

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

November 2015

FiveQuidKids - keep children safe

The Gatsby - 10 years on!

In remembrance - voices from wars

What's on guide for November



50p

Mitze Green

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

In this issue...

Welcome to the November 2015 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

This time of year is lovely with the hues of orange and gold and our front cover really captures this. November brings with it some key dates, firstly the 8th is Remembrance Sunday and like every town, families would have lost loved ones in two World Wars and later conflicts – please look at our contribution on page 13. For Guy Fawkes night look out for the firework displays across the county – please enjoy but keep safe. Also not forgetting our own Festival of Light at the end of the month, when we will truly start thinking of Christmas. 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: Thank you Mitzie Green for the lovely painting of autumn woods used for the front cover. Please see Mitzie's work on www.mitziegreen.co.uk

Please note last month's front cover artist has a new website: www.marycasserley.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

Julian Dawson



We'll start up north, and possibly with the debut of yorkshirepost.co.uk in this column. Golfer John Hammond retired as professional of Ilkley GC (stop singing at the back). He began his career in 1971, at the Berkhamsted Club. Where else. Blogs come two a penny, one such being meandmrjones.co.uk. Nothing particularly special about sharing everyday life. Though, this tells us of someone else on the move, after three years in the town. They come in, enjoy the town, spend their money in the coffee bars, and then promotion and off to the wide blue yonder of another market town, or gentrified inner London. But yet, despite the veneer of coffee shops, estate agents and upcycle tat, the town still boasts manufacturing for us to be proud of. foresternetwork.com reports on the senior technology advisor of Magnet Applications speaking at the Magnets 2016 Conference in Jacksonville Florida. I can tell you are definitely attracted. And the relevance is not poles apart, as studious readers of my column will remember that the company has operations in DuBois Pennsylvania and our very own town. We had hardly returned to school for the new term when already minds had turned to half term. hemeltoday.co.uk

reported that youngsters could keep fit with the Arsenal training course, both here and in Hemel Hempstead. Apparently the courses will follow maestro Wenger's own patented style of coaching. Presumably complete with pinched features and stressed but yet still Gallic elegant air. Which reminds me, there is a very fine bronze bust of the man at Ashridge, at least last I was there. I can't imagine that anyone would commission one for Glen Hoddle, but perhaps someone will put me right. Don't forget that thecoldend.blogspot.co.uk will give your regular fix of non-league football. At the time of writing it is worth recording that Berkhamsted FC had yet to be defeated at home. But I am sure I have just invoked the commentator's curse on that particular proud record. Many of you will sincerely hope I will take due note of the internetwritingworkshop.blogspot.co.uk. I shall do my best.

Though it tells us nothing new in its diary of October 2nd, marking of course the birth of our own Graham Greene. The workshop, by the way, is a cooperative with free membership, though there are participation requirements.

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

It claims to be the oldest and most respected of the writing critique groups. From writing to art. On

jennythorburn.wordpress.com, architect Jenny explains how she prepares for her art exhibition that was to take place at the Upstairs Gallery. If you went along to the Good the Bad and the Ugly do let us know what you thought.

But still we cannot escape the clutches of past glories. The amusingly titled wheniwasbuyingyouadrinkwherewereyou. blogspot.co.uk (I was writing my latest YB article, seeing as you asked) also lazily

recalls Mr Greene's birthday. Still I rather enjoyed the touching poem on the blogs strapline, which begins with the line "When I was waiting in a bar where were you?" – sounds familiar! Probably got delayed by the trains mate.



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What's on

Every 2nd Tuesday at 12.30pm to 1.15pm:
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: 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 more info:
enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

**Ashridge Christmas Trail – 14th Nov
to 31st Dec, £1**

Take a stroll through the woodland
discovering more about winter and
Christmas time at Ashridge. Visit the
Ashridge Visitor Centre to collect your
trail map and follow the trail, answer the
questions and return to collect your
Christmas reward. No need to book, just
turn up.

**For Ashridge and a full list of events
please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or to book your place contact
the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227.**

**Tues 10th Nov at 8pm - Life/Still Life
Painting in Mixed Media.** A
demonstration of painting by Joanna
Stone. Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedartsociety.com.
Visitors on the door £3

11th Nov at 7pm for 7.45pm start - in
your diary for another cabaret of short
stories brought to life by the wonderful
Speakeasy actors at The King's Arms,
Berkhamsted. We're heading off to The
Great Outdoors for the evening's stories,
with tales from Annie Proulx, Lionel
Shriver and Daniel Woodrell. Tickets are
on sale now. You can purchase them by
following this
link: www.berkospeakeasy.co.uk/p/tickets.html.

**Thurs 12th Nov at 8pm - Living in the
Computer-Cut House**

Deciding to build a new home from
scratch may be considered brave, but to
undertake a project like this without an
architect and using new technology was
taking a giant leap into the unknown.
Come and hear what it is like to see your
house being built using a new computer-
assisted method for cutting precision-
engineered building blocks from scratch.
And more importantly hear about what it
has been like to live in this innovative
building. Town Hall, High St Berkhamsted.

**Mon 25th Nov at 8pm – Comedy -
President Obonjo's Lafta Invasion Tour**

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Winter Foeneader, Fred Ferenczi and
President Obonjo.

