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YB

Your Berkhamsted

October 2015

**Pilkington Manor -
another lost house in the High Street**

**Bottoms Up!
Local pub wins coveted
beer and cider awards**

Old Timer - Reader's short story



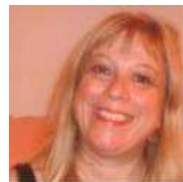
Exploring the past, reflecting the present and looking to the future in Berkhamsted

In this issue...

Welcome to the October 2015 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

As the colder weather is looming, time to get our winter gear out of the closet and don't forget the clocks go back on the 25th October. During September and October all eyes are on the Rugby World Cup, but we have a great article on the other code, Rugby League, by our sports writer Matthew Dawson. Our history article this month features Pilkington Manor, there is an abundance of history in Berkhamsted so always something new to learn. We also have news of Bruce Nixon's forthcoming book being published in October, Bruce is advocator in how we can all be a part of world change. Our What's On page shows events in October 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 have, either to publish or additions/changes to the magazine for consideration.

Jacqueline Hicks, Editor
editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk



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Front cover image: Thank you to Mary Casserley for the wonderful Red Kite painting used for the front cover. Other work from Mary on www.1sthouseportraits.com



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 column, Julian covers new beginnings, various sport and our first Taste of Berkhamsted



There is a constant clarion call for volunteers these days, as it seems ever harder to fill the spaces required to continue providing services and facilities too often taken for granted.

hemeltoday.co.uk reports on the launching of the Herts Neighbours Network. This Hospice of St Francis initiative is seeking voluntary assistance to visit someone with a terminal illness who is living alone.

New academic year, new beginnings and a changing of the guard. The Daily Telegraph reports on Mark Steed's move from Berkhamsted School to become director of JESS in Dubai. I don't think there is any relation to Postman Pat, though it could conceivably be a 21st century offshoot of UNCLE.

tringtoday.co.uk/ announced the town's first food festival, long overdue, which took place on September 6th on the fields of Ashlyns Hall. Taste of Berkhamsted was raising money for St Francis and other local cause DENS.

Berkhamsted made a rare appearance in the Washington Post. OK, admit, slightly contrived. In Loudon County Virginia, you can view a property in Great Berkhamsted Drive that will cost you \$559,990. Not bad for Berkhamsted prices. Particularly with four bedrooms,

three baths, three storeys and a two car garage. Positive bargain.

Berkhamstedtoday brings us news from the Masters World Athletics Championships, where are very own Zoe Doyle was agonisingly close to winning a silver medal 1500 metres before she unfortunately fell inches from the line. She looks to make a comeback in the cross country season, and later in indoor competitions.

Staying with sport, the golfers amongst you will be intrigued to read on golfbusinessnews.com that Berkhamsted Golf Club has taken delivery of their second Jacobsen Eclipse 322 hybrid greens mower. Grass cutter anoraks will purr with pleasure at its excellent features, "the ability to set frequency of cut, mow speed and transport speed, plus the swing out centre unit and general ease of use are all good points". Dare I say it is enough to make us *green* with envy?

Haresfoot Brewery continues its high profile on the internet, this time borehamwoodtimes.co.uk reporting on the micro brewery's support of Hector's House, which is suicide prevention and crisis help resource. It is good to see our local businesses backing those setting out

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(Continued from page 3)

to improve the lives of those challenged by everyday existence.

watfordobserver.co.uk reports on the sad demise of Berkhamsted from the FA Cup, where they got as far as the Preliminary Round before being unceremoniously dumped by Barton Rovers. Oh well, another year to wait before they have another bite at the road to Wembley. On Facebook, Tail-Gator publicises its appearances at the Goat, our local live music venue. We are still awaiting our first review from this musical hostelry. Come on guys!

Tes.com, that's the Times Educational Supplement to you and me, published the shortlist for their Independent School Awards. Berkhamsted School is in contention for Financial/commercial initiative of the year. The awards will be announced on 27th November at a gala dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane. I've been to several awards dinners at that huge venue, which provides a lesson of how to serve dinner to 1000 guests apparently simultaneously. Strange how some local restaurants struggle to do that for 50 covers.

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What's on

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

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

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

1st Sept until 31st Oct - Kids' Autumn Trail
- Take a stroll through the woodland
discovering more about autumn time at
Ashridge and complete some of the "50
things" to do before you're 11 3/4 on
route. Visit the Ashridge Visitor Centre to
collect your trail map and follow the trail,
answer the questions and return to
collect your sticker reward. No need to
book, just turn up. £1
For our full list of events please visit
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or to
book your place contact the Visitor Centre
on 01442 851227.

October:
Thurs 1 October: Coffee Morning in aid of
The Children's Society. Join us for
delicious scones and home made cakes,
10am to 12noon in the Court House. All
welcome.

