

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

February 2016

About town: Interview with James Moir, Convenor of the Rectory Lane Cemetery

Local History: J W Cobb - Rector and Historian

Eating out: Review of new Indian Restaurant

Valentine Short Story
by YB reader

50p



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

In this issue...

Welcome to the December 2015 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

In this edition we have a poignant short story by one of our readers with a Valentines plot. Jenny Sherwood is continuing her theme of past rectors of Berkhamsted, Jenny has such a wonderful knowledge of Berkhamsted's rich history, always interesting reading. There are details of Dacorum's Day Trippers programme, this is a fantastic way for the community to get together, and with voluntary drivers, makes this accessible to all. Last but not least the great news that Friends of St Peter's have been awarded a lottery fund, please see details on page 25. Our What's On page shows events in February 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. Also volunteers are needed – for many roles!



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Front cover: Cover painting by Sarah How. Courtesy of Art at 88.



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



Our local hospice was once again the beneficiary of the generosity of local organisations. hemeltoday.co.uk reports that Berkhamsted Golf Club had raised an incredible £12,000, encouraged by the number of female members who volunteer their time for the local charity. The amount will enable 48 hours of care for 14 patients. Sobering to think how much money is needed day by day to continue their amazing work. Our local papers are always keen to promote such local resources, including watfordobserver.co.uk for their own local hospice, which has received benefits from wonderful concerts at the Coliseum. hertfordshirelife.co.uk/ announces that 2016 is the Year of the Transition Town. Berkhamsted is proud to be included, alongside fellow towns in the county - Hemel Hempstead, Watford, Letchworth and Kings Langley. Janey Lee Grace, BBC Radio 2's holistic expert, explains more how Transition Towns are working to transform our neighbourhood and communities.

Malcolm Allen made the letters page of telegraph.co.uk in which he wanted to compare the award of an MBE to Master Navigator Tony Melton for his brave and life-saving service with the RAF with those awarded to, as he puts it,

celebrities, sports people and time-servers. An answer to that is no doubt worth an article in its own right. As if in answer to this question, the same website sets out its ultimate sporting calendar for 2016. I guide you to the golf section – mark 2nd April in your diaries, the date of this year's Berkhamsted Trophy.

hertsad.co.uk reports on an artistic young talent from Berkhamsted School. At the age of twelve, Sam Misan is likely to be the youngest exhibitor to show at the Radlett Centre. He specialises in birds and Hebrew calligraphy, and took it upon himself to contact the gallery to show his art, which was displayed in January. You don't get without asking in this world. getbucks.co.uk reports on grass roots football, focussing on results across the county border with teams such as Amersham, Chesham United and Holmer Green, who were due to play Berkhamsted at the beginning of the year.

There is more news on New Year's Honours from stalbansreview.co.uk/, which tells of Mary Cutler's British Empire Medal, awarded for her charitable fundraising, as well as running a club for blind people in our own town.

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

myinforms.com reports on the Herts Service to Sports Awards 2015, which recognises more selfless voluntary work in supporting the sporting activities of our county. The Over-21 Volunteer of the Year Award was awarded to Steve Elms of Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club. It is good to see such work publicly recognised.

From sport to thespianism.

berkhamstedtoday.co.uk reports on local schools Christmas performances, highlighting amongst others St Thomas More School's nativity.

Time for a Blogspot - smart-phones02.blogspot.co.uk no less. Bernard is looking for a kit to help him make a 1:72 scale model of a motte and bailey castle which will be based on our very own historic edifice. Apparently there are a wide range of model figures available including Anglo Saxons and Normans together with various animals and wagons. Worth bearing in mind next time you are at a loose end.

Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator, Art at 88, 88 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 2BW Tel. 01442 769110 info@artat88.co.uk.

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What's on

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

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

**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.**

**Thurs, 4th Feb @ 8pm – The Work of the
BFI National Archive.** Includes footage of
local films – Jez Stewart, Curator of Non-
Fiction BFI. Town Hall.
www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk Annual
sub per household £5. Visitors £2 at door
payable towards annual sub. DC £1

**Sat, 6th Feb @ 7.30pm – Ugne Tiskute
(viola) and Alexandra Vaduva (piano).**
Brahms Sonata in F minor; Schubert Piano

Sonata in A minor; Prokofiev Pieces from
Romeo and Juliet; York Bowen Fantasy for
viola and piano. Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk Season
£48, visitors £14, under 18s free.
treasurer@berkhamstedmusic.co.uk
862798

Mon, 9th Feb @ 8pm – Omar. Thriller. A
young Palestinian routinely climbs the
separation wall to meet his girl or strike at
the Israeli military with his friends. Dir:
Hany Abu-Assad/2013/Palestine/Cert
15/98 min/Subtitles. Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk
Annual sub: joint £65, single £35 (conc
£60 and £32). Visitors £5 at door (no
conc). 863155.