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£3.00/£1.50 concessions. Collection for
Pepper Nurses. (Continued on page 8)

What's on, continued



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Saturday 7 November

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Fri 27 — Sun 29th November — Town Farm Art Show, Cheddington

Eleven talented artists & makers showing an exciting mix of hand-crafted, high quality artwork. Paintings, illustration, ceramics, woodcraft, woodcarving, Egyptian quilts & jewellery, plus sculpture in the garden. Photos & more info at

www.townfarmartshow.blogspot.com.

Mulled wine, mince pies & Christmas cake in aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care. ONE WEEKEND ONLY. Fri 27 — Sun 29 Nov, 10am — 4pm. Free Entry. 6 Town Farm, Cheddington, Nr Tring, LU7 0TT. Please park on High Street not in Town Farm.

Out of Town

The Court Theatre:

www.courttheatre.co.uk

Aylesbury Waterside Theatre: for

information: www.atgtickets.com

Watford Colosseum: for information -

<https://watfordcolosseum.co.uk>

Thurs 5th Nov at 6pm — Bonfire Night, Ashley Green Community Association. On the Glebe. Fireworks 7pm. Tickets £5 or family of 5 £20. There will be mulled wine, sausage in rolls and sparklers. Tickets at gate.

Newsflash— Charity event at Zen

Hairdressers, Berkhamsted. Thurs, 12th Nov— 6pm to 8pm. Tel: 01442 866002

Keeping your kids safe

Berkhamsted is a great place for young families. Walks along the canal, exploring Ashridge and clambering round the castle are all free and active days out.

While it's great to get your kids out and about, it's really important to keep safe when exploring? says Katrina Phillips, Chief Executive of the Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT). Here are some of her hints for a fun and safe autumn. Teach young people about the dangers of swimming in lakes, rivers or canals. Strong currents can pull them under and dangers can be lurking in murky waters. Learning the green cross code is a great road safety start for five year olds. Encourage older children not to text or talk on mobiles or listen to music while crossing the road.

Wearing a cycle helmet is a must for children of all ages. If they start young, it's more likely to become a normal habit as children get older.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust is a small charity on a big mission to reduce the number of children killed, disabled or injured in preventable accidents. To raise awareness of this issue VCCPme have just released a fun viral film.

Local resident and the project's Art Director, Brett Gascoigne, chuckles: They say never work with animals or children, but it was a delight to watch the kid's reactions to being offered £5 and then wrangle with the choice to give it to charity. There are some very funny responses.

You can watch the film and donate at www.capt.org.uk/FiveQuidKids



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Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society



Pilkington Manor, another lost house in the High Street (cont)

In 1852 the Pilkington Manor Estate had been sold for £3,250 (£3,200 for the freehold and £50 for the copyhold strip of land in front of the mansion). The buyer was one Frederick Miller, upholsterer, of Berkhamsted St. Peter's. The sale comprised 'all that capitall messuage Manor House or tenement called Pilkington with coach houses dove houses buildings gardens and fishponds in the town of Berkhamsted St. Peter abutting on the piece of copyhold ground adjoining the High Street on the SW and belonging thereto.' The Manor Estate was extensive stretching from Castle Street to Ravens Lane fronting the High Street and from the High Street right to White Hill. The garden was enclosed by a high 18th century brick wall, containing some 17th century bricks. Part of this wall survives behind houses in Manor Street and Chapel Street.

As R.A. Norris said in his book on St. Peter's it was this sale, which began the break up of the estate. In 1853 William Cooper bought meadowland in Ravens Lane for £140 to build his first factory to produce sheep dip. Not only did Frederick gradually sell off the land but he also divided the Manor House itself into three separate dwellings. As Nash in his *Reminiscences of Berkhamsted* says of the house, 'The house now consists of several dwellings but originally was only one.'

Who then was this Frederick Miller and how was he able to purchase the manor house and also apparently continue to do well enough to live on his own means? From the 1841 census we learn that Frederick and his family had been living in Berkhamsted since the mid-1820s since only the eldest son, James had not been born in the town. Frederick described himself as a furniture broker. By this time he and his wife Hannah already had four sons and two daughters. The family lived in the High Street next door to a 'dissenting minister', William Hodge, minister of the Congregational Church. Later Frederick was to build three cottages in Castle Street, which he gave to the Congregational Church.

In the 1851 census Frederick now aged 52 described himself as an upholsterer, which is how he is described in the sales documents. He was born in Putney and his wife, Hannah in Oxfordshire. Frederick junior, Caroline and Ezra are all assistants in the business. Alfred is still at school and the eldest son, James has already flown the nest. The business must have been flourishing or perhaps Frederick had inherited some money since the following year he purchased the estate.

By tracing the family through the census returns until 1911 we learn a great deal about their fortunes and that of the Manor House. In 1861 we learn that Frederick and Hannah are now living in the Manor house and he describes himself as a House and Land Proprietor.

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

We know he has already built some houses and sold on some of the estate, including Manor Croft in Manor Street. Alfred, the youngest son, still unmarried, is an upholsterer's assistant, so Frederick is still nominally in charge of the business. A granddaughter, daughter of Frederick Junior, is living with them and they employ a servant.

