

*the magazine for town and parish since 1872*

YB

Your Berkhamsted

April 2015

Berkhamsted Bake-off

Running for your money -  
a personal appeal

Reader's short story

Spring into Berkhamsted Castle



*Illustration by David Roberts, 2015*

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

# In this issue...

## Welcome to the April 2015 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

This month we have a couple of new features – we are introducing a school's news page, which will give us a monthly snapshot of our local schools and their news. We are also inviting readers to send in their own short stories and poems; we look forward receiving a varied selection. Our history page by Jenny Sherwood is always an interesting read, we live in such a beautiful town, rich in history and there is so much more to learn about it. Also with spring around the corner and those amongst with green fingers, please check out our gardening page. Our what's on page shows for events in April in and around Berkhamsted, also look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Please see email below and get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may want to share.

Jacqueline Hicks, Editor



<b>Berkhamsted Review</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What's On</b>	<b>7 &amp; 11</b>
<b>Dacorum Community Choir</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Help a dog find a home</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Your Garden</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Spring plant fair at Ashridge</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Up and coming events</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Parish Pages</b>	<b>16 – 19</b>
<b>Hospice News</b>	<b>20 &amp; 21</b>
	<b>23</b>
<b>What a difference 150 years makes</b>	<b>27–29</b>
<b>Your Sport</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Subscribe to Your Berkhamsted</b>	<b>31</b>

Front cover image:



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

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

# Berkhamsted in the News

In this month's jaunt, Julian Dawson investigates persecution, motorcycle perils, and hair-raising websites



If you are a fan of our own Father Tom, and in particular his musings, sermons and Lent courses, then I heartily recommend his very own blog [mistergog.blogspot.co.uk](http://mistergog.blogspot.co.uk). His posting of 7<sup>th</sup> March calls to mind the martyrs Perpetua and Felicity, but in particular reminds us that this still goes on. This was particularly brought home to me by a heart rending presentation by the Barnabus Fund at Flaunden church a few weeks ago. They are trying to support Christians in Syria and Iraq who in a very real way are being persecuted by Islamic State. They have four choices – convert to Islam, pay crippling tax in homage to IS, leave their homes for ever, or die. This is happening in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. And the Middle East is losing its historic culture and diversity in both Christian and variety of Islamic beliefs. With such unspeakable events taking place, such mundanities as [berkhamstedtoday.co.uk](http://berkhamstedtoday.co.uk)'s planning summaries are oddly reassuring. More prosaic dangers are revealed by [tringtoday.co.uk](http://tringtoday.co.uk) in its memories of days gone by. It recalls on June 7<sup>th</sup> 1929 that "In Brook Street on Sunday afternoon there was a collision between a motor cycle, ridden by Mr Ballam of High Street Berkhamsted in the direction of New Mill, and a pedal cycle ridden by Miss

Batchelor of Brook Street. The motor cyclist suffered minor injuries, Miss Batchelor was unhurt." Thus the perils of assisted perambulation are brought into stark relief. Had it been 2015 of course, Mr Ballam would have been plagued with nuisance calls – "Have you been in an accident recently? You may be eligible for compensation... blah blah blah". This month's novelty website is [hji.co.uk](http://hji.co.uk), the website of Hairdressers Journal Interactive. Our very own Gorgeous Ltd has been shortlisted as a regional finalist in the L'Oreal Colour Trophy 2015. Browse the website for hair trends, step by step guides, and a hairstyle gallery. I think I'll go for avant garde long blonde 2000 style. Hours of endless fun and amusement. And something for the weekend sir? If castles are rather more your thing, and they too have their own styles and variations, then visit [thecastlelady.wordpress.com](http://thecastlelady.wordpress.com) for a compare and contrast piece on Berkhamsted and Hertford castles. Sharing the same form as our local ruin, it also suffered a siege by that rascal Louis, who in 1216 attempted to overthrow the English throne.

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

It also makes the point that Hatfield, home of Elizabeth I as a child was the midway point between the two castles. The blog author decries Berkhamsted Castle's comparison with Anstey. *It is unlikely it [Anstey] was ever rebuilt in stone and that is why it is unconscionable that it is compared to Berkhamsted. So there.*

And finally, hemeltoday.co.uk tells us that M&S bring us more than just good food to Dacorum's high streets.

They have also donated and installed defibrillators in each of their stores in the borough, leading inevitably to the headline *These aren't just any lifesaving tools...* Well, it will help with any overexcitement over their meal deals.