Thurs 8th Oct at 8pm – Talk - The new
Welcome Centre of St. Albans Cathedral.
Illustrated talk by Helen Gray/Stephanie
Pisharody of the Development Office.
Town Hall. B'sted Citizens Association.
www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk .
Annual sub per household £5. Visitors £2
at door payable towards annual sub. DC
£1

Sat 10th Oct at 7.30pm: Music –
Divertimenti. Mozart Fantasia in F minor;
Smyth String Quintet in E; Schubert String
Quintet in C. Berkhamsted Music. Civic
Centre. www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk.
Season £48, visitors £14, under 18s free.
treasurer@berkhamstedmusic.co.uk
862798

Tues 13th Oct at 8pm: Art - Coastal Scenes
in Acrylics Jonathan Lee, St Peter's
Church, Berkhamsted. Berkhamsted Art
Society.
www.berkhamstedartsociety.com.
Visitors on the door £3

Weds 8th Oct at 8pm: Film – Ida. Drama. In
1960s Poland a young nun about to take
her vows is forced to confront the
devastating truth of her family's past. Dir:
Pawel Pawlikowski. 2014/Poland/Cert 12
A/82min/Subtitles/B&W. Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk

What's on , continued

Weds 14th Oct 2015 at 8pm: *Farming in Hertfordshire in 19th century*

Dr Julie Moore of the University of Hertfordshire

All meetings are held in the Wellcome Great Hall, Berkhamsted Town Hall and start at 8pm.

Visitors are always welcome £2.50 on the door. Further details of the Society visit www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk

Sun 18th Oct at 3.30 to 5.30 pm: Music - Orchestral Concert

Weber Oberon Overture; Bach Double Violin Concerto; Mozart Adagio from Symphonie Concertante

K.364; Dvorak Symphony 8. Conductor Thomas Loten, soloists Sophie Langdon, Peter Fisher &

Nicholas Logie. Dacorum Symphony Orchestra. Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley.

www.dacorumso.org. Online tickets £12; conc £10. Season ticket four concerts £36 (conc £30).

18 years and under free. Aitchisons, 63 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead 213446. Ticket secretary 01494 727240. DC

Sun 18th Oct at 7pm: Music - An Evening with The Castle Choir and Guests
An eclectic mix of traditional and contemporary choral music. The Castle Choir. The Court House.

www.thecastlechoir.com. Online tickets £15 for adults including wine and supper.

info@thecastlechoir.com 07891 066543

Mon 19th and Tues 20th Oct at 8pm: Film - The Day the Earth Caught Fire

One of the best British sci-fi dramas. Nuclear testing has knocked the Earth off its axis and it's moving inexorably towards the sun. Can it be saved? Dir: Val Guest/1961/UK/Cert PG/99min/B&W
Berkhamsted Film Society. Civic Centre. www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk. Annual sub: joint £65,

Single £35 (conc £60 and £32). Visitors £5 at door (no conc). 863155. DC

Weds 21st Oct at 8pm: Sarah Pollard singing, guest discussions of *Poetry and Flowers* and *The Art of Comedy* plus double book launch b Leslie Tate/Sue Hampton. Berkhamsted Live.

The Kings Arms. Free. Collection for Pepper Nurses.

Mon 26th Oct at 7.45pm. Talk - The Horse in Ancient Western Asia. Nigel Tallis, FSA, Dept of Western Asia, The British Museum. Music Room, Berkhamsted School.

www.berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk. Annual sub £15, family £17.50, junior £5.

Members £1, visitors £3. 254801. DC

Out of Town

The Court Theatre - www.courttheatre.co.uk

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

Book Review

“Nothing” is Something

This book (“Nothing”) is a series of essays from the New Scientist dealing with all “nothings”, from absolute zero to cosmic oblivion.

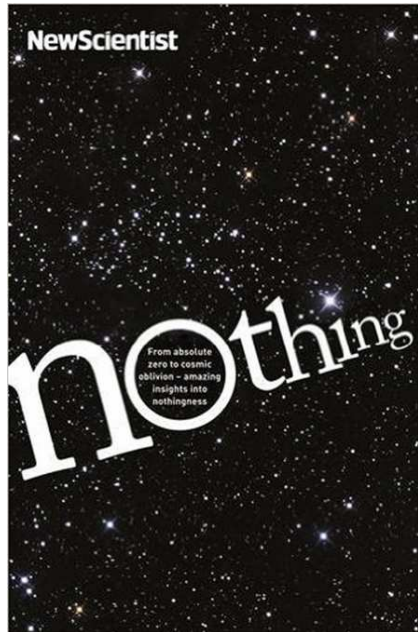
Sound complicated? Well, it is and it isn't! I'm not one bit of a scientist - can't tell my Einstein from my Bernstein, but I found this one of the most fascinating books I've ever read. More of a story book than a text book.

Zero, zip, nada, zilch. It's all too easy to ignore the dramatic possibilities of emptiness and non - existence; indeed you may wonder what there is to say about nothing.

Scientists have known for yonks that nothing is the key to understanding absolutely everything from why particles have mass to the expansion of the universe - so, without nothing we'd be precisely nowhere.

Absolute zero (the coldest cold that can exist), the amazing power of placebos, light bulbs, superconductors, vacuums, dark energy - this book explains how they are all aspects of the concept of nothingness.

One of the more interesting story threads is how scientists struggled to ditch the ether and accept the void. Aristotle believed that a vacuum was impossible because everything was composed of earth, wind, fire and water, the four elements of life. It took scientists nearly 2000 years to develop experiments that proved a vacuum was possible. Then, guess what - along comes quantum



theory to turn it on its head and show that vacuum is filled with unimaginable energy.