By 1871 Frederick is retired. He is 72.

Granddaughter Ellen Skinner a school-teacher lives with them. Alfred appears to be living on his own means, so carrying on his Father's entrepreneurial ways. Frederick died in the autumn of 1871. In his will he distributed various parts of the large estate



to his children and grandchildren, so the break up of the estate continued after his death. Kelly's Directories give us yet more information about the family and where they were living.

Under private residents in 1890 Frederick Miller Junior was living in the Manor house and Alfred Miller was in Manor Villa (Croft). In the commercial directory Ezra Miller had an ironmonger's business. Additionally in the 1899 directory Alfred is a picture frame maker and china and glass dealer. Ezra is a china dealer and upholsterer. All the family seem to be enterprising businessmen.

In the 1901 census Pilkington Manor was 110, 112, 114 High Street so three separate dwellings. In 110 lived a mother and daughter both widows of independent means, in 112 lived Alfred Miller with wife, four children a lodger and a boarder. Alfred was a lodging housekeeper. At 114 lived Emily Tompkins, retired butcher, widow, and an unmarried daughter and servant. Between 1920 and 1949, when Pilkington Manor was listed Grade III (old listing),

the country experienced a recession and the Second World War, both of which caused considerable difficulties with the maintenance of large buildings. In 1949 Pilkington Manor was already in a

sorry state, the west end shored up whilst the remainder was still lived in. By the late 1950s little remained of the original house after alteration to build a row of shops. Today flats, bearing the name Pilkington Manor incorporate a copy of the doorway.

Jenny Sherwood
Berkhamsted Museum and History
Society

In remembrance – voices from wars

In this month of remembrance we bring you a famous poem which reflects a writer's personal loss through warfare, and resources for adults and children to hear about experiences of war from people who lived through times of conflict in the twentieth century.

My Boy Jack by Rudyard Kipling

'Have you news of my boy Jack?'
Not this tide.
'When d'you think that he'll come back?'
Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

'Has any one else had word of him?'
Not this tide.
For what is sunk will hardly swim,
Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.

'Oh, dear, what comfort can I find?'
None this tide,
Nor any tide,
Except he did not shame his kind –
Not even with that wind blowing, and that tide.

Then hold your head up all the more,
This tide,
And every tide;
Because he was the son you bore,
And gave to that wind blowing and that tide!

Rudyard Kipling wrote this poem following the death of his eighteen-year-old son, John (known as Jack), at the Battle of Loos in September 1915.

BBC Witness Collection

The BBC Witness Collection, an excellent resource from the BBC World Service, includes over fifty first-hand accounts of significant moments from the Second World War.

Highlights include testimony from: Ela Weissberger, who was an 11-year-old prisoner in the Theresienstadt concentration camp when the Nazis allowed the International Red Cross to visit in June 1944.

Paul Tibbets, the pilot of the Enola Gay, which dropped the atom bomb on Hiroshima, and a young Japanese girl who survived the destruction of the city.

Johnny Johnson, who was part of the Dambusters mission to attack the dams in the Ruhr valley in Germany in 1943.

Resources for children

The BBC website has some fascinating online material about the First World War, aimed at primary school children. A series of short animations shows the lives of well-known figures such as nurse Edith Cavell, who was executed for helping Allied soldiers escape from German-occupied Belgium, and sixteen-year-old soldier Jack Cornwell, who is remembered as the 'Hero of Jutland'. There are also animations about life during the Great War at home, in the workplace, at school and in the trenches.

Watch and listen at www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/

Listen to all of the eyewitness accounts at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02prmgr

Ian Skillicorn

Short Story

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 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. Let's write lots of stories and enjoy the reads. Over to you all!"

'Chionophobia'

Maxine had probably overdone it at the après ski, but today she surveyed the grey glowering slopes through two sets of red rims. The first circled the sore pink globes that passed for her eyes; the second adorned her newest pair of sunglasses. Apparently they protected her from UVA/UVB, sunstroke, beriberi and whatever else she might succumb to in this godforsaken place. She reached up and massaged her right temple. Last night's Wisconsin beerfest, rather than improve her mood, had simply left her feeling queasy. She'd been up for a break when she thought they meant two weeks in the Canaries but, when it came to a vote, she'd lost the draw. Boy, could friends let you down.

Momentarily the sun passed behind a cloud, affording her some temporary respite from its unyielding glare. What was the point of sun anyway, when you couldn't sunbathe?

What was the point of going home with a peeling nose and a tan from the neck up? She should never have come.

It was a quiet time of year, and she thought she could pick out the individual shapes of Lisa and Chrissie, showing off and swooping and weaving their way over the piste like something out of James Bond. It might not be them. She couldn't be sure. Anyway, good luck to them if it was. She didn't like the look of it – the big expanse of nothingness and the nasty dark green trees. When the sun disappeared, it looked bleak and stark and lonely in a way you couldn't really describe, but it was like the end of the world. Imagine if you died up there, and you could. Better to die where there were lights and shops and people - not up there in the nothingness. Underneath her cheery pink ski suit, her skin prickled and she shivered. She thought of wolves and avalanches, and that other thing. What was it – Bigfoot?