**Weds, 10th Feb @ 8pm – Pictures in the
Parlour: Story of the Magic Lantern**
Kevin Varty of the Magic Lantern Society.
Town Hall. [www.berkhamsted-
history.org.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk). Annual Sub £7, double
£12. Visitors at door £2,50. DC

**Tues, 16th Feb @ 8pm – Animals in
Pastels.** A demonstration of painting
animals in pastels by Cate Wetherall.
Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedartsociety.com.
Visitors on the door £3

**Mon, 22nd Feb @ 7.45pm – The Viking
Silver Hoard from the Vale of York**
Barry Ager, FSA, Curator, Continental &
Early Medieval Collections, Dept of
Prehistory, Europe and Britain, The British
Museum. Music Room, Berkhamsted.
www.berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk
Annual sub £15, family £17.50, junior £5.
Members £1, visitors £3. 254800. DC
(Continued on page 8)

What's on , continued

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>

Mon, 22nd Feb @ 7.45pm – The Viking Silver Hoard from the Vale of York

Barry Ager, FSA, Curator, Continental & Early Medieval Collections, Dept of Prehistory, Europe and Britain, The British Museum. Music Room, Berkhamsted.

www.berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk

Annual sub £15, family £17.50, junior £5.

Members £1, visitors £3. 254801. DC

Mon, 22nd and Tues 23rd Feb @ 8pm – Village at the End of the World

Documentary. A witty, surprising portrait of an isolated Greenland village of 59 people and 100 sled dogs, surviving against the odds. Dir: Sarah Gavron/2012/ Greenland/Cert 12A /82min/Subtitles. 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, 24th Feb @ 8pm – Berkhamsted Live.

Neil Beardmore's drama/ music, Mark Crane's film, Sheelagh Crane's art, Leslie Tate/Sue Hampton's music & poetry. Greene Room, Kings Arms, 147 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP43HL Entry free. Collection for Pepper Nurses. Book at lstate@btinternet.com

Thurs, 25 Feb @ 7 pm - A free event for our current members. Free-flowing Haresfoot beer and complimentary

cheeses at [Haresfoot Brewery](#). 2 River Park, Billet Lane, HP4 1HL Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. Not a member? Join quickly for £75 including 2 x brewery tours, T-shirt, glass, 2 x 4.5L carryout, bottle of latest beer, 10% of carryout ales and invites to exclusive members' events. Membership renewal is £50 for the same except brewery tours.

Thurs, 25th Feb @ 7.30pm – Alastair Campbell - Broadcaster, journalist, political aide and author - at The Gatsby, 97 High Street, Berkhamsted

The Gatsby are delighted to announce that the broadcaster, journalist, political aide and author Alastair Campbell will be joining them on Thursday 25th February for a 3 course meal followed by a Q&A session. Tickets £50. Deposit to be paid upon booking of £30. 01442 870403

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 12 December 2015 – 28 February 2016

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This stunning annual exhibition returns with an incredible range of awe-inspiring images taken by wildlife photographers from around the world.

See more at: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/tring/what-s-on-at-ring.html#sthash.MEBHxX32.dpuf>

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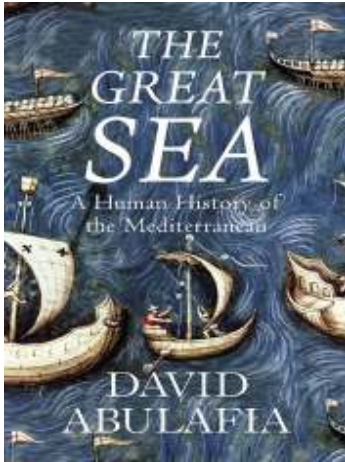
Quaker Meeting Rooms, 289 High Street, Berkhamsted. HP4 1AJ

Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month at 7.45pm.

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Book Review

The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean by David Abulafia



This large sweeping book encompasses the whole history of the Mediterranean from the beginnings of human settlement right through the recent crises of humanity, albeit the events of 2015 are naturally too late to be included.

Though large, the book's premise is more narrow than earlier studies, concentrating as it does on the sea itself, and those settlements directly abutting it. It ignores the wider hinterland unless the influence of the sea directly affected it.

We learn of the Phoenicians, the Trojans, and the more recent touristic invaders of the northern Europe. We find that piracy and war threatened trade across the ages, unless a single power provided enough stability and policy to protect them. Essentially there have been only three such entities to provide such safety– the Roman Empire, the Royal Navy and latterly the American Sixth Fleet.

It is fascinating to read of the way the Mediterranean exported economic and cultural strength. In medieval times city states in Italy and Spain used this power to trade with the textile centres of northern Europe and the gold sellers of North Africa. The cities also established bases in the east of the sea, as Byzantium declined. However, the opening of the Suez Canal was to reduce the importance of the watery expanse to a thoroughfare rather than a trading zone in its own right.