The only quibble I have with this book is that the editor has chosen to organise the stories into sections such as “beginnings”, “mysteries”, “voyages of discovery”. I found certain topics so enthralling that I would have preferred to follow the thread to the end.

However this is a minor quibble. I can heartily recommend “Nothing”

John Gerry

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Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society



Pilkington Manor, another lost house in the High Street

Only the name and a replica of the main doorway remain of what was once Pilkington Manor, situated in the High Street between Gordon Cottage and the Dower House. Many older residents of Berkhamsted will remember how for some years it was shelved up one end whilst still lived in the remaining parts, fighting against collapse and demolition. What do we know of its history and what sort of manor was it?

The house that we remember and which was listed Grade III in 1949/50 (old listing) was 18th century but records indicate there was an earlier building on the site. On looking for the name Pilkington we find in the Patent Rolls of 7th July 1461 'John Pilkington Esq., of our body appointed for life Parker of the King's Park at Berkhamsted ... and Constable of the Castle there ...with fees as in the last year of King Edward III and Richard II.' It appears that John Pilkington was granted by the King some land near Castle Street on which to build a property, or that he took over a house already there. By this time much of the Castle was not in a good state of repair. Stone as early as 12th century has been found on the site of the manor.

The next positive mention of Pilkington Manor is found in Norden's Survey of 1616 when reference is made to several 'ancient capital messuages (including Pilkington Manor) which are 'conceived by the owners thereof to be manors and

to have divers quit rents belonging to them' 'Francis Barker gentleman holdeth to him and his heirs by tenure and service ..one ancient capital messuage or Mansion House called Pilkington's... wherein the said Francis now inhabiteth together with the courtyard and all other yards, gardens, orchards and pound yard thereunto adjoining or belonging'. The Quit Rent per annum is 1s 4d. Francis Barker was a man of substance, chief burgess in 1628 and father of John Barker, bailiff 1646 and William Barker burgess 1647.

The 18th century building, which replaced the original manor house, appears to have been built in the first half of that century, but under whose tenure is not known. In 1775 Pilkington together with outbuildings, gardens, fishponds, 13 ½ acres of meadow was let to Samuel Simmons on a 14 year lease for £70 p.a. The garden of the 18th century house was enclosed by a high brick wall containing some 17th century bricks, parts of which survive behind houses in Manor Street and Chapel Street. The estate was extensive stretching from Castle Street to Ravens Lane and from the High Street to White Hill. What of the house itself? William Nash in his *Reminiscences of Berkhamsted* wrote in 1890, looking back fifty years, of the house, that it 'was enclosed within high walls, and entered through massive gates, giving it the appearance of a nunnery or some such secluded institution.' The house was

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

parapeted and had a red tiled roof. There was an 18th century flat-topped two columned door-case. The façade was rough- cast possibly over stucco.

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The Manor was situated too close to the town centre to compete in prestige terms with the fine houses elsewhere on the

slopes of the valley, but by the mid 18th century it was important enough for a pew and a vault to be reserved for Pilkington Manor. From the 1790s or possibly a little earlier, Joseph Kirkman, brewer, of St Giles in the Fields, died 1803, owned Pilkington. On his death he bequeathed the estate to his widow and subsequently to his son. He also had shares and promissory notes in the Grand Junction Canal Company. The canal ran through his land.



He was followed by Charles Gordon, died 1829, of Braco, ls. of Jamaica and of this place.' He was a wealthy man, presumably from the proceeds of the slave trade. On his death the estate

passed to his son, also Charles Gordon, who died ten years later, but does not appear to have lived in Pilkington. It was the executors of Charles Gordon Junior who sold the estate to Frederick Miller, a sale, which was to lead to the break up of the estate. Joseph Kirkman, Charles Gordon and one of his daughters are buried in the Pilkington vault in St. Peter's St. Catherine's Chapel. Charles

Gordon, 'the last owner of the manor house before the property was broken up' (R.A. Norris) is remembered in perpetuity in the name, Gordon Cottage.

(To be continued)

Jenny Sherwood Berkhamsted Museum and History Society

The 21st Century Revolution – A Call to Greatness – Bruce Nixon's new book

Every century has its revolutions and ours is no exception. We are in the midst of an emerging scientific and technological revolution that will transform our lives, our work and the world as we know it. Undoubtedly, many of these developments will bring enormous benefits, particularly in the area of human health. They could reduce costs and devolve power. However, they could result in the even greater concentration of power and wealth in the hands of the few.

We face the biggest challenges in our history and these developments will not help unless we are determined to act on the urgent need to tackle climate chaos, conserve a living planet, resolve economic inequality, break entrenched power structures, and learn to resolve conflict without violence. *The danger is we'll be deluded by techno-fixes.*

A political and economic revolution is happening too. Neoliberal ideology and top down politics are being challenged especially by younger people. In the year of the 21st annual session of the International Climate Change Conference, to be held in Paris, 30 November to 11 December 2015 and the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, there are growing calls for radical reform of outdated democratic institutions, a fair voting system and a different way of doing politics. The story of Syriza in Greece has much in common with Spain's Podemos, Scotland's Independence Campaign and Jeremy Corbyn's successful surprise bid to lead and transform the UK Labour party.



Bruce Nixon

The greatest problem of our age is a lack of farsighted, courageous leaders who will speak the truth and the disempowerment of citizens who think there is nothing they can do. Hence the sub-title of this book – *A Call to Greatness*.