She laughed to herself, and at herself. She really ought to get a grip. As if anything would be out there in bare feet. She hadn't felt her own feet since she'd arrived. They were horrible achy blue things, and now she had to stomp them over to the nursery slopes to be insulted by that know-all, Heinrich. He had an accent and a half, and she didn't know what he was going on about half the time, but he was always barking at her and grunting into that big bushy beard of his. Not that she could hear him properly anyway, what with being flat on her face all the time.

The sky was getting darker now, and there was a heaviness in the air that said more snow on the way. Great, she would call off the lesson and curl up with a book somewhere. She'd just go and tell him straight. This was a holiday after all – not some suicidal boot camp.

Something wet settled on her nose. Yep, it was on its way alright, and there he was coming for her, just coming out of that bank of trees. She squinted through puffy eyelids. He was a distance away still, but it had to be him. He could lose some weight actually.

Driven down by the weather, Lisa and Chrissie were just in time to see Heinrich heading off with Maxine.

Lisa waved. 'Hey, look. He's carrying her.' 'Probably fallen over again,' said Chrissie. 'Unless it's love.'

Lisa pulled a face. 'Really? Ooh, he wouldn't be my type. Call me shallow but...'

'But what?'

'Well, really... have you seen the size of those feet?'

by Jan Halstead

Berkhamsted in the news


11:44 'Duck lane' created on Berkhamsted towpath



Dani Bailey
BBC Local Live

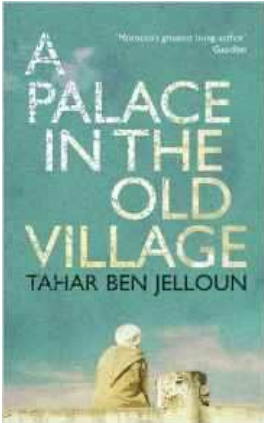
A quack-ing ideal Canal towpaths are becoming busier and busier, so much so that a "duck lane" has been created in Berkhamsted.



The Canal and River Trust  has painted the temporary duck lane to highlight the narrowness of space along canals in the area, and to encourage walkers, cyclists, runners, boaters – even wildlife – to think of each other.

Book Review

A Palace in the Old Village. By Tahar Ben Jelloun. Arcadia Books; 165 pages



As elements of the press and politicians of the right froth at the mouth over the issue of immigration, Ben Jelloun's moving and poignant tale of a North African immigrant in France is particularly

apposite. The author himself was born in Fez, moving to France when 27 years old. A well established writer and winner of the Prix Goncourt, his work has been translated from the French by Linda Coverdale, and it loses none of its power to move.

Mohammad has worked, like many of his fellow immigrants, in the Renault factory outside Paris, contributing to the success of the French economy. He has a pride in his work, which consumes most of his life. When he has to retire, his life is suddenly empty. His children have assimilated into French society, though they are not fully accepted. But he doesn't wish to let go of his roots, and longs to return to his home Moroccan village.

The book has a dreamy air as we enter Mohammad's consciousness. We follow his love of Islam, of his religion. But his illiteracy means that he cannot read his prized copy of the Quran, lovingly

protected in precious cloth. He is drawn to build a large house in the village of his birth, in a vain attempt to win his children back. It becomes a sad folly, a tumble down rambling building with odd shaped impractical windows and plumbing and cables without running water or electricity.

Through the sadness of a fading life, Mohammad's undoubted faith runs through, and in a society where the Moslem faith is often misrepresented, this provides a neat counterpoint and an understanding of those who are called to the Prophet.

Julian Dawson

Charity Christmas card & gift sale



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SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
9.00am. – 1.00pm.**

Your Berkhamsted Clergy



This is the month when we REMEMBER, but whom do we remember and why?

On Sunday 1st November we remember and give thanks to God for all

those men and women who have witnessed to their Christian Faith in special or demanding circumstances: the Church calls these Saints and Martyrs. This is a special day for our friends at All Saints' Church in the town as they celebrate their Patronal Festival. Such people as the Saints offer us encouragement when we find faith a struggle; they aid us by their prayers and by their example. These people have demonstrated that alternative way of seeing the world with God at the centre rather than the self, definitely counter cultural.

In the evening of Sunday 1st November (6 pm) we recall our departed loved ones in a special Eucharist called a requiem. All who have had the funerals of their loved ones either in St. Peter's or using the clergy from the church are invited, together with anyone else who wishes to remember their loved ones, to come and light a candle as a sign of their continuing love and remembrance for a special loved one. Do join us for this reflective and deeply moving service. In this service we are following the command of Jesus to take bread and wine and to "Do this in remembrance of me". Remembering,

recalling and making present what Jesus did for us through his own death and resurrection in and through the eucharist we draw closer to our departed loved ones, for we are in a real sense joining them in the presence of the love of God as they continue to grow and are fulfilled in his keeping. We thus prepare to join them one day in the Communion of Saints.

On Remembrance Sunday we MUST remember those who made the supreme sacrifice, those who had life taken from them in order that we might live in freedom. In addition to recalling the on-going centenary of the horrors of World War I, this year has seen the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain together with the 70th anniversaries of V.E. and V.J. day. We must never, ever, take this for granted as we continue to remember in our own day those young women and men who have given their all in whatever capacity they have served in the armed forces of the Crown. Yet as we remember we also should surely come with a sense of re-dedication, committing ourselves to withstand evil and to give our all for the well being of our community.