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 12.30 to 13.15:  
Lunchtime concerts – St Mary's Church,  
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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)

Tring Farmers Market (**Alternate  
Saturdays**)

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

Tring Farmers Market promotes local food  
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crafts and much more. For more info  
email:

[enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk)

**April:**

**Harefoot brewery tba**

Don't forget we also have our  
first **Comedy Club evening** set  
for **Saturday 25 April**. This promises to be  
a fun evening organised by our friends at  
Laughing Badger. Tickets can be  
purchased at the brewery or on-line  
at [Laughing Badger's Facebook event  
page](#).

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**April 22<sup>nd</sup> BERKHAMSTED COMEDY CLUB**  
headliner Nathan Willcock. 8.00, Greene  
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**May 20<sup>th</sup> BERKHAMSTED LIVE** a) Russian/  
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(Continued on page 11)

# The Great Berkhamsted Bake-off

## The Great Berkhamsted Bake-off

Over the past few years baking has experienced a bit of a revival to say the least; and let's face it, it's something that the British do particularly well. Having Afternoon Tea is no longer something that's reserved for ladies of a particular generation and class – many cafes, hotels and even pubs now serve this popular treat. One of the main reasons for its comeback is surely the BBC's Great British Bake-off Series. Five series later it's still a programme that people talk about and love to watch, from children to grandparents, and Mary Berry's return to the Nation's hearts for a second time around is a sure sign that baking is back as part of our culture.

So, when I caught sight of a flyer in town inviting people to take part in the Great Berkhamsted Bake-off, I knew it was going to be a winner. It was the idea of Lorna Chapman, who, at the time of going to press, will be beginning her trip to Burkina Faso – the world's second poorest country – to work in a local community. Lorna will be staying with a host family in the capital city Ouagadougou for 10 weeks with International Service which works in some of the world's poorest countries to promote the rights of women, children and young people, disabled people and those living with HIV/AIDS.

Lorna pledged to raise £1500 to show her commitment to the charity through sponsored events. Prior to the Bake-off she had already raised £568 through Christmas dinners and cake sales.

So, to the morning of the competition.... When I arrived at the Berkhamsted Bake-off in the Great Hall of Berkhamsted Town Hall, it was buzzing with adults and children all proudly displaying their baking creations in the hope of winning an accolade of category winner. Entrants were split into 3 age groups: adults, young adults aged 12 –17, and Under 11s. The only other stipulations for entry were having to live, work, volunteer or go to school in Berkhamsted. So, the creative juices were allowed to flow and so they did! From cakes with a canal theme to handbags, beach scenes and pop corn cup cakes to name but a few, it was obvious that those who had taken part had put in a tremendous amount of thought and effort. The most noticeable thing that stood out was the number of children that had embraced the challenge and clearly spent a great deal of time thinking about their cakes and making them in time for the day – good to see that traditional home-cooking isn't something that the today's younger generation are afraid to take on.

And so to the judging.... Cakes were judged on appearance, taste and texture by three judges – Berkhamsted's Deputy Mayor Tom Ritchie, NSPCC volunteer Lisa Wright and baker Louise Fanthorpe.

.



In the adult category, first place went to Susie Moran, second to Eunice Cure and third place was awarded to Laura Clark. In the 12 to 17 category first place was presented jointly to Isabelle Seaman and Grace Horn, second place went to Aneil Grainge-Lovick and third was given to Daisy Green.

In the children's category, for under 11s, first place was presented to Edward Camichel, second to Noah Topley and third place was awarded to Isabel Cook

Thanks to the entries to the competition, playing the tombola and also donations for the tea and juice, over £350 was raised for International Service! This took Lorna's fundraising total up to £1,000 and at the time of writing this article, Lorna has informed me that she has in fact reached the £1,500 target that she pledged to raise!

Not only was this event a fantastic way to raise money for such a worthwhile charity, it turned out to be a great community event (of which there ought to be more in our town to bring people together.) It was fantastic to see everyone's individual creative talents and ideas, and finally a great way to catch up with people that I hadn't seen for a long while due to life getting in the way as it so often does. Hopefully it won't be the last we'll see of the Great Berkhamsted Bake-off.

To find out more about my project in Burkina Faso or to donate please feel free to visit Lorna's JustGiving page here - <https://www.justgiving.com/Lorna-Chapman1/>

If you would like to know more about Lorna's fundraising work with International Service for her 10 week placement in Africa or would like to donate - please do visit -<https://www.justgiving.com/Lorna-Chapman1/> or alternatively you can text 'INTE96 £...' with the amount you would like to donate to 70070.



