery that is our own local team. Comrades reserve team coach has a mission to bridge the gap between youth and senior football. Joe Sweeney's vision was to nurture players of the future by making them the focal point of the reserve team, and after four years his patience and the results are paying dividends, with players making a successful move into the first team. "You need to create an environment where the boys enjoy their football, enjoy each other's company, and they want to do well for each other", he says. From dribbling to walking again, this time not necessarily with dogs. 2015 is the Hertfordshire Year of Walking, so get out of those cars, off bikes and horses, and fall out of the pushchairs. [nickhollinghurst.mycouncillor.org.uk](http://nickhollinghurst.mycouncillor.org.uk) waxes lyrical about the opportunities, and links you to relevant websites and information to encourage you to take to the open air.

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(Continued from page 3)

It is interesting to note that on local issues this Liberal Democrat councillor seems to engage better via the blog medium than colleagues from other political persuasions. A lesson there perhaps, when politicians nationally are so singularly failing to engage with young voters, and simply chasing after the “grey” vote, who they know are more likely turn up to the polling station. This crisis in democracy can only become more serious as those young people grow older and continue to be unengaged into middle age.

But let us finish on an upbeat and less discordant note, and celebrate the musical talents of youth. watfordobserver.co.uk reports that Purcell School student Martin James Bartlett, who was crowned BBC Young Musician of the Year, was due to perform at the Centenary Theatre with the Dacorum Symphony Orchestra. Let the music play on.



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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 12.30pm to 1.15pm:  
Lunchtime concerts – St Mary's Church,  
High Street, Hemel Hempstead.

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts  
Market (1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk) (Sat 6<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 10am-4pm: Berkhamsted Arts, Crafts  
and Vintage Christmas Market).

Tring Farmers Market (Alternate  
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,  
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[enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk).

## February

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb at 8pm - B'sted  
Film Soc – Tracks. Drama. True story of a  
woman's 1700-mile trek across the  
Australian outback with only her dog and  
four unpredictable camels for company.  
Dir: John Curran/2014/Australia/Cert  
12A/113min. Civic Centre.  
[www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk).

Thu 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at 8 pm – B'sted Citz  
Association - Tune in –The Beatles: all  
these years. An illustrated talk by Mark  
Lewisohn, world authority on The Beatles.  
Town Hall.  
[www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk](http://www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk) Annual  
sub per household: £5. Visitor £2 at door,  
payable towards annual sub. DC £1.

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Feb 7.30pm – Berkhamsted Music  
– Ruisi Quartet  
Haydn: Quartet in G Major Op 76 No 1,  
Debussy: String Quartet G Minor Op 10,  
Beethoven: Quartet in E flat Major Op  
127. Civic Centre.  
[www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk)  
Season £45, Visitors £13, U18s free.  
[treasurer@berkhamstedmusic.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@berkhamstedmusic.co.uk)  
01442 862798.

Tue 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 8pm to 10 pm - B'sted Art  
Soc - Painting with Watercolour Pencils  
A demonstration by David Lewry. Civic  
Centre.  
[www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk)  
Visitors on the door £3.

Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 8pm to 10 pm – B'sted Local  
Hist & Mus Soc – Halseys of Gaddesden: A  
Hertfordshire family. This is by Nicholas  
Halsey of the ancient Halsey family of  
Gaddesden Place and is not yet fully  
confirmed. Town Hall.  
[www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk). Annual  
sub: joint £12, single £7. Visitors £2.50 at  
door (no conc), DC £1.

(Continued on page 8)

## What's on cont .....

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 8 pm – B'sted Jazz - Budapest Cafe Orchestra – Gypsy Jazz led by violinist Christian Garrick. Civic Centre

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 7.45 pm – B'sted and Dist Arch Soc - The Ark Before Noah  
Dr Irving Finkel, Dept of Western Asia,  
The British Museum. Music Room,  
Berkhamsted School.  
[berkhamstedarchaeo.org.uk](http://berkhamstedarchaeo.org.uk).

Annual sub: £15, family £17.50, junior £5.  
Members £1, visitors £3. 01442 254801.

### Out of Town

Aylesbury Waterside  
Theatre: for information  
[www.atgtickets.com](http://www.atgtickets.com).

Watford Colosseum: for  
information  
[watfordcolosseum.co.uk](http://watfordcolosseum.co.uk).