This accessible, easy to read book will help you make sense of what has gone wrong, offer visionary yet practical solutions and help you decide how you can engage in creating a better world through a peaceful revolution. Above all it will give you hope.

The book will be published in October. Look out for a launch at Berkhamsted Waterstones. Details will be on Bruce's website www.bruce-nixon.com.

Short Story

Short Story/Poem

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! We are asking 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. Let's write lots of stories and enjoy the reads.

Old-timer By H. T. Garton

The tone of his beloved mongrel's bark made Brian's chest tighten. At this time of night it wouldn't be next-door's cat, a squirrel or a fat pigeon that had set Rooney off. He grabbed a torch and raced outside where the dog led him to the farthest corner of the garden. Scrabbling noises came from behind the fence. "Who's there?" Brian yelled. "Clear off!"

There was a resounding thump as something hit the ground, then rapidly receding footsteps. Brian let out a long breath. The would-be intruder had fled and, but for some excited canine snuffling, the sounds of the night had returned to normal. Brian directed his torch's beam at Rooney who was sniffing around a holdall.

"He's chucked it over before realising he had us to deal with," chuckled Brian. He picked it up. "Bloody heavy. Must have been through enough houses tonight," he said as he carried it indoors. "Might as well take a look at the toe rag's haul, eh Roon?"

Brian tipped the contents onto his living room carpet, then sat very still contemplating the biggest, untidiest pile of bank notes he had ever had the pleasure of being close enough to see, touch, smell. In an instant he was transported to a different time. He might not be the man he once was, but he hadn't forgotten what to do.

Within an hour the cash was safely sealed into a neat, watertight cube and placed in a bag. That bag was put in another bag, and that was squeezed into Brian's rucksack. He groaned and swung it on to his back.

Rooney had been watching all the time. Normally he'd be settled down for the night by now. Brian grinned at him.

"How about a bonus late-night walk, Rooney?"

Weeks later Brian was daydreaming about holidays when the doorbell rang. He jumped, and tea splashed from his mug onto his crumpled trousers. "Damn!" He got up to sort out the mess, ignoring the uninvited guest. But the bell kept ringing. "Persistent blighter," he mumbled before giving up on the tea stain and going to the front door. He was cautious, as usual and put the chain on before opening the door. You couldn't be too careful these days.

"Who are you?" he asked, peering through the gap.

Jamie. Who d'you think? Come on, open up Granddad."

The sharp-featured lad was short but brawny. He looked familiar. Brian let him in.

"Where's the money?"

"What money?"

"The money Moonface George dropped over your fence after the job."

"What job?" Brian sat down in his armchair, arms crossed. "I don't do jobs no more. I wasted the best years of my life behind bars after the last one."

"Granddad, I'm not talking about ancient history and your botch job, I'm talking about *my* job. Remember what we agreed? The heat's off now; it's time to divvy up."

"Oh!" said Brian. His relief at the returning memory was mirrored in Jamie's face.

"That money! Yes!" He chuckled. "It did confuse me at first. I

couldn't think how it got here after everything went wrong!"

"What do you mean, 'wrong'? It went off like clockwork. You better not be trying to..."

"Ere, don't you start accusing me of anything!" Brian was outraged. "It was me that took the rap and kept you out of it wasn't it? It was me that did the time!" "Granddad, look at me. It's Jamie, your grandson, yeah? You're thinking of the job you did with Jimmy, my dad, your son."

"Jimmy!" Brian's face lit up.

"Ah, lad, it's been such a long time," he said as he threw his arms around the young man's shoulders.

"Don't panic, son," he said, tapping his nose. "I stuck to *the plan*."

"The *plan*", said Jamie, through gritted teeth, "Was that you were meant to keep it hidden *here*!"

"With my record? Don't be daft!"

"Okay, just tell me what you did with it."

"Did with what?"

"The money!"

"Money?"

"Granddad!"

"You keep calling me that but I don't even know you," said Brian. "And I think you'd best leave. It's time for Rooney's walk."



Autentico Chalk Paint Work Shops

Bookings now being taken for Autumn Paint Work Shops

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• 17th Oct	Learn the Basics	10am to 1pm
• 6th Nov	Learn the Basics	10am to 1pm
• 7th Nov	Learn the Basics	10am to 1pm
• 14th Nov	Learn the Basics	10am to 1pm

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The Chilterns Cycleway

The Chilterns Cycleway is a 170 mile circular cycle route through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, taking in the best of the Chilterns scenery. The route is mainly on-road and is signposted throughout.

See historic villages and lively market towns, stop at one of the many country pubs or National Trust properties along the route or simply enjoy the wonderful views. The Chilterns Cycleway passes through Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, taking in some of the best landscapes in these counties.

Find more information about the [route](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/cycleway.html) including downloadable maps:-
<http://www.chilternsaonb.org/cycleway.html>

Many will find it is suitable for a leisurely one-week tour. But there are lots of options for splitting up the route into shorter sections and exploring a bit at a time. You will find plenty of ideas for [day rides](#) and [short breaks](#), offering something for everyone.

Interactive map: zoom in on the map on the website to see where the route goes and tick the categories on the right to find locations of bike shops, bike hire and railway stations near the Cycleway.