The detail of the book is immense, and in so doing makes an apparently daunting tome eminently readable. Gradually you become exposed to a wealth of facts, and frequent musings of “I never knew that”. Next time you visit the area, this book will provide an excellent primer to the origins of your destination.

Julian Dawson



Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month



This handsome chap is **Pistachio!** He is a crossbreed aged 2-3 years. He is house-trained,

affectionate and quite obedient but has plenty of energy.

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Short Story/Poem

The postman usually arrives while Eleanor is standing over the toaster, knife waiting next to the butter, jam lid resting on the counter. She doesn't listen for the post, but she is aware when it doesn't arrive, rarely surprised but always slightly disappointed if he passes her door. Bills, circulars, magazines. Birthday cards in late June, Christmas cards in December. Fewer each year, she has come to realise. Quality, not quantity, she reassures herself.

This morning, she hears the postman's footsteps on her path, the click of the box flap, the shuffling thud of the post, just as the toast pops up. She butters it carefully, spreads a thin layer of jam across the slice, and places her plate next to her small glass of orange juice on the kitchen table before walking down the hall, pausing to straighten the picture of her parents by the door, to retrieve the small pile of envelopes. She had no expectations of anything, no small pile of envelopes. She had no expectations of anything of anything – nothing more than a bill or two – she seemed to remember that the water bill was due – and some unnecessary advertising.

Eleanor sorts through the pile, dividing it tidily: those that need her attention and those from which she can neatly snip the clear windows before consigning them to the recycling. When she reaches the cream envelope, she hesitates. It clearly belongs in the pile on the left, yet she can neither predict nor even imagine, what it might contain. She searches her mind for friends who are getting married or expecting babies – then, more carefully,

for elderly relatives who have been ill. She props the letter against the windowsill, contemplating her own name in unfamiliar handwriting while eating her breakfast. She washes the plate, knife and glass, returns the butter and jam to the top shelf of the refrigerator, and wipes the few crumbs from the counter. She showers, puts on a grey dress, a brighter scarf and the more comfortable of her two pairs of black shoes – a slightly lower heel, a slightly broader toe – and locks the door behind her.

It suits her, the pace of her working life. She starts each day with a list of tasks sorted into order of priority and sometimes, although she would never admit this, in order of preference. Today, however, she finds herself distracted. The view from her window – admittedly only the car park and the tall wall that encircles it – preoccupies her, and for the first time since taking her place at this desk six years earlier, she wonders to herself what lies beyond. The tops of trees rises above the wall, but she does not know – and has never wondered – on whose ground they are growing. Her colleague has to say her name two, maybe three times before she notices, flustered and apologetic.

“Are you all right, Eleanor?” There is concern in his voice.

“Yes, yes, of course.” She busies herself with reappraising her list, tucking a stray strand of hair back into place, checking the time. “Do you have the Braithwaite file?”

He passes the thick folder over the low partition, and the day's routine appears to reassert itself. It is only as she writes the date at the top of a new sheet of paper that Eleanor realises what the envelope still propped on her breakfast table might contain. *14th February*. In spite of herself, she gasps – albeit so quietly that David sitting opposite barely registers the sound. She sits for a moment, looking for all the world as if she is reading the file as carefully as always. Only the tension in her hands, the fingertips pressing hard against the desk, might betray the vertigo that threatens to overwhelm her. She strains to place the handwriting, attach a face, a voice.

All morning, Eleanor struggles against the thought of the envelope on her table. The image rests against her heart, and the date rises to remind her each time she writes it. The clock's hands creep round its inscrutable face, and she is barely able to contain her relief when she is able to retrieve the plastic tub containing her lunch and a half-read paperback from her bag beneath the desk. A small salad with one thin slice of ham, a fork, a yoghurt and a teaspoon, a banana, a paper napkin. She tells David she will be eating in the canteen today – leaving him to raise a curious eyebrow to her departing back.

Eleanor is unsure where to sit, but spots an empty table near the window. She opens her lunch, laying the yoghurt and banana neatly on the table next to the tub before starting to eat. After just a few small mouthfuls, she realises that other people are also looking for empty seats and opens the paperback, pulling herself in behind it. She has been enjoying re-reading this particular novel – one she had loved in her twenties – but today, the

words sit leaden on the page, saying nothing to her. She sits quietly for the rest of the hour, preoccupied, pretending to read. She eats a little of the salad, starts the yoghurt but does not finish it, returns the banana unpeeled to the plastic tub and snaps the lid shut. She is aware she is behaving unusually, but also that no one will notice her in this busy office canteen. There is a certain freedom in that, she acknowledges.