### Future dates:

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March 3.30-5.15  
pm – Music Dacorum  
Symphony Orchestra –  
Orchestral Concert.  
A concert for all the  
family, conducted by  
Thomas Loten, including  
'In the Hall of the  
Mountain King', 'Thieving  
Maggie Overture', and  
'Peter and the Wolf',  
narrator Michael  
Bernstein. Deans' Hall,  
Berkhamsted School.  
[dacorumso.org](http://dacorumso.org). Claire  
Lloyd Properties, High  
Street 01442 879996,  
Aitchison's 63 Marlowes  
Hemel Hempstead  
213446. £12; concessions  
£10. 18 and under free.

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> March 8 pm – B'sted Film Soc  
– The Great Beauty. A biting satire on  
Berlusconi's Italy, a sumptuous love letter  
to Roman decadence. Oscar winner, Best  
Foreign Language Film. Dir: Paolo Sorren-  
tino/2013/Italy/Fr/Cert 15/141min/  
Subtitles. Civic Centre.

[www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk).  
Annual sub: single £35, joint £65 (conc  
£32 and £60). Visitors £5 at door (no  
conc). 01442 863155.



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If you feel you could offer Chipolata, or any of our other dogs, a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any day between 10am and 4pm. Our staff are happy to offer advice and information.

Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under seven, so please ask for details.

Could you sponsor a kennel to help us care for a dog while it is waiting to find a new home? Please contact us for details.

If you are interested in offering a home to a rescue dog please visit:  
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any day between 10am – 4pm or call  
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# Happy Valentine's Day

Vernon Mildew



It's that time of year again, when the many hopeful anticipate with relish a huge pile of Valentine's Day cards which will confirm their popularity and success. Yes, it truly is a special period for Clintons and other card stores across the land. And in these stores, at 4.55pm on February 13th you will find men of all ages desperately fingering the tatty remains of those cardboard messages of love, in their search for something that won't result in tears, recriminations or a silently turned back in bed the next evening. Sadly, by this time all that is left to choose from on the virtually bare shelves are 'Happy Valentine's Day to the Cat' and 'Valentine's Wishes to a Mother-in-law's Former Next-Door-Neighbour, From Both of Us'. Forward planning is the key to a stress-free Valentine's Day.

It is well known that restaurateurs are enthusiastic supporters of harmonious relationships at this time of year. Selflessly, they provide an opportunity to demonstrate the direct correlation between the amount of money spent and the depth of one's love for that special someone. For one day only, the same

reasonably-priced meal of yesterday can impress by being three times the usual cost. But at least the good lady gets a chocolate or cellophane-wrapped rose for her troubles as she leaves.

One year, the Mildews went to a restaurant on Valentine's Day and on seeing the special menu, I confess it was my eyes that were watering rather than my mouth.

'Is this the only menu you have?' I asked the waitress.

'Yes – it's Valentine's Day,' she smiled breezily. But her slightly narrowed eyes said to me '... and some people don't begrudge paying out to make their loved one feel special, you old skinflint.'

There are those who say you can't put a price on love. Walking down the high street each February one could feel inclined to disagree. But if you quietly resent being forced to assert your devotion on a specific day just to satisfy a balance sheet, take heart. Once the last of the cards has been swept away, and the Valentine's Day menu is boxed up for another year, retailers everywhere will be wondering if it really is too soon to be bringing out the tinsel.

**Vernon Mildew**

# ‘The Devil’s Own Time’ & ‘Berkhamsted and World War I,’

Two publications from the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society

Among the artefacts in the Society’s collection stored in the Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store, which relate to the Inns of Court Officers’ Training Corps (the Devils Own), who were billeted and trained in Berkhamsted and its surrounding countryside from 1914-1919 is a very fragile copy of a booklet ‘The Devil’s Own Time’ by Rell and Abel.

This is a very rare, and in fact a unique, copy since the only other known copy is the one in the British Library and that does not have the benefit of the pencilled comments written in some of the margins by the previous owner of the booklet. It purports to have been written fifty years after the War but this does not stand up to further research and the copy in the British Library was catalogued in 1920.

In order to prevent further deterioration of the original copy the Society has had the booklet digitalised for research purposes, and in order to give the people of Berkhamsted and a wider public the opportunity of seeing and enjoying this amusing and poignant summary of life in Berkhamsted for those who trained with the IOCOTC during WWI, it has been printed together with an introduction, explanatory notes and an extract from the map which the IOC cadets used during their training.