Fr. Tim
Rector of Berkhamsted

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 David Burbidge 862139.
- 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)

Further information available from our church websites:

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

This Month's Diary

Events at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, presented by The Cowper Society

Mon 2 Nov 8:00pm ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church - Simon Tong: Trumpet, Jonathan Lee: Organ. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

Mon 16 Nov 8:00pm ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Marilyn Harper, Christ Church, Dulwich. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

Sat 21 Nov 7:30pm CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia with Chiltern Chamber Choir, Director Adrian Davis. Bizet L'Arlésienne Suite No 1, Brahms Schicksalslied Op 54, Cherubini Requiem. Tickets: www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk £15 bought in advance or £16 on the door. U18s free. Aitchison's High St; 873205.

Mon 7 Dec 8:00pm ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church - Nicholas King, Hemel Hempstead. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

Services

1st Nov: 8.00am Eucharist, 9.30am Parish Sung Eucharist for All Saints', 6.00pm Solemn Requiem Eucharist for All Souls

8th Nov: 8.00am Eucharist, 9.30am Parish Sung Eucharist, 3.00pm Royal British Legion Remembrance Service

15th Nov: 9.30am Parish Sung Eucharist, 11.00am Third Sunday Service, 6.00pm Evening Prayer

22nd Nov: 8.00am Eucharist, 9.30am Parish Sung Eucharist, 6.00pm Evening Prayer

29th Nov: 8.00am Eucharist, 9.30am Parish Sung Eucharist, 6.00pm Advent Carol Service

All Saints'

1st: All Saints' Day, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Revd Tim Pilkington

8th: Remembrance Sunday, 8am: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 10am: Morning Worship, Ruth Treves Brown

15th: Second Sunday before Advent, 10am: Morning Worship, Richard Hackworth & Tracy Robinson; 4pm: Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

22nd: Christ the King, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd Valerie Rockall,

29th: Advent Sunday, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 4pm: Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Tracy Robinson, and Audrey Cox

Registers:

St Peter's

Baptisms: 27th September – Cristabel Freer; Charlie Williams

Weddings: 26th September – Mark Stevenson Slater and Lucy Anne O'Neill

Funerals: 14th September – William Arthur Westgate

All Saints'

Baptisms: 4 October Louie Jacob Swansborough

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

Art Bags

We've launched a new art bag, funded by Macmillan, to boost the wellbeing of individuals living with a life-limiting illness in our community, or connected to Hospice care. The first art bag contains all the materials needed to complete a weaving project. Once completed, artists can return their creation to the Hospice or one of its shops and an initial display of completed projects will be on display at our Art at the Heart exhibition at the Hospice on Sunday 15th November 10am – 4pm. The exhibition will showcase beautiful art and sculptures and there will be a chance to meet local artists and pick up some Christmas presents.

"Use of art has proven therapeutic benefits to patients," explains Macmillan

Creative Therapists Annalie Ashwell and Hannah Cridford'. "We have created our free Hospice art bags to give people a simple, creative activity which encourages them to focus on

doing something 'in the moment', fostering enjoyment and relaxation."



Grant buys

Hospice Two New Rise-Recliner Chairs

A £3,000 grant from The Boshier-Hinton Foundation has funded two brand new Rise-Recliner Chairs for use at the Hospice by patients.

The high pressure relief armchairs, which tilt and recline and can even be used to sit and stand mean that patients who might otherwise be bed-bound can spend their days out of bed and in total comfort. The chairs can also be wiped clean which is a huge advantage in terms of infection control.

One patient who has benefitted hugely from having one in her room is mum-of-four Gill Lightstone, from Hemel Hempstead, who refers to the chair as "a huge friend."

Gill has fractures in both legs as well as her right arm as a result of cancer spreading to her bones. She has to be hoisted into the chair but she said: "Being stuck in bed all day was hugely frustrating. Having the chair has made such a difference to my days."



Spring Centre courses

We are holding a colour and style workshop for those affected by serious illness on Thur 19th November 10am – 12noon. We also have a Hair, Wig and

Nail Care Workshop on Tuesday 1 December 10am – 12:30am. Contact sandy.winyard@stfrancis.org.uk for more information.

Treasurer Wanted

We are looking for a new Treasurer to join our Board of Trustees. The new Treasurer needs to be a qualified accountant who has worked in a senior finance role and has had an extensive career in financial management. The Board of Trustees meets six times a year, usually on a Monday evening, with an annual conference on a Saturday to review strategy and performance. The post is voluntary but expenses are paid. Interested candidates should contact Clare Miles, Company Secretary, for further information or to register their interest – 01442 869556/ E: clare.miles@stfrancis.org.uk

Go Purple

Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Go Purple awareness day! It was a delight to see local people dressed in everything from lilac to lavender and mauve to violet to show their support for Hospice care!

Christmas and Beyond!

Christmas is coming and there are many ways to support your local Hospice this festive season: Buy some of our beautiful charity **Christmas cards** for sale at our shops and online!