The afternoon aches on interminably. She finishes files in twice the time it would normally take her. When David asks again if she is all right, his concern – the fact of his observation – is just the impetus she needs to steel herself against the churning of her stomach and the breathlessness that threatens to make her laugh or cry out loud whenever she writes the date. *14th February*. As she stacks her files neatly at the end of the day, places her pen in the drawer, pushes in her chair, she aims for normality in her 'goodnight' to him. Nothing more than usual. Just an ordinary day. *Breathe in, Eleanor*, she tells herself. *Breathe out*.

The train home is crowded. She is aware of men in suits resting train-station flowers on their briefcases, others with larger, more expensive bouquets. She rests her empty hands on her bag and tries not to listen to the mobile conversation of the woman next to her. "He's not even coming over. Like, what the hell is *that* about? Well, he can stuff it. Yes, he can. No, I'm serious this time." Eleanor looks inward, seeing in the passing landscape not houses, tower blocks, rows of shops, but a thick, cream envelope, an unfamiliar handwriting, her own name, a postmark, a stamp. And allows herself to think it, to let the words unfurl across her heart. *Someone has*

sent me a card. Someone, and I do not know who, has sent me a Valentine card. She turns the key, opens the door. She takes off her shoes, places them neatly, side-by-side, next to the mat. She hangs up her coat, empties her lunch box into the bin, replaces the banana in the fruit bowl, inspecting it first for bruises. Everything is as she left it this morning. She allows herself one glance at the envelope, reassures herself it is still there – that *it is real*. She carefully folds the scarf back into its drawer. She undresses, hangs up her dress, smooths out the day's creases. As she selects comfortable trousers, a soft jumper, finds her slippers, she turns and regards her figure in the small mirror. She has to shift a little, this way and that, to see all of herself. She casts a careful, appraising eye over the neat waist, small breasts, sensible underwear. For a split second, she imagines herself being held. She imagines undressing with someone, for someone. She wonders what it would be like if someone was her, in her room, touching her, kissing her, inviting... She stops herself, pulling on the pale jumper that her aunt sent her three years ago for Christmas, stepping into the dark blue trousers that fit so comfortably.

The kitchen is already dark as she sits down at the table. Any other evening, she would have turned on the light and set about making supper. Tonight, she rests her hands on the table and stares at the envelope still propped against the windowsill. Now that she is home, now that she is here – and it is there – she feels none of the elation of the train, the whirling restlessness of the office. Her house is quiet, her kitchen is dark. *Everything is where I left it.* Her breath slows and calms. *It is where I left it this*

morning.

Eleanor has been making lists all day. She has filed away every possibility, even though they are few and far between. She does not know many men. She does not, in fact, know many people at all. She wonders for one horrible moment that it might be from her parents, but dismisses that as so out of character as to be entirely impossible. She does not know, and that is that. *But it is from someone.* Eleanor allows herself a smile now, alone and in the darkening evening. *Someone has taken his pen, has bought a card, a stamp, has written my name – Miss Eleanor Brunn – on the envelope, and posted it. And I do not know who.*

The clock in the hall strikes quietly, unobtrusively. Eleanor is aware that she is hungry, and she is starting to feel the cold of the evening. She has all she needs for dinner waiting for her in the fridge. She will heat it through, then she will take a plate from the cupboard, a fork from the drawer, and she will eat it sitting on the sofa. When she has done the washing up, hung up the tea towel, she will curl her feet up under her, draw up the blanket over her knees, and watch an episode of her favourite drama. Later, just after ten, she will take a warm drink to bed with her, read a little more of the paperback she abandoned at lunchtime, and then, after brushing her teeth for two full minutes, she will rub cream into her hands and settle down, the radio on quietly next to her, and go to sleep.

Eleanor picks up the envelope, holds it for just a moment, then places it carefully on top of the pile of post to be recycled. *Best not,* she tells herself and turns on the light.

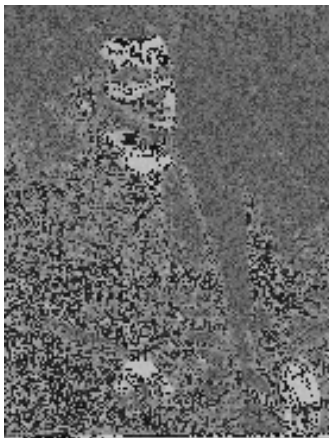
Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society

JOHN WOLSTENHOLME COBB 1829-1883, RECTOR AND HISTORIAN

John Wolstenholme Cobb was a Yorkshire man by birth and came first to the town in 1853 as curate to St Peter's. He was an energetic and popular young curate and became intensely interested in the history of his adopted town and carried out extensive research, which is still respected and referred to today. In 1854 he gave two long lectures to the Mechanics' Institute on the history of Berkhamsted. At this time the Mechanics' Institute still had no permanent home. The following year he published these lectures as the *History and Antiquities of Berkhamsted*. By that time he had become curate of St Mary's Northchurch, where he stayed until he was appointed vicar of Kidmore End, near Reading, in 1863.