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# What's on cont .....

## Spring Events at Ashridge

**Gentle stroll** – Tues 14<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Covering Sallow Copse and surrounding areas. Part of a series of strolls which provide a chance to discover the wildlife in different parts of the Estate. The stroll takes around 2 hours. No need to book, just turn up at the Visitor Centre with sensible walking shoes and warm waterproof clothing just in case.  
£3 per person.

**Wild About Ashridge** – Wed 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April  
Get closer to nature at our Wild About Ashridge gazebo. Held every Wednesday and Friday during the holidays between 10.30am and 3pm. Outdoor fun adventures, whatever the weather, with the National Trust team. There will also be additional drop-in activities on Wednesday at 12 noon and 2.30pm.

**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 breakfast butty at the end of the walk.  
£15 per adult, £10 for children.

**Archaeology Walk – Hudnall Common** –

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> April 6pm – 8pm

Join the National Trust's regional archaeologist to discover the history and archaeology of the common, looking at a range of features from possible Iron Age settlement to quarry pits of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.  
£8 per adult, £5 per child.

**Plant Fair** – Sun 10<sup>th</sup> May 11am – 4pm  
Stock up at our annual Plant Fair, with plants from our volunteer growers and local nurseries. Held at the Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre. Free entry.

**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.**

## Theatre:

Aylesbury Waterside Theatre: for information – <http://www.atgtickets.com>

Watford Colosseum: for information – <https://watfordcolosseum.co.uk>

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# Local Reader Needs Our Support

It's that time of year again....across the country, runners are preparing for the London Marathon on 26<sup>th</sup> April – and Berkhamsted is no exception!

The Half Marathon on 1<sup>st</sup> March saw over 1000 runners, including myself, braving Little Heath Lane and enjoying the beauty of the countryside around Ashridge.

12 months ago, if anyone had said that I would be preparing for the London Marathon this year, or ever, I would have said they were mad! Whilst always active, I have been an emphatic “non-runner”, with the dubious distinction of regularly coming last in races on School Sports Day.

What changed was a family trauma. 12 months ago, our daughter Alice, a leading Chorister at St Peters Church, suffered an illness which made her wheelchair-bound. Whilst we are optimistic that she will make a full recovery, this made us very aware of the challenges facing disabled people, particularly the young.

Leonard Cheshire Disability operates a residential facility in Hitchin, Lavender Fields, specifically to help young people, aged 16-25 to become as independent as possible. It is a wonderful facility. Over half of the young people go on to live fully independent lives, and when I visited I met Issy, a former resident, who continues to volunteer at Lavender Fields, and now lives with her fiancé in an adapted flat.

Lavender Fields really makes a difference to the lives of these young people, and

that is why I so keen to raise funds for them.

Aged 57, training for the first time for the Marathon represents a significant challenge! I am enjoying getting fit, and it was a great feeling to complete my first Half Marathon – “only” having to double the distance now, however, remains awesome!

Reaching the target, £2500, to help give the young disabled people at Lavender Fields the best possible start to their lives, would make all the training worthwhile.

Any donations would be very welcome indeed, on Just Giving:

<https://www.justgiving.com/bevjullien/>

Thank you!  
Bev Jullian



**School updates**

# Short stories

The short story holds an important place in English literature. From Edgar Allan Poe to Kate Mosse, writers down the ages have turned their attention to this form. It's now "Your Berkhamsted's" turn! From this month we are asking our readers to let us publish their work. Don't let inexperience put you off trying. Your subject can be humour, adventure, love, fun, mystery or just an intriguing situation. Around 700 words, and anonymous if you wish. We have had our first submission which appears in this issue. Let's write lots of stories and enjoy the reads. Over to you all!"

## **Return to Arizona by a YB reader**

The Cadillac breasted the last line of hills before the Arizona plain. Far in the distance, indistinct through the midsummer haze, lay Sedona. The hot sun seemed to be setting on fire the red buttes that jostled and towered all round the town. What wonders of geological history had thrown up such a spectacle. The driver's hands shook on the wheel as memories of his last visit flooded back. Was it truly only a year ago they had driven a wild jeep across the rocks and had lain, side by side, watching the stars pulsate in the Arizona night sky? Only a year since they had spent their nights planning the future that was to take them round the world prior to a permanent home and children in whatever part of the world caught their fancy? It was then she had sent him away; told him abruptly that it would not work and please leave her alone. The year since felt like a gap in his life; a hiatus waiting

to be filled. She had not replied to his texts nor his increasingly desperate phone calls. No explanation Nothing!