Purchase a Norwegian spruce, non-drop, **Christmas tree** from the Hospice in early December. Great prices! All profits from the sale of the trees will come to the Hospice. Keep an eye on our website for details.

Come to our **Christmas shopping evenings**, taking place at Returned to Glory (our homeware and pre-loved furniture shop on the Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted) on Wednesday 4 November from 5 – 8pm and at our Number Twenty gift shop on the Lower Kings Road on Thursday 12th November.



Recruit the family (and Jingle Dog) and dress up as Santa to join us for our annual **Santa Dash** through the streets of Hemel Hempstead on

Sunday 13 December at 10am. Have fun and help us raise funds for the Hospice this Christmas time!

Looking to 2016, we have places available on our **Trek to Peru** leaving in September for a trip of a lifetime, plus, for those who are looking for a different type of health & fitness experience, our **Biggest Loser challenge** in conjunction with Sportspace starts at the end of January. The Biggest Loser sees 20 individuals work together to lose weight, eat well and raise pounds for Hospice care.

For further details on all Hospice events, visit: www.stfrancis.org.uk or call 01442 869555 or follow us on **Facebook/ TheHospiceofStFrancis Twitter:hospicstfrancis**

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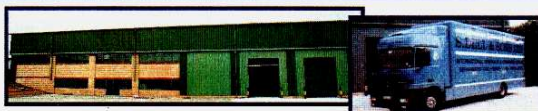
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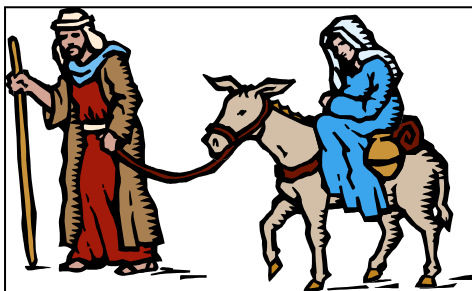
Telephone: 01525 872679

The Travelling Crib

On Advent Sunday, 29th November, at the morning services at All Saints' and St Peter's we will send a Travelling Crib from each church to begin a journey round the town as reminder of the story of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.

They will leave with the first of the families who have offered their homes as a resting place on their journey. Each night they will stay with a different family before returning to church, with the last family, in time for Christmas.

The figures of Mary and Joseph have been knitted by members of the Mothers' Union so they are very 'child friendly' and no one need have fear of them being damaged by young children. The figures have a special basket to travel in and each family they visit is asked to prepare a special place in their home for them to rest for the night.



If you would like the Travelling Crib to spend a night in your home during Advent this year please sign up on one of the lists which will be in churches on Sundays 8th and 15th November and also at Chuckles and Little Fishes. Make a note of the dates and bring your diaries! To avoid disappointment, sign up on Sunday 8th November!

If you have any queries please contact Tracy Robinson (863559) for the crib at All Saints' or Margaret Burbidge (862139) for the crib at St Peter's.

Berkhamsted Festival of Light

Sunday 29th November 2015: Schedule of Events



1.00pm	Closure of the High Street
3.30pm	Festivities to commence 'Berkhamsted Songbird' perform
4.00pm	'All-stars' perform
4.30pm	Nativity
5.00pm	Best Dressed Shop Window announcement Blessing by Rev Canon Timothy Pilkington Switch on of lights by Mayor of Berkhamsted Father Christmas to arrive with the Samba Band!
6.00pm	Conclusion
6.00pm	Service in St. Peter's Church
7.30pm	Re-opening of High Street

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Your Charities

Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



This is **Ollie**, he is a 5-year-old boxer cross. Through no fault of his own Ollie has spent most of his life in kennels. He is happy here with us but we would love to see him settled with

his own family. Ollie is a very friendly laid back boy who would live with a female dog. Due to the length of time he has been with us we would like him to have a gradual transition into his new home. Ollie will be well worth the effort as he is such a lovable character. He cannot live in Luton.

If you feel you could offer Ollie, or any of our other dogs, a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any day between 10 am and 4 pm Our staff will be happy to offer advice and information. Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website or call the kennels.

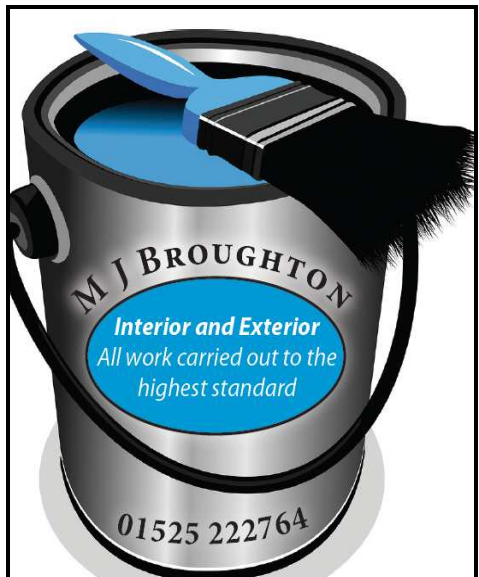
Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels,
Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY
01525 220383 e-mail: apple-down.kennels@btinternet.com Website:
www.appledownrescue.co.uk

OXFAM'S new alternative gifts

Oxfam has launched a new range of its popular Alternative Gifts. The Oxfam Unwrapped catalogue offers some exciting ideas for presents and many people who have no need of conventional gifts are delighted to have provided clean water or trees instead of receiving more usual lines.