In the summer of 1861 he had married Elizabeth Mary Crofts, two years his senior, in Berkhamsted. She had been born in Painswick, Gloucestershire. At the time of the 1861 census Elizabeth Mary was staying with the Dorriens at Haresfoot. She was a fund holder, in other words had independent means. In 1871 John was appointed Rector of Berkhamsted St Peter's where he remained until his death in 1883. He was the first Rector to be appointed by the Earl Brownlow. From 1722 the Rectors had been appointed by the Duchy of Cornwall but with the purchase of the Manor of Berkhamsted by the Brownlows in 1865 this duty devolved to them until

they were, only in the short intervals which parochial engagements allowed for them, nothing elaborate was possible. Trouble, however, has not been spared to render them a trustworthy and connected record of the History and Antiquities of Berkhamsted'.



Cobb devotes his first lecture to the Castle and its complicated history, the depth of which has scarcely been surpassed since. After the death of Cicely Duchess of York, in 1495, he refers to Leland's descriptions of the area, the building of Berkhamsted Place, the visit of the Prince of Wales (later Charles I) to the School and the Murrays at Berkhamsted Place, quoting widely. He devotes time to James I and

the Borough Charter. Both the School and St Peter's Church are fully covered.

Even though Cobb had written his first edition some years earlier he continued his research of the history of Berkhamsted. Rather than alter the original text he added new information in the form of appendices. Many of these are copies of original documents, with translations from the Latin. He also adds later more recent research quoting from the work of others. John Wolstenholme Cobb's book is still widely available today in the original and later editions from Ebay or ABE Books.

Cobb was appointed Rector just before the completion of Butterfield's Victorian restoration work when the church was faced with flint and many internal alterations were carried out. Further improvements were made during his time as Rector.

There are several copies of the 1st and 2nd edition of Cobb's *History & Antiquities* in the Society's Collection including one grangerised version. A grangerised book was a book that had been printed with blank pages at intervals on which the owner could insert his own illustrations, in this case, mostly prints. This particular grangerised book belonged originally to William Watson of Highfield House and inside the back of the book is affixed a little hand-written note from the Rev. Cobb giving William Watson a print for his book.

The Rev. Cobb, during his time as curate of St Peter's and of Northchurch and then later as Rector, took a very active part in the affairs of the community. He was very keen to make the best use of the numerous St. Peter's charities to the benefit of the local community, but was not always successful in this because of the need to keep to the original stipulations. In 1873 Cobb requested that a portion of the Balshaw Fund be allocated to the Board of the National School. This was, however, refused on the grounds 'the purpose of education being so far removed from the special object of the charity.' On another occasion Cobb asked if the trustees of the Balshaw charity would make up the deficit of £12 in the bread fund of King James I fund. Times were obviously

hard and Cobb hoped to be able to use the local charities for the greatest benefit of the people. In 1874 Cobb made a request to the Balshaw charity for money towards the repair of the almshouses. This was equally turned down. As was to be expected, the Rev. J W Cobb was very concerned for the heritage of the town and would no doubt have favoured the revival of the short-lived James I Borough Charter, which the local surgeon Thomas Whately had been so keen to promote. He was equally keen to revive an interest in Berkhamsted's poet, William Cowper, the son of John Cowper, a former Rector of St. Peter's and of Ann Cowper (nee Donne). As a result the east window in the Chancel, 1872, is a memorial to William Cowper and more recently for the Millennium the new window with its delicate tracery is also dedicated to Cowper's memory. As a result of the revival of interest in Berkhamsted's poet a portrait of Cowper was hung in the Town Hall.

It was too late however, to save Cowper's birthplace, which had been demolished by the Rev. John Crofts, Rector 1810-1851. Cobb lived in what is now called the Old Rectory up the lane from Cowper's birthplace and in fact made some alterations to the house. If plans in the Rectory Lane Project come to fruition, the only remaining reminder of William Cowper in the area, Cowper's Well, will be brought back into use.

Jenny Sherwood
Berkhamsted Museum and History
Society

Day Trippers

2016 Programme

We hope you enjoy the trips planned for the January – April period. We have listened to your feedback and are really excited to include some new trips to Milton Keynes Theatre and Mickie Driver's as well as some new venue's for lunch. The trips listed in this programme will include pick up points in Berkhamsted, Northchurch, Potten End, Nettleden, Little Gaddesden, Tring, Tring Rural villages, Wigginton & Aldbury. We have coded the trips for 2016 to aid you in identifying the amount of walking involved. However, all of the trips are accessible to people with mobility difficulties. Easy – very minimal walking involved, accessing the minibus and venue only i.e. lunch, theatre trip Medium – a small amount of walking around the venue is involved i.e. garden centre Moderate – a moderate amount of walking around the venue i.e. a museum If there are any particular trips you would like us to plan please let us know.