Now the long straight dust road was entering Sedona, and his attempt to reclaim his life was beginning. Matt knew it would not be easy to pick up the trail, and he was fearful as to what he might find. Parking the car outside the red-roofed cafe where they had sat gazing up at the hills, he went into the cool interior. A waitress approached. "Just a coffee please, and could you tell me if Damon still works here?" Alice, for that was the name on her lapel, smiled at his accent. "He's the manager now. I'll fetch him for you if you like. Who shall I say wants to see him?"

"Tell him it's Matt - he may remember Matt and Sophie from a year ago, we spent a lot of time in here, and he was the one who usually served us"

Matt watched Damon's approach with a mixture of hope and apprehension. He thought he detected a pitying look in Damon's eye. As always the American was forthright. "Hey, it's good to see you again. How are things?" Matt clasped the offered hand, hesitated a little and then plunged into the most important sentence of his life.

"The girl I used to come in here with, Sophie, slim and blonde with a wonderful sense of humour. She and I parted strangely a year ago, and I have been totally unable to move on with my life. I've come back to try and trace her; to try and make sense of what happened; to try and find out what went wrong"

Damon looked slowly round the cafe. There was only one couple eating ice cream in the corner. He called for Alice. "Can you look after the place for an hour please Alice?" The girl nodded briefly and returned to the kitchen. "Come on Matt, there's something I want to show you. We can talk on the way"

With that Matt followed Damon out of the cafe and into a pink jeep that was standing outside. "Where are we going?" Matt watched nervously as Damon sped off toward the nearest butte that loomed redly over the back of the cafe. "This is the very hill that Sophie and I spent so much time on, trkiking or in a jeep like this" Matt waited for a reply as Damon gunned up a steep gully and came to a the flat top of the butte. The car drew to a halt and Matt followed Damon out. "It's a couple of hundred yards from here, down through that ravine, amongst the cacti" Damon's voice was quiet and Matt sensed an unusual timbre in his normally broad American tone; at the same time recognising the spot as where he and Sophie had lain, gazing at the stars. They rounded a huge boulder on the corner of the flat, and there ahead of them was a small simple plaque. Matt read the words. "RIP: Sophie Leggatt 3rd March 2014"



# Berkhamsted Castle

By the time you read this the clocks will have gone forward and officially it will be 'summer time.' The promising warmth of the last two days should have brought the colourful spring flowers into full bloom. There are many places in Berkhamsted where these can be appreciated and one of these is Berkhamsted's Castle, the best remaining example of a 'motte and bailey' castle in the country. The Castle and its ruins can be enjoyed in sunshine, snow and even wind and rain! It is usually open throughout the year except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

This time last year, however, it was closed for about six weeks because the causeway giving admittance to the castle

grounds was flooded, as was equally the road outside which had been the outer moat before the building of the railway in 1837 had destroyed it. Once the water had subsided sufficiently to allow admittance again a large number of visitors flocked to enjoy and photograph the water-filled moats! These were equally enjoyed by the moorhens and their chicks, the ducks and ducklings and the family of Canada Geese, fiercely guarded by their parents, hissing threateningly at the two legged visitors.

There are four boards in the Castle grounds, provided by English Heritage, which give a brief summary of the history

of the Castle, but if you wish to learn more of its history and its importance the Castle Visitor Room will be open for the Easter Weekend, (not Good Friday) from 10am-6pm and then on every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from the beginning of May to the end of September.

In addition to that the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society provides guided tours of the Castle including the

Visitor Room for schools throughout the year. There is no charge but a small donation is requested. The Society also provides tours to adult groups and these can be

combined with tours of the historic town centre. There is a modest charge for these.

Free guided tours of the Castle are also provided on 13<sup>th</sup> September as part of Berkhamsted's Heritage Open Days. For bookings of all of the above and further details please contact Jenny Sherwood, 01442 865158 or [KSherw9100@aol.com](mailto:KSherw9100@aol.com) More information on the Castle can also be found on [www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk)



# Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Dare I admit it? One of the few television programmes I watch and enjoy is “The Musketeers”, based, as they say, on the characters created by Alexandre Dumas. Alright, there is too much blood and violence. The goodies and baddies are far too obvious. A stupid king is in charge, well, hardly. Nice, brave people do not get the credit they deserve. But is always a good story which moves quickly and keeps me glued to the box for an hour.