Day Rides From Gateway Towns

There are a number of gateway towns situated along the Chilterns Cycleway which offer a selection of promoted day rides, both on-road and off-road. Some of these rides incorporate sections of the Chilterns Cycleway, but many do not. They are offered as an adjunct to the Chilterns Cycleway for those wanting a different cycling experience,

providing the opportunity to explore the Chiltern's fantastic network of bridleways and byways.

See more at: <http://www.chilternsaonb.org/explore-enjoy/chilterns-cycleway/day-rides.html>

Information sourced from <http://www.chilternsaonb.org>



Your Berkhamsted Clergy

"Materialism" is not a very popular word nowadays. It makes you think of Harry Enfield's 1980s characters like Loadsamoney and the Brummy with the catchphrase "I am considerably richer than you." And I'll admit that when I recently overheard some Loadsamoney throwbacks in the gym changing room bragging to each other about how many houses they own and how much cash they can screw out of their tenants, I got a bit hot under the dog collar.

But in a way, Christianity is a materialistic religion. The Christian faith teaches that God descended into matter in the person of Jesus Christ, that he blessed the created world as he went down into the waters of the Jordan at his baptism, and that after his crucifixion, he ascended into heaven in his physical, material body. This is what we call in the trade the "Incarnation" - God coming "in carne," that is, in the flesh. So, for Christians, there can't be some great dividing line between the spiritual and the material. In Christ, God gives the material realm spiritual importance. Matter matters.

It's no coincidence that the world's two great economic systems, capitalism and socialism, both came from Christian Europe. We've heard a lot from Mr Corbyn about his socialism, and plenty of capitalist reactions. But both socialism and capitalism are about material wealth and how it should be distributed, whether by a socialist state or by capitalist free markets. Either way, both are materialist systems. They evolved from the historical Christian concern about the nature and right use of matter.

You could debate the pros and cons of each, and there are Christians in both camps. But surely neither system is perfect. Perhaps that is because both capitalism and socialism treat material property as the only thing that really matters, an end in itself. For us who believe in a God who entered a material body and lifted it up to heaven, matter matters, yes: but as the means to a spiritual end. That end is God's end, nothing other than the total union of creation with him, oneness of the material with the spiritual.

Pope Francis keeps highlighting how Christians' political choices must always be founded on the preferential option for the poor. Whether capitalism or socialism is better for the poorest people is not for a priest like me to dictate (though some do, and loudly). That is up to the individual's reasoning and conscience. But I would venture that we need to train ourselves, through prayer, to see the spiritual dimension of ordinary matter and ordinary people. In the Eucharist, also called Mass and Holy Communion, Christians learn to see Christ's body and blood in bread and wine, and to receive him into us, body and soul. We are supposed to extend that insight to the ordinary things and people around us, but especially to the poorest and most desperate.

We will never build a perfect society by treating matter, including people, as something to shift around for our convenience. But if we let God open our eyes to the spiritual depths of matter, including ourselves, he will do the work.

Tom Plant, Assistant Curate, St Peter's

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 Rosslyn Laidler: tel 01442 879992
- 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 and Sunday School

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, (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 2 Oct at 7:30pm CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia, Director Adrian Davis. Stravinsky Pulcinella Suite; Vaughn Williams The Lark Ascending with Francesca Barritt *violin*; Mendelssohn Symphony No 4 "Italian". Tickets: www.bridgewatersinfonia.org.uk. £15 bought in advance or £16 on the door. U18s free. Aitchison's 873205

Sat 17 Oct at 2:30pm CONCERT in St Peter's Church, Lady Chapel - 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

Mon 19 Oct at 8pm ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church. Jonathan Lee, St Peter's Berkhamsted. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

Sat 24 Oct at 7:30pm CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Piano Recital 'Antony Hopkins Remembered'. Sarah Beth Briggs, pianist plays Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Hopkins, Debussy, Chopin. Tickets £10, U18s free, 01442 876660 or on the door. In aid of the Iain Rennie and St Francis Hospices.

Mon 02 Nov at 8pm ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

All Saints'

4th: Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity, Harvest Festival, 10am, All Age Morning Worship and Holy Baptism, Revd Rachael Hawkins

11th: Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

18th: St Luke the Evangelist, 10am, Morning Worship, Stephen Fletcher & Malcolm Lindo; 4pm Thanksgiving Service for the bereaved, Revd Rachael Hawkins

25th: Last Sunday after Trinity, 10am, Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

Registers:

St Peter's

Baptisms

30th August Jack Arthur George GREENWOOD; Cooper Rhead JACKSON

Weddings

8th August Michael John DOWELL and Clare Louise CANTRELL

29th August Matthew Alexander James DEAN and Jennifer Louise BRUCE

Funerals

4th August Vera Veronica SANDALL

The Rev'd John McPherson died comfortably in the Hospice of St Francis on 7th April 2015

Further information available from our church websites:

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

Key Church contacts:

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

Fr. Tim Pilkington, 01442 879739, (day off Friday), Team Rector, St Peter's.

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

The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints' 01442 866324.