- Registration and membership of the Day Trippers club is required before you book onto any of the trips.
- Seats are offered on a first come, first served basis.
- Payment is to be made at the time of booking for all daytrips.
- Bookings that are not paid will be held for 7 days.
- Trips will only run if the minimum numbers of passengers have booked.
- If a trip is shown to be fully booked you can put your name on a reserve list and we will contact you if a place becomes available.

- Please provide at least 3 working days notice if you need to cancel a booking.
- If less than 3 days notice is given refunds will not be given.
- Loyalty Discount : after 5 trips we will send you a £5 voucher to spend on future trips.

All of our trips will be driven by friendly, courteous volunteer drivers. We will also provide a volunteer Passenger Assistant to support members whilst on the trip. Our minibus is fully accessible with a passenger lift so that members who have mobility difficulties are able to access the trips. We are able to take 1 wheelchair user per trip providing they are able to transfer to a seat in the minibus. Please advise us of your mobility requirements when booking in order that we may be able to plan appropriately for the trip.

For bookings, registration or further details of any of our trips please contact: Community Action Dacorum on 01442 253935

February

The Bellcote, Ashley Green -Thursday

18th February 2016 TIME: 12.30pm -

Lunch £9.50 MOBILITY: Easy Join Day Trippers for a lunchtime trip to the Bellcote in Ashley Green. This pub/ restaurant is a rotisserie serving a wide selection of starters, mains and puddings. The cost is for transport only. The cost for lunch at the restaurant is extra and payable on the day.

www.communityactiondacorum.org.uk

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Other people seem much better at religion than we do. How many of us will keep the coming time of Lent as strictly as the majority of Muslims keep Ramadan? All that fasting from dawn to sunset! All that extra prayer! All that giving to charity!

It might be that Christians are in a double bind. We would like to be good at religion, but the Gospels portray Jesus as being almost against it. Jesus does not stress the importance of fasting and self-discipline as a means of pleasing God. Indeed there is the suggestion that this kind of religion might actually be bad for your soul. It can lead to pride or a sense of superiority. Look how good I am! It can lead to a sense of entitlement. I have given up so much, where is my reward? If it is going to be done at all then it should be done in secret. Do not flaunt your fasting, "so you do not appear to people to be fasting". "When you pray go into your room and close the door". "When giving, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your charity may be secret".

A good number of years ago we spent some time in a town in the southern states of the USA. First of all we were shocked by the terrible poverty of many people. Then we were overwhelmed by the religion. You couldn't switch on the car radio without being assaulted with religion. There were many churches, all very well attended, but they had little or nothing to do with each other. I don't recall meeting any of the clergy from the other denominations in the town. My own church had a sister church and to my

horror I discovered that we were the white church and they were the black church. I only saw them when they kindly came to my farewell service. I tell you this because someone reminded me not so long ago of what I said on our return to Norfolk: "Thank God for our indifference!" Too much "religion" does not seem to be very helpful.

You know what I mean. It is that our religion is a response of gratitude for what we have been given, beginning with life itself. The heroes of our religion are those who have been able to give thanks even though it seems they have absolutely nothing to be grateful for.

It is gratitude that leads to generosity. When we are not grateful we become mean. It is thanksgiving that leads to the worship of the One who gives life itself. A sense of entitlement banishes prayer. It is enjoyment of what we have that enables us to make tokens of giving things up, absence making the heart grow fonder, you might say.

Curiously Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, 10th February, can be a special time of thanksgiving. Maybe we could mark it with a little bit of extra prayer and worship, a little extra giving, a bit of time given to learning more of our faith, even a small attempt to give something up for five and half weeks.

Lent is not going to be exactly Ramadan, but it could be filled with tokens of kindness and gratitude. Those, at least, are two qualities that come from the practice of good religion.

Anthony Lathe

Regular Church Activities

- 3rd Mon Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534.
- Tues Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10–11:30am. All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981.
- Tues St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15–6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859.
- 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)

This Month's Diary

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

Wed 3 Feb at 1.10pm LUNCHTIME RECITAL in St Peter's Church to be given by pupils from Berkhamsted School. Free Entry. Retiring collection for the Church Choir.

Mon 8 Feb at 8.00pm ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church. Craig Nathan, Aylesbury. Free entry. Retiring collection.

Sat 20 Feb 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 22 Feb at 8.00pm TALK in the Court House. Cowper Society Winter Talk 2 – Robin McMorran "The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to Technology. Interactivity and the internet for the Totally Bewildered". Free entry. Retiring collection.