Although they are called musketeers it is the sword fighting that is really impressive. No one gets the better of them. The reason is, it seems to me that once a fight gets going they take the initiative and do not simply respond, move by move, to what their opponent is doing. Surprise is the element in every victory.

As the word fencing suggests, it seems in sword fighting, moves are determined by what the other person is doing. I have thought about this often because many people I have met and, indeed often myself, have felt themselves to be victims. In other words, they have felt themselves to be controlled by others. Every move they make is actually a determined response to what someone else is doing, like fencing.

On the grand scale nations do it in defence and in making their foreign policy, decisions being made on the basis of what other nations are doing or might do. I find that quite a useful point to begin when thinking about world politics. It also helps to understand why some people react to things done and said by leaders in public life, politicians. Who is the victim, who is being controlled, who wants power over

others, who wants to be set free to live a better life? Questions, questions!

The extraordinary events we have been recalling in church recently in Holy Week and Easter stand all this thinking on its head. It illustrates the very opposite of might be expected.

Jesus has taken the initiative, then he appears to be the victim, but he does not respond to his opponents. They make a move and he does nothing or says nothing or just carries on. It seems as if they are in charge, winning the fight, but he is the one in control even though he does not do or say very much.

There is nothing more angry-making than someone who does not want to fight or argue, so the people against him get wound up to destroy him altogether. Even then they cannot touch him, his very self. He carries on living even though they have killed him. Do notice just how low-key the realisation of Easter is - no Da! Da! moment like winning a prize.

Extraordinary, certainly, but showing a quiet, powerful and fundamental truth.

Having this truth at heart, surely, there can be optimism in the face of despair; power can be known when the odds seem impossible. We do not actually have to live lives which are controlled only by what others are doing, but be ourselves, carrying on doing what we know to be right, quietly practising the love and kindness Jesus so clearly showed.

In the meanwhile, if you receive this before the day, have a very happy Easter! And, oh, how I shall miss “The Musketeers”!

By Anthony Lathe

## 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

**Sat 18 Apr** at 2:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Sounds tastic bring a bear concert. A fun and informal introduction to classical music for the whole family with Ben, violin, and Rebecca, piano; free refreshments. Adults £7.50, children & bears free. Book via [www.soundstastic.co.uk](http://www.soundstastic.co.uk).

**Sat 25 Apr** at 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Berkhamsted Choral Society with English Philharmonia. Conductor Graham Wili. Mendelssohn Elijah. Tickets: £16 / £14, DC £6, U18s free Book: [www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk) or 07500 431643.

**Fri 1<sup>st</sup> May** at 6.15am: MAY MORNING MADRGALS sung from the Tower of St Peter's Church under the direction of Adrian Davis, followed by BREAKFAST in the Court House. Donations for breakfast please.

### St Peter's

**30<sup>th</sup> March** Monday in Holy Week: 8:00pm Holy Eucharist

**31<sup>st</sup> March** Tuesday in Holy Week 8:00pm Holy Eucharist

**1<sup>st</sup> April** Wednesday in Holy Week: 8:00pm Tenebrae: A meditative choral service of bible readings and psalms sung on the Wednesday of Holy Week in preparation for the great three days before Easter

**2<sup>nd</sup> April** Maundy Thursday: 8:00pm Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper, followed by vigil. We recall the institution of the Holy Eucharist on the evening before the trial and crucifixion of our Lord. This service is in marked contrast to the rest of Holy Week, a light shining through and beyond the darkness of Good Friday. At the vigil, we are invited to contemplate our Lord's Passion and watch with him in Gethsemane.

**3<sup>rd</sup> April** Good Friday: 2:00pm Liturgy of Good Friday We most solemnly recall Jesus' trial and execution, leaving us to wait.

**4<sup>th</sup> April** Easter Eve 8:00pm The Easter Vigil Eucharist The First Eucharist of Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord, when light triumphs over darkness.

**5<sup>th</sup> April Easter Day** We celebrate God's triumph and promise of Eternal Life for the whole Christian Community 8:00am Holy Eucharist, 9:30am Sung Eucharist

### Registers:

#### St Peter's:

Weddings:

14<sup>th</sup> February Mark Edmond Rogers and Catherine Joanne Ashley

#### Funerals:

10<sup>th</sup> February Myra Shields; 17<sup>th</sup> February Marjorie Bowden

### Further information available from our church websites:

#### 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.

The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints'.