News from the Hospice of St Francis



Hospice Care Week

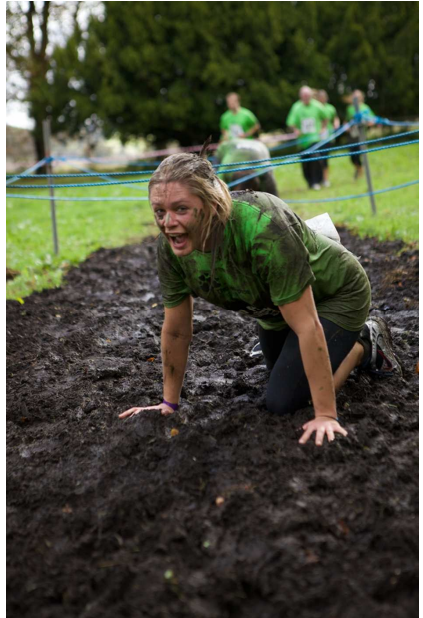
It's Hospice Care Week 5-11 October. Last year our experienced team supported over 2,100 patients living with a life-limiting illness, their families and carers. During the week, do look out for posters around the area, and online, outlining how we help those with a diagnosis of a life-limiting illness, or visit our website - www.stfrancis.org.uk - to find out more about us.

Do also support us during the week if you can by joining our Go Purple day on Friday 9 October! Can you WEAR purple for the day, BAKE purple-iced cakes to sell and host a coffee morning or BE CREATIVE and organise your own crazy purple-themed fundraising activity. The aim is to make purple the colour of the day and help us turn purple into pounds!!

Anyone can take part – schools, businesses, individuals; all we ask is that you have fun and donate what you can to help people who need our Hospice services. For your Go Purple Info Pack: 01442 869555
gopurple@stfrancis.org.uk.

Antique Valuation Evening

Returned to Glory on the Northbridge Road in Berkhamsted is also hosting. An Evening with BBC antique expert John Bly at the showroom on Wednesday 14th October 5:30 – 8:30pm. Enjoy wine and nibbles whilst being entertained by John with his fascinating facts and anecdotes. You can also bring up to two



items to be valued for a donation of £5 per item.

Mud Pack Challenge!

If you like mud and the outdoors, you may also like to support us by doing our Mud Pack Challenge on Sunday 18th October! Join us for our fun 5 or 10 mile obstacle course around the stunning gardens of Ashridge House. Open to anyone over 15, it's just £35 to register and all we ask is that everyone who participates raises a minimum of £50 in sponsorship to help our Hospice care.



to help patients feel better about themselves.

Other News

50 leaves dedicated to a special person who has died have already been bought on our new Memory Tree in our chapel. Over 300 people attended our NGS Open Gardens event in early September! If you missed out, do look out for news of next year's date!

If you're looking to update your furniture or start a new hobby, we have painting workshops using chalky Autentico paint during the autumn at Returned to Glory, our pre-loved furniture store in Berkhamsted. For dates and more info: Facebook/ReturnedtoGlory.

We know we're early but our Christmas cards are available now for those who like to be organised. We have lots of lovely designs and prices starting at £3.25. You can buy them via our website or in our shops.

Also, for all those who love our annual Santa Dash at Riverside Hemel Hempstead, this year's date is Sunday 13 December at 10am! Ho Ho Ho!

www.stfrancis.org.uk

Tel: 01442 869555

Facebook at: TheHospiceofStFrancis

Twitter: hospicstfrancis

Other Care News

Our Pony days continue to be popular with 11 families taking part over the last few months. These see children riding horses in our grounds which helps them build resilience either pre or post bereavement.

We are reaching more patients earlier in an illness, and carers, via our Spring Centre. Over the summer 70 carers attended our Pamper Day and last year over 750 people were supported at the Centre. During the autumn we are piloting a Hair, Wig & Nail Care workshop designed to increase women's self-esteem and confidence after chemotherapy and are continuing to offer wellbeing courses and groups like our Kitchen Garden Group, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy & adapted Tai Chi

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Berkhamsted School News

Ashlyns School

County Rugby & Tag Festival Ashlyns has been hugely successful at the Herts Rugby County Trials with Ben St John and Kyle McDonald (Y8) and Harry Keoghane-Beech and Toby Russell (Y9) being selected for the team. We anticipate more good news to follow with the Y10 team. Meanwhile, Y10 participated in the Camelot Rugby Club Tag Rugby festival in Hemel earlier this week. The team won 2 of their matches with fantastic performances. Special mention to Maddie Kiernan who scored some great personal tries. The season is looking good for the boys and girls teams.

Farewell to Mrs Russell. A fond farewell to Mrs Russell who, after over 20 years at Ashlyns, is retiring.

Outstanding results were achieved by many students with a large number of Y13 students achieving the results for their first choice of university. Amongst those celebrating were Ellie Dibben and Elizabeth Johnson, who have confirmed places for Oxford University. Students celebrated acceptance onto a wide range of academic and vocational courses at universities including Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Kings College London, Leeds, Liverpool, Loughborough, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Southampton, St Andrews and Sussex. Ashlyns has celebrated its best ever GCSE results.

Berkhamsted School

The 2015 rugby season promises to be another exciting one and, following the remarkable achievements of 2014, everyone involved is excited about getting started. This year marks the 100th year of rugby at Berkhamsted with the school's first fixtures being played against Mill Hill

School and Haileybury College back in 1915, and 2015 promises to be a memorable season as we look to mark our centenary year in style.