Services:

St Peter's:

All Saints'

7th: Sunday next before Lent, 10am Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 4pm: Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Team

10th: 8pm, Meditative Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins

14th: First Sunday of Lent, 10am, Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

21st: Second Sunday of Lent, 10am, Morning Worship, Richard Hackworth

28th: Third Sunday of Lent, 10am, Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

Registers:

St Peter's

Baptisms:

19th December: Josh Paul BEARD

Funerals:

7th December: Evelyn Betty VARNEY

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.

Further information available from our church websites:

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

News from the Hospice of St Francis

Arsenal Legends visit Hospice

Hospice patient and passionate Gunners fan Mark Simmonds received a huge boost from his beloved club after a VIP visit from two Arsenal legends, Bob Wilson OBE and Pat Rice in December – just a few days before he sadly passed away. Mark had hoped to fulfil a dream



by hiring a box to watch his beloved Arsenal play at home, however his condition prevented him from travelling so the Hospice team arranged for Arsenal to come to him.

Mark's wife Liz, said, "The treatment and compassion Mark received while in the Hospice will bring great comfort to me in the difficult time ahead. Mark told me on several occasions how privileged he was that Bob and Pat took the time to visit him and said for the first time he didn't feel like just a number which was entirely due to the team at the Hospice who couldn't do enough for him."

The Hospice's Spring Centre

There are many courses currently on offer at our Spring Centre including beginner's iPad and computing sessions plus regular courses aimed at carers and a monthly informal carers coffee group.

Other events coming up include a sleep and relaxation workshop on Thursday 18th February 1-3pm and an Art Making Group on Monday 15th February 2-3:15pm. To find out more call: 01442 869550.

Student Volunteer Week

It's Student Volunteer Week 22-28 February. We will be using the week to celebrate and thank over 100 students who volunteer with us in our shops, in our Inpatient Unit or with the Fundraising team. We welcome students from all backgrounds to volunteer with us either as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, to gain valuable work experience, as part of a university placement or to further their interests. Find out more by contacting Gillian in Voluntary Services on 01442 869550.

Returned to Glory

Our pre-loved furniture showroom on the Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted has expanded and now has room for even more furniture items to buy or upcycle, plus curtains, fabrics and homeware. The showroom is also running its popular Spring Paint Workshop programme during February and March giving a chance for some 'hands-on' upcycling and insider tips using Autentico chalk paints. There will also be an Art and Crafts exhibition over the weekend of Sat Feb 27th and Sun 28th February showcasing paintings, prints and ceramics from local artists so do make a point of visiting then!

Bubble Rush – Sunday 17 April

Put Sunday 17th April in your diary for our new, exciting, family-friendly Bubble



Rush, which is coming to Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead. Open to all the family,

run, walk, crawl or dance your way through Bubble Stations as you are blasted by cannons blowing out crazy-coloured *Bubbles*, covering you in safe, frothy, foam. There are no age restrictions and the 5 km route is child friendly. Register now at www.stfrancis.org.uk/bubblerush

New Year... New Will

If your New Year's resolution is to write a new will, take advantage of our *Make a Will Month* in March. Several local solicitors have agreed to waive their fees, enabling local people to donate an equivalent amount to the Hospice. For a

list of participating solicitors, please visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/maw
There is no obligation to leave a gift to the Hospice in your will, but if you decide to leave a legacy it will help fund future care for local people with life-limiting illness. Last year, almost 80 people made their wills in March and donated their legal fees to the Hospice, raising just over £13,000.

Forthcoming dates for your Diaries

Berkhamsted Golf Day – Friday 15 April, Berkhamsted Golf Club. Join us on the fairway for a fun day followed by gala dinner and auction!

Hospice of St Francis Garden Party – Ashridge House – Sun 22 May 1-5pm

Midnight Walk – Saturday 25 June

Further details at: www.stfrancis.org.uk/events or 01442 869555

Facebook: TheHospiceofStFrancis

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Your Charities

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCHES, on Wednesday 17th February and Thursday 17th March from 12.00 noon to 13.30 in the Court House (near St Peter's Church). Home-made soups and fruit crumbles are on the menu. Donations to support the work of Christian Aid to help the world's poorest people lift themselves out of poverty. All welcome; do come!
Margaret Burbidge tel: 862139

MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY

Support the Mothers' Union Mothering Sunday Project. Buy a gift with a difference and help families round the world to thrive and support their communities. See catalogues and order online at www.makeamothersdayday.org
Margaret Burbidge tel: 862139

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

An open door decorates the cover of the Women's World Day of Prayer order of service – an appropriate symbol for Cuba whose Christian women have prepared this year's service on the theme Receive Children, Receive Me. After decades of isolation Cuba is re-entering the international community.

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held at **St John's Bourne End at 1 pm on Friday 4th March**. It will be just one of around 6000 services in the British Isles alone, forming part of the wave of prayer involving 3 million people and 170 countries.