# News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary



## Spring is in the air at the Hospice!

The Hospice of St Francis helps people

living with a life-shortening illness from diagnosis offering classes, clinics and therapies

at its Spring Centre, as well as caring for patients at home, or who require specialist

care in a hospice bed. The charity also supports carers and the bereaved and needs to raise £4.7 million every year to fund its free services.

And, with spring on its way, our **Therapeutic Gardening Group** is starting up again on 25th March, 10:30am – 12:30noon and will run every Wednesday morning until the autumn. The informal, drop-in, group is open to patients, carers and the bereaved who are interested in light gardening in the Hospice garden, tending to flowers and growing produce, and meeting others in a similar situation. The Hospice grounds are tended separately by a team of volunteer gardeners. Kelly Thrussell, Occupational Therapist at the Hospice, adds, "Not only does attendance increase

levels of physical activity but also helps people to cope with physically challenging circumstances, such as managing cancer treatment, rehabilitation following surgery, coping with a bereavement or learning to live with chronic conditions.

Mandy Forbes, who joined in 2014 following a close bereavement, comments, "Gardening at the Hospice gave me a sense of purpose and, as the summer wore on, a sense of achievement, too. I made friends and it was so rewarding to be a part of the journey from seed to plate!



## Spring Centre courses

Various courses continue to run in our Spring Centre including the HOPE course which helps people cope during, or after, treatment for cancer, giving them the confidence to move on with their lives. There are also exercise classes and a

range of complementary therapies such as massage and reflexology on offer for relaxation and pain relief.

### **The Rose Project**

The Hospice of St Francis, in collaboration with Peace Hospice Care, has been continuing to share hospice values with Watford, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans hospitals. New this year, the hospices have helped implement the Rose Project whereby a rose symbol has been introduced on the hospital wards to promote dignity and compassion at the end

of life. The symbol will now be displayed when a person is reaching the end of life, or following the death of a patient when the understanding and support of the family has been obtained, to communicate the need for quietness and respect.

### **Markyate Plant Sale**

The annual Markyate village Plant Sale takes place on Saturday 23 May giving the opportunity to buy a huge variety of plants and enjoy tea and cake in a wonderful setting, all in aid of the Hospice. If you would like to pre-order a hanging basket, or container, to be picked up in bloom on the day of the sale, call Ian Bradley (01582 943133).

### **Hospice of St Francis Garden Party**

Our annual Hospice Garden Party takes place on Sunday 31 May at Ashridge House (HP4 1NS) from 1-5pm. Come for a cream tea or Pimms, browse the stalls, enjoy the children's entertainment and music or take a stroll around the stunning gardens. All money raised from the entrance fee of £6 (£5 in advance from Hospice of St Francis shops) goes towards

Hospice care.

Details of all our Spring Centre and patient services and



fundraising events can be found on our new-look website at

[www.stfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk). Find us on

Facebook at: **TheHospiceofStFrancis** or

follow us on **Twitter: hospicstfrancis** or

call on 01442 869555 or email:

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



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# Ashridge Spring News 2015

## April / May

### News from the Estate

**Annual Deer Count** - Yes, we actually do count deer! In early March, at 6am, volunteers and staff were out on the estate counting fallow deer. The deer count at Ashridge has been running since the 1970's so we have deer population information that spans decades. The method of counting is simply to record numbers of deer within a given area. The counter notes the sighting time and the location of the deer marked on a map. We then gather all the count data together and add it up – easy!

**Easter is on its way** - Cadbury is once again supporting the National Trust to host this year's Easter Egg Trails at Ashridge, with 6,000 chocolate prizes to be won from 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> April. Families are invited to unleash their inner explorer on a trail of discovery in the beautiful spring woodland at Ashridge to win their Cadbury chocolaty treat.

This year's theme is Discovery and children can discover more about the wild animals that live on the Ashridge Estate.

Visitors can also climb the Bridgewater Monument and browse in the National Trust shop, enjoy a delicious hot lunch at the outdoor café and pick up ideas for other adventures later in the year. A great day out for all the family, whatever the weather.

New General Manager, Susie Mercer, said "This will be my first Easter at Ashridge. I'm really excited about it as the Estate is so popular at this time of year. I'm just

hoping that the kids leave a couple of eggs for us older explorers once the weekend is over!"

The Cadbury Easter Egg Trails take place at Ashridge from 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2015. 10am – 4pm. £3 per child.