This booklet is available from Jenny Sherwood price £10, p&p £1.50, tel:01442 865158 or [KSherw9100@aol.com](mailto:KSherw9100@aol.com). More details about the Society and of other publications can be found on

[www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk). The booklet is likely to be of interest to Berkhamsted people who are familiar with the countryside round about and to those who have military experience or have a keen interest in Berkhamsted’s history. Arrangements can be made for local collection and delivery.

Now for a plea for help. Several members of the Society are working on a project to produce a book on life in Berkhamsted during WWI and its aftermath. There will of course be a section on the IOCOTC (the Devil’s Own) but what about Kitchener’s Army and the many local boys and men who enlisted? We have the names of those who lost their lives in the War on the War Memorial but we must also remember the effect of this loss on the families concerned. We must not forget those who survived but with serious physical or psychological scars so that life was never the same again. We know that many local girls worked in local hospitals. There is much general information on the War but it is much more difficult to relate this to Berkhamsted. This is where we seek help so that we can give the book a more personal touch. Have you stories handed down of uncles, great uncles or cousins whose names are on the War Memorial? Some of us have fathers or grandfathers who served in and survived the War and whose subsequent life was very much affected by the War. How did families adjust to the upheaval caused by the death of the family breadwinner or to the return of a much- changed father?

We know that the girls of Victoria School knitted countless pairs of socks and made Holland bags for Lady Smith-Dorrien's scheme of 'bags for the possessions of the wounded'. Have you any stories handed down in your family, which mention that or other work done by children? Were any of your relations in prisoners of war camps? There are many questions to which we would like the answers. If you think you can help in any way

please do contact Jenny Sherwood as above or Linda Rollitt [Linda.rollitt@ntlworld.com](mailto:Linda.rollitt@ntlworld.com) or Janice Boakes [Janice.boakes@ntlworld.com](mailto:Janice.boakes@ntlworld.com) We have already received some useful bits of information from members of the Society but we should now like to reach a wider audience. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jenny Sherwood

\*\*\*\*\*

## Book Review

By Julian Dawson

***Other People's Money*** – Justin Cartwright  
Bloomsbury Publishing 978-1408803882

Justin Cartwright has that unusual gift of toying with the reader's emotions. In his novel reflecting City high finance all the characters on the page evoke our sympathies to a lesser or greater extent, with the exception of a rather nasty lawyer who manages to alienate everyone she interplays with, including those nominally employing her. Cartwright's 15th book evokes the morality of high finance, using the downfall of an established family bank for the rich as the centre of his very modern tale, though for all that the symptoms of greed are nothing new.

The stroke that afflicts the old fashioned patriarch of the bank, Sir Harry Trevelyan-Tubal, leads to his modernising younger son on a mission to save the bank from hedge funds gone wrong using shifty movements of money, by smoke and mirrors between shady family trusts.

Intriguingly this is discovered by a young journalist for a down at heel Cornish newspaper, and when she befriends a down at heel stage director who just happens to have been previously married to Sir Harry's second wife, the fun really begins. The journalist is egged on by her newspaper editor who has anti-capitalist axes to grind, but is reinvigorated nevertheless.

This novel could become a worthy diatribe against the financial system, but with the author's light touch and frequent humour you never feel lectured and simply enjoy the quality of the writing and characterisation. The description of Sir Harry's grandchildren is a touching vignette in its own right. And the closing scene provides a delightful little twist.





# Your Community

**4th Berkhamsted Brownies** urgently needs new leaders. We are looking for some new adult volunteers to run this happy successful Brownie group which takes up to 24 Brownies aged 7-10 years. We are an active group offering a broad and exciting programme including shelter building in the forest, litter picking in the community, the chance to meet some snakes (and their owner!), specialist arts and crafts sessions, outings and much more. You don't need previous

experience in Girlguiding as full training is provided. We meet in the Court House, St Peter's Church, on Mondays from 6-7.15pm during term time. If you believe you can commit to this role, ideally for a minimum of 2 years, your child will be offered a place in Brownies. To find out more about the role please contact Karen Walker ([karenwalker@btinternet.com](mailto:karenwalker@btinternet.com)) and for more information about Girlguiding please visit: [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk).

## The Great Berkhamsted Bake Off

A community event for all ages!

To be held on Saturday 21st February at 9am in the Great Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall. In support of International Citizen Service bringing young people together from different countries to fight poverty!