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A response to Vernon Mildew's article

Dear Vernon,

I am sorry I have taken so long to respond to your article in the parish magazine but I was away in the Patagonian ice fields on a research project with my new Book Group.

I have recently moved to Berkhamsted from North Wales as my husband could not bear the emotional trauma of my recently diagnosed Compulsive Correspondence Syndrome (CCS). My first reaction on arriving here is what a nice town you all live in! But why are you all so miserable? You have a lovely historic high street, nice houses, good road and rail services, and you all drive such big shiny vans. I don't know why they need to be so big, it makes it hard to see the little children. I just used to put a hay bale on the back of my quad when I had a local errand to run.

I have taken the train up to London a few times and I agree that my fellow passengers do seem a little odd, they all look so tired and sulky. I must admit, I found it tough in Wales getting up at 4am to feed the sheep when there was a winter blizzard, but perhaps an early night and a proper breakfast would help? All that litter and eating too! You would think that wealthy people would not want to behave so badly. Perhaps *Your Berkhamsted* has too narrow a readership, I'm sure such nice people don't do these things. You could send your article to more appropriate publications like 'Chav Weekly' or 'Arrogant Banker Today'? I think there is a journalist living in Berkhamsted who could help, Ed somebody or other, but he doesn't seem very successful.

It is nice when you enter a tunnel though, and all the phones stop working. Don't get me wrong, I love a good bit of gossip, it's just I don't know the people they are gossiping about.

The young people on the trains seem excessively frail down here. Us oldies can stand up all day, but they have to collapse immediately onto the train floor. To be fair, there are no seats available for them to put their feet on.

However, I do feel so, so sorry for those desperate people drinking large quantities of warm white wine and lager on the long, long 30 minute journey back to Berkhamsted. I fret about what ghastly tragedies and emotional anguish they must be going through in their personal lives. Perhaps self-help groups now encourage people to be open about their dependence on rough alcohol and invite sympathy & support from fellow travellers. This might be more forthcoming if they did not squirt it on other passengers. I do not want to moan though, most people are lovely when you get a chance to talk to them. I thought about selling the *Big Issue* so I could meet more people, but I hear that has been tried before and did not go down too well. Anyway, it doesn't have any articles about house prices.

I must go now as my spinning class starts soon and I can't find my wool.

Yours sincerely
Rose Trellis

The Gatsby

Our Editor Jacqueline Hicks chats to the Proprietor
of Berkhamsted's premier food destination

Most of us that live in Berkhamsted know of or have been to the Gatsby. It has an iconic pride of place as you drive into the High Street and would be hard to miss.

A Grade 2 listed building, lovingly kept to its original Art Deco beauty outside and in. This is actually on the site of Egerton House, owned by the Llewelyn Davies family who moved there from London in 1904. The author and playwright J.M. Barrie was a frequent visitor to this Elizabethan mansion and Peter, one of the Llewelyn-Davies' five boys, was the inspiration for Barrie's character 'Peter Pan' (we recently did an article on this). The Rex Cinema opened in 1938 and for the next 50 years, many people would watch the latest film. In 1988 due to dwindling audience figures, it sadly closed its doors.

In 2004 the cinema reopened and was restored to its former beauty. Then a year later the Gatsby which incorporates the foyer part of the building was opened. This is a great place to relax, eat and drink.

Proprietor Nick Pembroke was only 28 years old when he took on the Gatsby and 10 years on still shows the same passion for owning a place renowned for its high standards, quality cuisine and great customer service. He has worked within the catering industry for 17 years. This has included running high-profile bars, clubs and restaurants in London

for the Slug and Lettuce Group. He also spent time in Sydney, Australia gaining experience in the City's premier restaurants and bars.

Nick has now bought the freehold of the building and would like to continue The Gatsby with its fine dining restaurant and cocktail / piano bar.

Having asked Nick to name what the Gatsby means to him in a sentence, he sums it up as a "fantastic lifestyle opportunity" with Berkhamsted being "a great place to live and work, a wonderful community to be part of."



Matthew Salt, the head chef has an impressive CV, having worked at many top restaurants at Michelin level and has created his own style at the Gatsby, creating new dishes using only the best seasonal produce. Both Matthew and Peter, the sous Chef, have both worked at the Gatsby for nine years.

My last question to Nick was what his all time favourite dish is from the restaurant and Sunday Roast took the lead. You must go and try it yourself.

Nick would like to thank all his past and present customers for their loyal support and custom.

Reservations 01442 870403
www.thegatsby.net

Look out for Christmas and New Year
Menus

Your Garden

Adventures in Boots by Helen Reeley

I have fallen out of love with tulips. Quite simply tulips are too high maintenance in this area what with the difficult heavy soil conditions, tulip fire blight and squirrels. As beautiful as they are I don't have the patience or the energy to put the work in for a display to be partly destroyed by wildlife. And as tulips these days are mostly treated as annuals (as they're unreliable flowerers the year after) it all seems a bit pointless. I envy the gardener who has pots and pots of gorgeous colourful blooms in

containers where the tops have been secured with rabbit wire and grouped together, it looks stunning but I'd rather my investment gave me more than one year's display.