**Bluebell time** - The bluebells on the Ashridge Estate are native English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). Every year in late April or early May a spectacular carpet of blue emerges beneath the trees in areas of Ashridge.

Bluebells are perfectly adapted to thrive in the shade and extra moisture provided by the cover of the trees coming into leaf. The first shoots appear in January, giving the bluebells a head start over other woodland plants before the canopy shades out the woodland floor. Long tapering leaves rise from the bulb and are topped with clusters of delicate bell-shaped flowers, which provide an early source of food for insects.

Maps and self-guided walks are available in the Ashridge Visitor Centre and we will be running drop in bluebell walks when they are in bloom at 1pm and 3pm. (Dates to be confirmed)

Please remember we all have a responsibility to protect our native bluebells and to make sure the beautiful woodland scenes here at Ashridge can be experienced by future generations. Please help us protect Ashridge's bluebells by keeping to paths to prevent trampling and by not picking them. Thank you.

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# Your Charities

## Phakamisa Weekend

Phakamisa is a Zulu word meaning “to uplift” and that is what the charity which bears its name certainly does.

A ministry of Pinetown Methodist Church in South Africa, it is supported by a Berkhamsted family who used to worship there.

From small beginnings training just five women to be nursery school teachers, the charity has expanded to providing trained childminders for the under 3s and courses for those teaching 3-6 year olds.

It also supports those caring for Aids orphans, often on very meagre pensions, and helps them to engage in work which enables them to supplement their incomes. Cooking, sewing, gardening and beadwork are all useful skills.

Those suffering from HIV/Aids are not forgotten.

But providing these facilities costs money and a fund-raising weekend is planned for 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April when a Bring and Share Supper at 6.30 in the Parish Room St Mary’s Northchurch will be followed by a concert in the church by the Friday Songbirds. Tickets at the door are £5 and there will be refreshments on a donations basis in the interval.

Audrey Hope

Show opens at 11 a.m.  
Classes commence 12 noon.

**Judge: Lynne Davies.**  
**Entries on the day**



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1116848)

## FUN DOG SHOW!

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# National Transition Roadshow

On 19 April, something just a little bit exciting is happening. The National Transition Roadshow is coming to Berkhamsted. We know you will want to be there, and would like you please to [book your tickets](#) as soon as possible so we get an idea of numbers.

There will be loads of interesting and fun workshops during the day, and in the evening we will be celebrating Transition with a Conversation with the (co-)founder of the Transition movement, Rob Hopkins, plus entertainment from Transition - the Musical.

If you are on the fringes of Transition and want to know what all of the fuss is about, there are workshops introducing all of the different aspects. If you're more deeply involved, there are workshops to help you take it to the next level, and to help the Transition Network do the same.

You can find out more and book your tickets from the website: <http://transitionberkhamsted.org.uk>. You can book for the whole day, just part of it, or even just book an individual workshop.

We all look forward to seeing you there.

Three Counties in Transition (*Beds, Bucks, Herts*), Haddenham in Transition, Transition in Kings, Transition Milton Keynes, Transition Town Berkhamsted, Transition Town Letchworth, Tring in Transition

# Your Garden

by Helen Reeley

April is officially spring whatever the outdoor temperatures & there is much fun to be had outside. Seed sowing takes centre stage this month in my gardens & greenhouse although I would've started a few sweet peas off in March. I've been saving toilet roll holders all winter to sow sweet pea seeds directly into. Sweet peas require a long root run so the cardboard insert is ideal & furthermore the whole unit can then be directly transplanted into the final planting place which should be a good sized pot with a mix of rich compost. Sweet peas are good performers but need a good quality planting medium to give the best blooms. Sow the seeds & get your containers ready with plant supports in place in one gardening session & you'll feel very organised.

The magnificent BBC period drama 'Wolf Hall' has featured on the telly recently & some of you may have watched the brilliant acting performances & also noticed the houses chosen for the Tudor visual feast. One of the houses, Chastleton House is just a short jaunt into the Cotswolds from Berkhamsted, situated not far from Moreton-in-the-Marsh. Chastleton House is owned by the National Trust & is unusual in that it remains pretty much as it was built back in the early 1600's in Jacobean style. The house owners were always impoverished & never had funds to make elaborate alterations & extensions & so the house remains true to its original style and dilapidations are very much in evidence. The interiors of the house represented



Wolf Hall & the small stone courtyard provided the scene for Thomas Cromwell's cruel childhood in Putney where he grew up in the hands of his monstrous father.