Simply bake your best cake, bring it on the day to be judged by our panel – including the Mayor of Berkhamsted — and have a chance to win!

There are 3 different age categories — Children (11 years old and under), Young Adults (ages 12-17) and Adults (18+) each with their own prize!

Cost of entering will be £3 per cake to be paid on the day.

To enter your cake, register by emailing [greatberkhamstedbakeoff@hotmail.com](mailto:greatberkhamstedbakeoff@hotmail.com) with your name, your age category and confirmation you will be at the Great Hall at 9am on Saturday 21st February.

I hope you will help support this great cause by getting involved in your local community!

Entrants can work together in groups/pairs or on their own to make their cake!

I hope to make this a great community event bringing everyone who lives, works or goes to school in Berkhamsted, from all different age groups together!

ICS recognises the power of young people to address issues in international development and have found volunteers are successful in bringing about lasting and meaningful change for very poor communities. Any support you could give me would really be greatly appreciated.

If you live, work or go to school in Berkhamsted you are eligible to enter...

Lorna Chapman

# Term ends on a high for Thomas Coram School

Pupils at The Thomas Coram Church of England School in Berkhamsted have enjoyed a double celebration: news of an 'Outstanding' school inspection result and their first visit from the new Rector of St Peter's Church.

The newly released Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) Report praised the junior school for meeting the needs of all learners, commended the impact of its collective worship on the school community – and singled out the effectiveness of its leadership and management.

The SIAMS Report provides a perspective on church schools to complement the Ofsted inspection, which last year awarded Thomas Coram a 'Good' rating across the board.

Headteacher Rob Halls said: "We're particularly proud to be declared Outstanding considering it's only been a year since we were re-designated as a 7–11 junior school from a 9–13 middle school under the Berkhamsted schools reorganisation

"Five years ago SIAMS gave us a 'Good' rating and it's now very satisfying for pupils, staff, parents and governors to see the recognition for the improvements we've all worked together to achieve. The report also identified areas for improvement, which matched what we had identified ourselves as our priorities."

Before Christmas, the newly appointed Rector of St Peter's Church in the town, The Reverend Canon Timothy Pilkington, added his own tribute as he dropped in for an informal visit to watch rehearsals for the Years 3 and 4 Christmas production, 'A Midwife Crisis':

"It's wonderful to become part of the Thomas Coram family and help them live their motto of 'Living for learning and caring for all'. Talking to pupils, it's very clear that they understand the significance of the school's core values of respect, responsibility and friendship and the Christian significance behind these. I look forward to getting to know everyone and sharing in the life of the school."

To read the report in full or for more information about The Thomas Coram School, visit [www.thomascoram.herts.sch.uk](http://www.thomascoram.herts.sch.uk).



# Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Alice Christofi

Well, thank goodness January is over! The post-Christmas, back-to-work-blues are beginning to wear off, and even the mornings are gradually becoming a little lighter. In its natural uninterrupted rhythm, the liturgical year swings on.

With the beginning of February comes one of my favourite Feasts in the Church Year: Candlemas, or as it's sometimes known the Feast of the Presentation. Forty days after we've celebrated the birth of Christ we mark the occasion of his presentation at the temple of Jerusalem, as well as his mother Mary's ritual purification as dictated by Jewish Law. On the one hand this is an exceedingly ordinary event in the life of a Jewish couple. Mary simply and faithfully fulfils the demands of the law, arriving at the temple with Joseph, her son and two pigeons – the gift of the poor, the very people her son would reach out to. And yet for those present in the temple, elderly Simeon and the prophetess Anna, in this run-of-the-mill, ordinary event unfolds the most wonderful, extraordinary encounter. In the Orthodox tradition this feast is also called *Hypapante*, or 'the meeting'. Two people come face to face with the living God, the Word made Flesh. Simeon recognises the child he takes into his arms as a light, as the salvation of God's people, Israelite and Gentile alike. This, he declares, is what the world has been waiting for. In his joy he declares,

*"Lord, now you are dismissing your  
servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence  
of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."  
(Luke 2:29-32)*