This year my bulb shopping basket has included a few newcomers. Where I can get a fork in without too much trouble I'll be planting fritillaria imperialis in orange and yellow. These exotic flowers are tall at one metre plus and will look good in the back part of my client's herbaceous border where it is undisturbed at the time of year it's due to flower next spring. Very different from fritillaria is camassia which I haven't used before but have always

admired. Its pretty blue star shaped flowers only last about 3 weeks but it naturalises well in moist grassy areas. The leaves take a while to die off so it's best to plant this bulb where mowing is not essential.

One to naturalise for the sorry corner of the garden, sun or shade is chionodoxa forbesii. Its little cheerful blue and white

flowers lift the spirits on a cold March day.

Naturalising gives a garden an easy mature look. I use narcissi, crocus, snowdrop and anemone in all the grass borders where



spring mowing can wait until a bit later. I plant bulbs deeply lifting a large sod and placing bulbs casually in the pit before replacing the lump very firmly and watering. The squirrels seem uninterested in what can't be easily retrieved from the ground but the badgers will have a go. I'd better crack on, there's about two thousand bulbs in at least 15 varieties in the garden waiting to be shared and planted...I could be a while.

TTFN Helen 07708 643313

helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk

Your Sport

Matthew Dawson

Raiders win UEFA award!

The winners of the 2015 Grassroots football awards were announced in October. Among those of a deserving mention are local side Berkhamsted Raiders who after claiming The FA's Charter Standard Community Club of the Year award in 2014, have won silver in UEFA's Best Grassroots club category.

UEFA is European football's governing body and therefore it represents a fantastic achievement for Berkhamsted and Hertfordshire's biggest youth football club. They were only beaten to gold by Welsh side Merthyr Town as Norwegian team (pat on the back to those who correctly manage to pronounce this), Sandane Turn og Idrettslag won bronze.

Berkhamsted Raiders are a vital part of the community and their work around the town and indeed with football rarely goes without recognition. The club appears to be going from strength to strength with the building of the Astro a number of years ago and now the addition of a seated area only adding to Raiders' appeal to football goers in the area.

Chairman Keith Pollard, along with Paul Russell and Carol Preedy were at Wembley during the England v Estonia game to collect the award signed by UEFA president and former French international Michel Platini. The award comes after being nominated by the FA following 2014's success for Raiders. The

award was presented to them by Martin Glenn, the CEO of the FA and for those that want to see it and are involved within the club in some form, then it'll be on display in the Paul Beard Centre at Berko Astro.

With Grassroots football coming in for some heavy amounts of criticism in the UK in more recent times, Berkhamsted Raiders perhaps demonstrate the perfect model of how a community football club should be run. It's the awards that they've won in the past two seasons that only exemplify their work and benefits the club hugely going forward. It's now over to other teams, not just in the local area, but in the rest of the country to take example and become better grassroots club too.

Berko Raiders generate quite a healthy income from the sheer amount of members they have at the club. This only benefits them in terms of the facilities and equipment at their disposal but a proposal from the FA earlier in 2015 to invest £260m into grassroots, will help other clubs to gain the things they need to become better run and organised teams.

The FA hope that by investing this money it'll help to develop football across the country, which in the long term will benefit future England academy and senior sides. This'll be because of the encouraging experiences children will potentially gain growing up playing the game in a good environment such as the one provided by Berkhamsted Raiders.



Berkhamsted School News

Ashlyns School

ASHLYNS QUIZ NIGHT: Tickets for the Quiz Night on Friday 20 November are now on sale. A ticket application form is attached with all the details and prices. This is always a very popular and well supported event, and tickets have sold out very quickly every year, so get your ticket requests in asap. Our popular quiz-master will be in attendance (if you've never seen him it's worth coming just for that!) You can buy individual tickets or form a team of between 8 to 10 people for a table of your own. See you all there!

Victoria School

MIDDAY SUPERVISORS REQUIRED: (Au-pairs and Grandparents are welcome to apply) We are looking for a warm and caring Midday Supervisory Assistant, who will enjoy working with the children at lunchtimes. The rate of pay is £6.83 per hour. The hours of work are 12.00 noon – 1.20pm, Monday to Friday. Please contact the school office for an application form: admin@victoria.herts.sch.uk; 01442 865781

Berkhamsted School

As part of the continued Rugby Centenary celebrations the 1st XV had the honour of playing an inaugural fixture versus Harrow School under flood lights at Allianz Park – and what an occasion it was!

Unfortunately, and despite their best efforts and two missed penalty kicks, Berkhamsted could not find that all important score to either tie level or record a memorable win. The night will be remembered by everyone involved and although bitterly disappointed with the final score Mr Mahoney and his 1st XV should be very proud of their performance and style of rugby they played on the night. Congratulations also to the Harrow XV on their victory and the part they played in this excellent school boy match.

Berkhamsted School is proud to announce the launch of Britain's first 'Mini-MBA' as part of a Sixth Form curriculum. The initiative has been developed in partnership with Ashridge Executive Education at Hult International Business School.

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11 November	11 December	11 January
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an exhibition of oil paintings of the Chilterns by

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