The gardens are in good order with some pleasing examples of Buxus cloud pruning. The vegetable garden was well prepared for the pending growing season & there were some skilfully pruned heritage cordon apple tree varieties grown on a delicious creamy yellow Cotswold stone wall. There is no café at the property (hurrah!) but you can take a picnic & enjoy the grounds & gardens, some tables are provided.

I visited one early March Sunday & the drive was about one hour fifteen minutes. During the summer months this journey will take much longer so I'd go sooner rather than later if like me you prefer fewer cars on the roads & fewer people at your NT properties.

Do drop me a line if you have any queries  
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643313 [www.reeleylandscapes.co.uk](http://www.reeleylandscapes.co.uk)  
TTFN

# Book Review

By Julian Dawson

**Anatomy of a Disappearance.** By Hisham Matar. *Viking*; 246 pages;

Hisham Matar's father was a prominent Libyan dissident who disappeared nearly 25 years ago at the hands of Qaddafi's regime. His novel *Anatomy of a Disappearance* draws on his own personal experience in a haunting, disturbing and compelling tale of a child's own loss of his father, taken by unknown henchman of an unnamed dictatorial state in the Middle East.

Nuri el-Alfi narrates the story in the first person. His father's absence is the lynchpin of the story, but it is Mona that provides the thread; the woman in her 20s who becomes his stepmother, but for whom he also yearns in a complex undercurrent that is both moving and also makes us a little uncomfortable. As with all good novels it asks complex questions of own relationships, our reactions to trying circumstances and feelings deep within us.

It is a sad but hypnotic tale, an analysis of grief that writers from the Levant and the eastern Mediterranean somehow manage to express so well, so tellingly, and cleverly. The novel's settings of Cairo, Alexandria, Geneva, Little Venice and a northern England public school provide neat contrasts of culture, and add to the tapestry of challenges faced by Nuri as he attempts to banish his father from Mona, only for the father to expel him to the isolation of his school. The boy's longing for Mona can only be banished by his

own father's loss. And he finally discovers the extent to which his father loved him through the irony of losing him.



# Your Sport

By Matthew Dawson

## **Berkhamsted Half Marathon and Fun Run review**

On Sunday 1st March, 1010 half marathon runners and 709 fun runners took to the streets of Berkhamsted and the surrounding areas on what was a sunny but breezy morning. Both disciplines were hugely successful as a record number of participants were involved. As always the Rotary Club did a fantastic job of organising the event and it appeared to be a fun morning for all involved.

The winner of the half marathon was Paul Adams who finished in a great time of one hour and 11 minutes whilst Nadine Lewycky was the first woman to cross the line with a time of one hour and 21 minutes. As for the fun run, Ben Rochford won it for a successive year, completing the course in 27 minutes and 45 seconds. His victory was a slim one, beating Ian Johnston by 10 seconds. Wendy Walsh meanwhile came first out of the women involved, finishing after 32 minutes and 9 seconds.

It was the first time I had competed in the fun run, and all the runners at the front looked very competitive as expected. I unfortunately got stuck at the back at the beginning but made up good places to finish just inside the top 50 with a time of 36 minutes and 24 seconds. Overall though I found it a great experience on what was a challenging course. What made it challenging was the 2 mile hill climb up Bullbeggars Lane during the mid-part of the event. You could see the hill had taken its toll on the runners by the end of it but the closing stages of the

run were downhill and allowed competitors to stretch their legs as they reached the climax of the race.

Whilst the Fun Run was predominantly through Berkhamsted and briefly through Potten End, the Half Marathon saw runners venture to pastures further afield. Instead of turning towards the Golf club as the fun runners did, the half marathon runners headed in the direction of Nettleden, before passing Little Gaddesden and then returning back to Berkhamsted.

There were lots of people cheering the runners near the finishing line as those who ran strove to find the energy for one last push. The BBC's Paul Dickenson was in attendance and his dulcet tones could be overheard as runners came onto the finishing straight.

Planning is already in place for next year's event, which is going to be on the 6th March so it would be great if even more numbers could sign up and run in 2016!

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- ✓ Fascia, soffit board and cladding replacement, repair and cleaning
- ✓ Chimney care, repair & rebuild - new pots & cowls
- ✓ Parapet wall repairs & rebuild
- ✓ Lead work - flashings – ventilation
- ✓ Roof carpentry - dormers - roof windows
- ✓ Specialist brickwork, brick repairs and pointing
- ✓ Scaffolding and towers for access

### Office

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