Midway between our celebrations of the Incarnation and the Passion, Candlemas carries with it echoes both of Epiphany and of the approaching Lenten season. If the theme of light draws us back to Christmas and Epiphany, perhaps the theme of purification leads us onwards to Lent and the Passion, as do Simeon's words to Mary: "a sword will pierce your soul too." In these signs are a reminder that Jesus isn't just Isaiah's 'light shining in the darkness', but also Malachi's 'refiner and purifier of silver'. Lent, of course, is traditionally a time for stripping back, of restriction and self denial, perhaps even of purification. This doesn't necessarily mean setting ourselves dietary challenges, or tests of willpower, just to resume them again after Easter. Perhaps a more helpful approach is to view this as time for self examination and reflection, clearing away or tackling those things which make us less effective ministers of the gospel. In the space made by those things left behind or cast off, we leave ourselves open to God's movement within us and his desire for us to grow more fully into his image. When we come to Easter

we are better prepared for the new life and new growth the risen Christ brings.

As we begin to emerge from the darkness of the winter months and look ahead to the coming of Spring, Candlemas reminds us to carry with us the perpetual presence of Christ, to bring his light out into the world: physically, as we carry out our lit and blessed candles with us, but also through our words and our actions. Once Candlemas has been and gone, may we continue to recognise

God's extraordinary, transforming love in our apparently ordinary lives.

In all the challenges and opportunities which lie before us in the coming weeks, may we be given grace to see what Simeon saw, to know what he knew, and to declare what he declared: "My eyes have seen your salvation."

Alice Christofi, Intern at St Peter's Church, & Chaplaincy Assistant at Berkhamsted School

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## 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, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am (St Peter's), Tuesday 9am (All Saints' Shrublands Road)

Eucharist – Tuesday 9:30am (All Saints'); Wednesday 8:30am, Thursday 9.30am (St Peter's)

Evening Prayer Monday – Friday 5.00pm, – Saturday 6:00pm (St Peter's)



## **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 16 Feb at 8:00pm: TALK in The Court House – Cowper Society Winter Talk 2 – International Economic Diplomacy by Creon Butler, Advisor to the Treasury (formerly Deputy High Commissioner of India). Free entry, Retiring collection

Sat 28 Feb at 2:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Soundstastic bring a bear concert. A fun and informal introduction to classical music for the whole family with Ben on violin, and Rebecca on piano; free refreshments. Adults £7.50, children & bears free. Book via [www.soundstastic.co.uk](http://www.soundstastic.co.uk)

Mon 9 Mar at 8:00pm: TALK in The Court House – Cowper Society Winter Talk 3 – Heraldry by John Abbott. Free entry, Retiring collection.

Sat 14 Mar at 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia. Khachaturian Masquerade; Tchaikovsky Swan Lake Suite; Shostakovich Symphony No.5 in D minor, Op.47. Tickets: [www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk](http://www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk), 01442 873205, Aitchison's High St, visitors £15, U18s free

### **All Saints'**

Sun 1st Feb, Fourth Sunday of Epiphany, 10am: Morning Worship, Revd Anne Brown

Sun 8th Feb, Second Sunday before Lent, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 4pm: Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Team

Sun 15th, Sunday next before Lent, 8am: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am: Morning Worship, Richard Hackworth

Sun 22nd, First Sunday of Lent, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

### **Registers**

#### **St Peter's**

Baptisms

30<sup>th</sup> November – Poppy Benson

### **Further information available from our church websites:**

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

### **Key Church contacts:**

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

Fr. Tim Pilkington, 01442 879739, Team Rector, St Peter's

Fr. Tom Plant, 01442 382633 (day off Fri), Curate, St Peter's

# News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary



## **New Chief Executive Announced**

This April we will welcome our new chief

executive, Steve Jamieson, who takes over from Dr Ros Taylor, MBE, DL, who has led the Hospice for the last 18 years. Steve joins us from the Royal College of Nursing where he was Deputy Director of Nursing and brings with him a huge wealth of experience in health and social care policy.

## **Herts Neighbours Network**

The Hospice of St Francis, in partnership with Watford-based Peace Hospice Care, Herts Community NHS Trust and Herts County Council has received a government grant of £110k to establish the Herts Neighbours Network which will provide compassionate support to people at the end of their lives.

The scheme will enable the partners to develop a network of Herts neighbours or volunteers, who will provide companionship and practical support for people with a life-shortening illness, living at home. Support could include help with shopping, cleaning or driving or enabling people to use social media to connect with their loved ones.

## **Spring Centre Courses**

Our Spring Centre helps individuals (and supports their families and carers) who have a diagnosis of a life-shortening illness, or are in remission from cancer, through workshops, specialist clinics,

exercise classes and complementary therapies.