A ground-breaking ceremony marking the start of a project to upgrade the pavilion at Berkhamsted School's Chesham Road playing fields took place on Saturday 12 September. The new pavilion will be named in memory of David Case, a pupil of the School who tragically lost his life in a car accident shortly before writing his A Levels in 1983. The breaking of the ground was performed by his brothers, Richard and Andi Case, who also attended the school.

Westfield Primary School

Are you a parent of a child with ADHD/ASD/ Communication Disorder or with Sensory Processing needs? A new daytime support group has been set up at Westfield Primary for parents across Berkhamsted. The group is facilitated by Lisa MacGovern (School Family Worker) and Sian Evans (INCO at Westfield Primary). Cathy May from ADD-vance will attend along with Jo Whitlock from the Communication Disorders Team. Details are: Wednesday 21st October At Westfield Primary School (Community Room), Durrants Lane, Berkhamsted, HP4 3PJ. Coffee will be available from 1.15 pm and toddlers are welcome!

Victoria and Thomas Coram School

admissions: Families wishing St Peter's clergy to sign forms in support of applications to Victoria or Thomas Coram School should ensure that they sign the book when they attend services. The book will be at the back of church during the 9.30am Sunday Eucharist. Families attending other services should ask clergy for access to the book.

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Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



This is Nymeria Sand, an Akita/ Mastiff cross. She has been with us since she was a puppy and is now aged just over one year. She is a very friendly girl but needs

owners with experience of either Akitas or Mastiffs, who are willing to continue her training so she can reach her full potential.

If you feel you could offer Nymeria, or any of our other dogs a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website or call the kennels.

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OXFAM ONLINE

The Oxfam Online shop is an Aladdin's Cave of interesting and unusual bargains. Ranging from Vintage to everyday and bridal outfits, the site also offers stamps and coins, artefacts and of course books. Oxfam Berkhamsted Books and Music is now extending its successful High St presence to customers elsewhere by listing a range of unusual and specialist items in the Online Shop.

But selling online is time-consuming and more volunteer help would be welcome. The Standard shop is also hoping to branch out into online selling. Please contact the managers for more details. To view the items on offer use the Shop Finder on the Oxfam GB website or go direct to www.Oxfam.org.uk/shop/local-shops/oxfam-books-music-berkhamsted.



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The Rising Sun - CAMRA Award

Helen Reeley

Berkhamsted's most popular watering hole, The Rising Sun, has been voted CAMRA regional Pub of the Year for real ale and regional Pub of the Year for cider 2015. The award is judged by CAMRA members on criteria such as welcome, décor, mix of age groups, community events as well as promoting real ale &

get together, attended I do believe by our very own Father Tom. In the summer, The Riser & The Lamb PH take part in a charity fundraiser by playing cricket up at Little Gaddesden. There's a weekly quiz night which gets very competitive among the locals and the pub always shows the Rugby 6 Nations tournament and is cur-



cider. The pub has fifteen real ciders & five real ales along with their own 'Riser Bitter' which is permanently on sale.

The Riser, as it's locally known is run by licensees & old hands Nigel & Mark who have been the business owners since November 2008. The Riser was a real ale pub when they took the business over but Nigel & Mark have worked hard to increase its standing as a top quality drinking establishment where you can sniff snuff & enjoy a Havana cigar.

During the year no less than four beer &

rently showing most of the Rugby World Cup games.

During summer months the travelling Mikron Theatre Company entertain punters on the lock side with a play or two. Woodside & Aldbury Morris also dance here & drinkers get to join in the last dance. With so much going on it's surprising Nigel & Mark found time to set up a pop-up restaurant. Monthly 'Fanny' gastro evenings feature local food cooked & presented with much imagination & flair & seats sell out well in advance.

Local folk musicians meet the first Sunday of the month in the snug to play & sing & 'Cheese Club' takes place on third Saturday. Coming up in December will be an outdoor carol concert/sing-along with the Salvation Army.

Atmosphere is available by the keg load & so refreshing to find oodles of it at this pub in a time when so many other places are stamping theirs out with brand identity.



There's always something going on at The Riser.... & there's a rumour they sell top quality beer!

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Your Garden

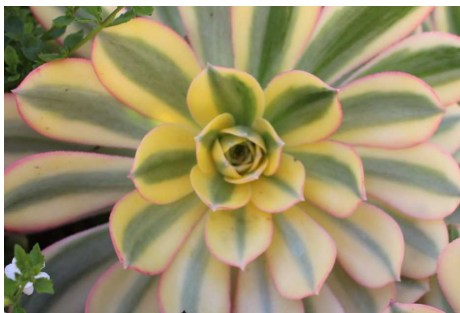
Helen Reeley

Adventures in boots-by Helen Reeley

In the time of the small garden & apartment living, of which we have plenty in Berkhamsted, I'm increasingly asked to provide container gardens & planting. In fact if I look around my clients' gardens I can see the colour right now is mostly provided by plants in pots, troughs, raised beds, sinks, metal pails, wine crates & the like.

Most folk around here haven't got time to transform the claggy, flinty medium (which passes for soil) with manure & compost, so container planting provides a simple & easy solution to providing colour, form & texture to your outdoor space throughout the year. In times of hot weather, the pots can be moved to a slightly shadier part of the garden & they can be grouped together to avoid water loss. Of course, hot weather is such a rarity in this country, I can't envisage much pot moving happening. My containers have been outside on a sunny west facing breezy hill for two summers now & I haven't had to move them once.