We regularly run the HOPE course, to help people cope during or after treatment for cancer. HOPE, which stands for Help Overcoming Problems Effectively is a six-week workshop, aimed at giving cancer sufferers the knowledge, skills and confidence to move on with their lives in an informal, relaxed setting.

In February, we are also running a new Prostate Cancer Wellbeing course designed to support men, and those close to them, move forward with their life following prostate cancer treatment. The six week, 2 hour course starts on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm and will cover side effects of the disease, coping with stress and fatigue plus managing relationships and intimacy.

## Support your local Hospice!

To provide our essential services for local people living with a life-shortening illness, we need to raise £4.7million every year. Could you help us to raise the money we need by participating in a fundraising event or taking on a personal fundraising challenge? We have places on various cycling events including Prudential RideLondon-Surrey on Sunday 2 August and, if golf is your game, why not sign up to our Berkhamsted Golf Club stableford competition on Friday 17 April 2015?



You can also help the Hospice by holding a coffee morning, having a Home Box in your home for spare change or leaving us a gift in your Will. March is our Make a Will month and Berkhamsted solicitors including Sumner & Tabor, Austins, Penny & Thorne and Harrowell & Atkins are participating and will be offering their standard Will writing service for free, or for a reduced fee, in return for a donation to support the work of the Hospice. Last year 39 people took advantage of Make a Will month to make their Wills and the Hospice received £5,650 in donations.



## Student Volunteer Week

It's Student Volunteer Week (23 February – 1 March 2015) and we will be celebrating the achievements of our student volunteers who make such a positive difference to our charity, as well as encouraging all those studying to give a little of their time to support others. Students volunteer in a range of roles; delivering direct patient care, serving meals, helping out at fundraising events or working in the Hospice's shops. Currently, the Hospice would love to hear from students who would like to work in our shops.

Further information:

Email: [fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk)

T: 01442 869555

W: [www.stfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk)

Facebook: TheHospiceofStFrancis

Twitter: hospicstfrancis

For media enquiries, please contact Cathy Salmon or Prunella Murray, Communications Managers, on 01442 869555 / email [cathy.salmon@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:cathy.salmon@stfrancis.org.uk) or [prunella.murray@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:prunella.murray@stfrancis.org.uk)

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# Walks on commons near Berkhamsted

Discover some of the Chilterns' largest commons on these circular walking routes. You can do either walk on its own or put them together to do a 17 mile 'figure of 8' walk.

The Southern circular walk is 8.5 miles and starts/finishes at Berkhamsted railway station. It takes you up out of the town past the ruins of Berkhamsted Castle and into the huge National Trust Ashridge Estate, with its thousands of acres of woodland and common land. Walk through Berkhamsted and Northchurch commons, and past the Ashridge Visitor Centre which has a cafe, shop and information centre. It is also the location of the imposing Bridgewater Monument, built to commemorate the Duke of Bridgewater, founder of England's canal system. Walk down out of the Estate to the Grand Union Canal and follow the towpath back into Berkhamsted, passing colourful canal boats.

The Northern circular walk is 8 miles and starts/finishes at the Bridgewater Monument at the Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre. Walk through Pitstone and Ivinghoe commons and then up to the bare grassy summit of Ivinghoe Beacon, one of the most distinctive hills of the Chilterns and site of an ancient hill fort. From here you will get fantastic 360 degree views of the Chilterns ridge and the Vale of Aylesbury. Follow the ridge south along the Ridgeway National Trail to the viewpoint on Pitstone Hill and then descend to the picturesque village of Aldbury with its pond, shop and pubs. There is a final walk back up to the Visitor Centre.

Start from either the Ashridge Visitor Centre or Berkhamsted Railway station to do both walks as a 17 mile circular walk.

## Access

The routes follow paths and forest tracks across commons and through woodland. Paths can be muddy and are steep in places. There are no stiles. Take care and wear suitable footwear.

## Facilities

Berkhamsted is a historic market town offering cafes and pubs, shops, public toilets, a visitor information point in the library and numerous other amenities. En route you will pass:

**Brownlow Café** at the Ashridge Estate visitors centre, next to the Bridgewater Monument

**Pubs in Aldbury** - The Greyhound Inn (01442 851228) and the Valiant Trooper (01442 851203).

## How to get there

Berkhamsted railway station is on the London Midland line out of Euston. There is also car parking at the station and other locations in the town. There is plenty of car parking at the Ashridge Visitor Centre.

Find out more and download the walks at: [www.chilternsaonb.org/explore-enjoy/walks-rides.html#1661](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/explore-enjoy/walks-rides.html#1661)



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# Ashridge Estate News – January and February

## **We're open!**

Don't forget the Visitor Centre and National Trust Shop is now open all year round 10am – 5pm (or dusk if earlier) with just Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Closed.

## **Exciting new events!**

### **Candlelit Walk**

This February half term we have an exciting new event at Ashridge: a Candlelit Walk. Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 5.30pm – 9pm. £1 per person. Follow a trail around the Meadley's Meadow lit by candles. At various points there will be feature lighting effects such as floodlit trees and Swedish candles. An event suitable for all the family. The route is on a surfaced track which is pushchair and wheelchair friendly.

You can also come along during the week to make your own coloured jam jar lantern at the Visitor Centre and then bring it with you to help light your way along the trail. Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10 – 4pm £1 per child.

### **Other early spring Events -**

**Cadbury Easter Egg Trail** – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mon 6<sup>th</sup> April 10 – 4pm.

Put on your wellies and join us for our annual Easter Egg Trail. Follow the trail through the woods and answer questions along the way to earn your chocolate reward! £3 per child.

**Dawn Chorus** – Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April or Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May 5am – 7am.

Yes, we know it's early! But getting up to experience the dawn chorus should be on everyone's list of things to do. As a

reward for your early start we will provide you with a cup of tea and a bacon sandwich at the end of the walk. £15 per adult, £10 for children.

## **Get Involved**

Are you interested in getting involved in volunteering at the Ashridge Estate and joining the team? Here are some of the opportunities we currently have.

**Countryside volunteers** – Our rangers have two regular groups of volunteer who help with scrub clearance and other maintenance and monitoring across the Estate. Meeting every Thursday and once a month on Sundays.

**Maintenance Volunteer** – Help us keep the presentation of the Visitor Centre and surrounding area in tip top condition.

**Litter Pickers** – Help us keep the Estate clean and tidy. This essential job takes place one Sunday a month.

**Mobility Scooters** – Help provide this valuable service to our less mobile visitors. Volunteers work in pairs to loan out scooters to visitors who want to explore the Estate but can't do so on foot or by bike. Training on how to use the scooters is provided.

If you are interested in any of the posts please contact us at: [helpingashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:helpingashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**For our full list of events please visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge) or to book your place contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227.**

# Fairtrade Big Brew



We've made and sold small holders for mugs in aid of smallholder producers, we've helped with the longest ever pennant in Fairtrade cotton to show support for Fairtrade cotton producers and last year pupils in our church schools 'dressed' more than 200 bananas and raised awareness of the plight of banana farmers. The diverse talents and imagination of these young people was admired by all.

Yes, it is here again, the annual Fairtrade Big Brew in the Court House on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February from 9.30 – 12noon. This year we shall support tea, sugar and cocoa farmers at a tea party with lots of chocolate cakes (and excellent coffee). I fear we shall be in Lent by this time but maybe you could give up something other than chocolate this year, or take on a challenge instead. After all, cocoa farmers would be grateful if they had ANYTHING to give up in Lent

So this year the children's competition is for a decorated Fairtrade chocolate cup cake. All pupils of our local schools are encouraged to enter. Entries must be at the Court House by 10.30am on the morning of the Big Brew and will be judged according to age.

Victoria First School will as ever play its part. Last year they entertained our Town Mayor, parents and townsfolk with

Fairtrade banana songs and dances and all enjoyed delicious chocolate and orange cakes made by reception class. Later many of us were *just* able to make room for Father Tom's pancakes, it being Shrove Tuesday.

Victoria is presently Berkhamsted's only Fairtrade School although others are working towards this goal. There are more than a thousand such schools in this country. Of the three stages to become a Fairtrade School, the first is to become 'Fair Aware', the second is 'Fair Active' and in the final stage a school becomes a 'Fair Achiever'. Do check details of this online.

Any money raised at the event will go to the 'Fair necessities' appeal supporting smallholder farmers who whilst growing 70% of our world's food make up half of the world's hungriest people, unable to access the most basic of life's essentials.