And because pots can be situated on raised platforms, I find the maintenance so much easier than bending down to ground level. In fact smaller pots can be lifted up to a work surface for pampering & then rearranged alternatively in another part of the garden to suit. Some plants benefit from a bit of winter protection & those growing in containers can be moved to a south/west facing wall of the house. It's then easier then to pop a piece of fleece over the plants should the white stuff arrive.



I have a small collection of aloes & echeverias in containers which get moved into a leaky greenhouse over winter. The sempervivums which are as hard as nails stay outside to face whatever gets thrown at them. I find all these beauties form an integral part to the design of my summer display & their upkeep is minimal. I grew *Ricinus communis* 'Impala' for the first time this year which I'll overwinter in the green house-it may or may not provide me with some red interest in the form of a small shrub until next spring when I'll plant fresh seeds.

Another benefit to container gardening is you can adjust the compost you use to grow acid loving or ericaceous plants. I'm not a fan of camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas etc in pots-they can often look bedraggled & old school but a few heathers or *Callunas* well placed can add something especially to autumn & winter planting. Of course, the totally gross dyed heather plants one sees in the shops are to be avoided. Period.

Do drop me a line if you have any queries
helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk 07708
643313 www.reeleylandscapes.co.uk
TTFN

Your Sport

Matthew Dawson

A move up North

I've now made the trip up north to Huddersfield where I will spend the next 3 years of my life as I start university. I've been the sports reporter for YB for a while now and for the moment despite my venture into uni life, I'll continue to write and report my musings back from the north to the south.

As I'm now living in Huddersfield, where I'll be studying sports journalism, I thought there'd be no better way to get started than by looking at the town's sporting heritage. I'm not a rugby league fan myself, but that is indeed what Huddersfield is renowned for. It's the birth place of rugby league and the home of Huddersfield Giants. Although the Rugby Union World Cup started last month it's rugby league that remains a poignant part of the furniture in this part of the country.

If any of you don't have a clue what rugby league is then it does slightly differ from union where the rules have changed since its inception. It's a full contact sport played between two teams of 13 players, rather than the 15 players in union, and lasts for 80 minutes. In rugby league points can be achieved by scoring tries which happens by placing the ball down beyond the opposition's goal line and then by kicking goals.

Rugby league originated in 1895 as a split from rugby union over an issue of payments to players. However down the years its gradually changed and the divide between union and league is clear as the latter strives to produce a faster and more entertaining form of rugby football.

The entertainment though is obviously down to pure opinion. How exactly did it form though? And why is it more prominent in the north of England?

In 1892, charges of professionalism were laid against rugby football clubs in Bradford and Leeds, both in Yorkshire, of course where Huddersfield is also

situated. This was as a result of players being compensated for missing work. This was despite the fact that the English Rugby Football Union (RFU) were allowing other players to be paid.

In 1893 clubs in Yorkshire made a complaint that the southern clubs were being over represented on the RFU committee and because the committee meetings were being held in London, it was obviously difficult for members in the north to actually attend. This was a key factor in the outbreak of arguments regarding payments as the Northern clubs felt they weren't having a big enough say in proceedings. This obviously affected the north quite significantly. A proposal



was put forward for players in the north to receive up to six shillings when they missed work because of match commitments. However that was swiftly voted down by the RFU and northern clubs and players were hit with suspensions. As a result, this inspired the northern rugby officials to form their own professional league and with it, rugby league was born.

It was typical for Northern teams to have more working class players, those such as coal miners would turn up for their clubs

and couldn't always afford to miss work and play without compensation. This was significantly different to the south where players were seemingly better off and could afford to play without compensation. It was then that in 1895, a decree by the RFU banning the playing of rugby at grounds where entrance fees were charged, led to 22 clubs coming together and meeting at the George Hotel in Huddersfield on 29 August 1895. It was there that the "Northern Rugby Football Union" which is now the "Rugby Football League" was formed.

Did you know

Dr Gwyn Rowlands an English-born [rugby union](#) wing, who played international rugby for the [Wales national team](#) was born and educated in Berkhamsted. He also represented [London Welsh](#), [Cardiff](#) and the Royal Air Force at club level and had dual qualifications for both England and Wales.

He was unsuccessful at trials for [England national team](#) during the 1948/49 season, but was then invited to trial for Wales in 1949. During national service for the Royal Air Force at [St Athan](#), he was invited to join Cardiff Rugby Club. In 1953 when he was part of the Cardiff team facing the touring [New Zealand team](#), Rowlands was instrumental in a famous victory; his cross-kick set up the first Cardiff [try](#), which was scored by [Sid Judd](#),

by Rowlands. This won him his first international cap for Wales and when facing same touring [New Zealand team](#), he made a major contribution to the final result, scoring two conversions and a penalty goal in a 13–8 victory. Rowlands played in three more internationals for Wales, against England and France as part of the [1953 Five Nations Championship](#) and was brought in to face France again in [1956](#).

After rugby

He became a [doctor](#) in Berkhamsted, taking over his father's general practice. Rowlands lived with his wife for the remainder of his life in Berkhamsted and died at [Stoke Mandeville Hospital](#) on 30 April 2010.

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