From 4<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 the UK Government, through UK Aid, will double all donations made to our Fair Necessities appeal, so please support our Big Brew on 26<sup>th</sup> February if you are able. Help us provide bare necessities for those who produce your morning cuppa and much else. If you are unable to come, donations may be made online; Google 'Traidcraft fair necessities' or contact the writer.

We are certain of a large entry for the Decorated Fairtrade Chocolate Cup Cake competition so, young readers, spend some time during half term planning your stunning creation, and good luck!

Angela Morris 01442 866992



# Your Garden

Rebirth of a different kind by Helen Reeley

February is a month some of us buy flowers for loved ones. My heart sinks when I see imported roses from Venezuela (and others) at the best of times but more so in the run up to our special romantic St Valentine's day. I don't see romance at all in swiftly swiping flowers loaded with air miles from the super-market shelves; flowers grown with hideous pesticides and herbicides and tended by people working in appalling

conditions paid very little money. I just can't get romantic about that. There is a very healthy positive alternative to buying noxious imported flowers and that is to buy British Flowers from a British based florist. There are numerous florists and flower farmers working together supporting and promoting the British Flower movement and you can find a supplier on this national directory [www.thebritishflowercollective.com](http://www.thebritishflowercollective.com).

Clowance Wood Nurseries grow flowers all year round for the British cut flower industry. As I write this (in deepest January) you can buy the most beautiful home grown flowers delivered to your door. No air miles guaranteed.

[www.flowersbyclowance.co.uk](http://www.flowersbyclowance.co.uk).

Honey Pot Flowers based in Warwickshire also provide stunning British grown

bouquets that look like they've appeared from the countryside.

[www.honeypotflowers.co.uk](http://www.honeypotflowers.co.uk).

Georgie Newbery is a pal of mine who is an artisan florist based in Somerset.

Georgie has made her business a mission to provide British grown flowers all year

round. In fact for 10 months of the year Georgie grows her own flowers for her thriving floristry

business. During the colder months Georgie buys flowers from Cornwall and the Scilly Isles. Valentine flowers in her bouquets include narcissi, tulips, ranunculus, anemones, pussy willow, hellebores and all sorts of spring goodies.

[www.commonfarmflowers.co.uk](http://www.commonfarmflowers.co.uk).

Georgie's flowers are conditioned without chemicals or food preservatives and look like they've been picked straight from the garden. No nasties – that's a promise.

Since the Second World War flower growing in the UK has almost been wiped out but now our home grown flower industry is enjoying a quiet rebirth. I rather like the idea and I'm sure you will too.

TTFN-Helen

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# Your Sport

By Matthew Dawson

## Get your running shoes on!

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March sees Berkhamsted's Annual half marathon and fun run take place around the historic market town, and the surrounding Chiltern Countryside. Now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year of existence the Rotary Club will resume normal service as runners gather at Berkhamsted Cricket Club to put themselves through a 5k fun run or a gruelling half marathon of 21 kilometres in a more competitive race. It is a hugely successful event that has obviously been taking place for a while now, which is proven by the huge sum of money raised for charities over the years: £225,000. One particular club that I am a part of, Berkhamsted Raiders CFC, are raising money for two specific causes; CRY who help with Cardiac risks within the younger generation whilst the other is raising money for a spectator area at Berko Astro at Ashlyns School. If you or your children are involved within the FA Charter Standard Community Club of the Year then you can sign up with team Raiders and help raise money for CRY and the Astro.

If you are not involved within Raiders then you can alternatively sign up on the run's website displayed at the bottom of the article or head over to Victoria School in Prince Edward Street from 9am – 1pm on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February. You can also enter on the day of the event, at the start/finish area between 7.45am and 9.15am. A fee is actually required to sign up for the event and that varies on your age but there is a cash prize at stake.

Male and female winners of the Half Marathon will receive £100 whilst fun run winners will be rewarded with a £50 voucher. An extra incentive there then for all those who aren't the running type!

Of course it'll take a bit more than to turn up on the day and expect to win. It's a competitive race and has traditionally been used by competitors as a marker for longer distances with 1524 runners taking part across both disciplines in 2014. The races are scheduled to start at 10am for the half marathon and then half an hour later for those taking part in the 5k fun run. Regardless of the weather, it'll be a great event to take part in, and certainly one I'm looking forward to doing. So go and sign up on the website or at Victoria on the 28<sup>th</sup> and start training for the 1<sup>st</sup> March!

Half marathon and fun run website:  
[tinyurl.com/berkorun](http://tinyurl.com/berkorun).



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