Sunrise in Samoa sees the start of a celebration which circles the globe until the day ends at sunset in American Samoa.

Do come and share with the worldwide congregation.

OXFAM EMERGENCIES

Syria dominates the headlines but at any given time Oxfam is helping in around 25 emergency situations around the world. In Yemen 4,300 people have been killed, 1.3 million have fled their homes and Oxfam has supported over 100,000 with clean water and other essentials as it has in South Sudan where another million people are crowded into UN compounds for safety.

Tanzania, already a poor country, is host to 110,000 refugees from neighbouring Burundi with 100s more arriving daily. Clean water and sanitation are desperate needs in the overcrowded camps where the threat of cholera makes hygiene training an urgent priority.

Unreported emergencies like these are a huge drain on the charity's resources so a special fund called 365 has been set up so that money is available for such situations through the year. Donations welcome.

PANCAKE DAY—February 9th

Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent - the 40 days leading up to Easter - was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, [Anglo-Saxon](#) Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins). A bell would be rung to call people to confession. This came to be called the "Pancake Bell" and is still rung today.

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Interview with James Moir

Convenor of the Rectory Lane Cemetery and Trustee of the Friends of St Peters

So you have secured a Lottery award of a £1million that's excellent news: congratulations

Yes fantastic isn't it? Now the REAL works begins. Although the headline amount is indeed £1 million we have just £73,000 to start work on major repair and rebuilding projects as well as improving access to the site. The next phase of the funding is contingent on us demonstrating to the Big Lottery and the Heritage Lottery 'Parks for People' team that this is going to be of value to the whole community.

What changes will we see initially?

There won't be a lot of physical changes to begin with. One of our first jobs will be to appoint a paid project manager to start activity and conversations to involve groups who will use the Cemetery. As well as conserving the rich heritage we have there we want to provide a space that everyone in the town can use and enjoy.

What sort of help are you looking for?

With just a very small band of regular volunteers we have made terrific strides in making the Cemetery more presentable. One of these is a lady who lived close by for over 10 years and who thought that the public was not welcome! Nothing could be further from the truth – the space was acquired by public sub-

right up until the 1960s Sunday school picnics were held in the lower terrace. We need people who are interested in the wildlife and biodiversity of the site, want to learn new skills, give guided walks, help with events, do yoga or tai chi classes or just enjoy working with a friendly team in a beautiful space.



Does this mean you will be removing any graves?

Absolutely not. Some memorials were removed in the 1970s, but the ones there now will remain and part of the money will be used to restore and repair where possible. We will also be

looking for help tracing relatives of people buried there. A number of families have already restored and improved their memorials (see inset picture of Dave Allen).

Have you had any opposition to your plans?

No, once people understand what we are doing they are very supportive. We surveyed regular visitors in 2014 and had over 400 people at the Heritage Open Day which showed a taste of what could be achieved. It's a question of balancing past, present and future very carefully. The Friends of St Peters are committed to maintaining this as an open welcoming space for people to visit and enjoy now as well as in the future.



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Restaurant Review



By the Editor

I was very excited about hearing of a new Indian restaurant opening and headed for the launch in November which had a great turnout.

The makeover looks amazing with a contemporary look of purples and stylish furnishings. If you want to wait for your takeaway or your table there is the comfort of a lounge area and bar.

Owner Shorif has had many years experience running high quality Indian Restaurants. He believes in giving the very best in Indian Cuisine with fantastic service to compliment. Shorif is determined to make The Fat Buddha the best Indian Restaurant in Berkhamsted and its surrounding areas.



As we entered the dining area I was impressed how spacious and beautifully decorated the area was and such attention to detail evident right down to the cutlery and glassware – eclectic and high quality.

The dishes are cooked from fresh ingredients and there are no colourings and with a great

selection of traditional and new dishes it was very hard to choose.

We opted for a selection of starters

which included cream cheese and jalapeno parcels, black pepper chicken tikka and vegetable pakora (V). There is also an option for a mixed platter (minimum 2 person) £7.95 per head. These were good sized portions and the herbs and spices complemented the other ingredients perfectly.

The Fat Buddha cont...

For the main course, we chose raan mussalamm which is a leg of lamb, slowly roasted with royal cumin garam massala – the meat just fell off the bone and again portions were large enough to share. We also tried the Passanda chicken cooked in a mild sauce with almonds, served with peshwari naan, bombay aloo and plain rice. Unfortunately even for two of us there was just too much, I suggest go easy on the starters as the main courses are ample.

The staff were very attentive and polite. The whole experience was a gastronomic delight and I will be visiting again very soon.



Look out for their Sunday banquet - £9.95 for a starter, main, side dish and rice/naan. Free for children under 9!

Takeaway and delivery menu also available. Please see website.

www.thefatbuddha.co.uk



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Your Garden

Adventures in boots by Helen Reeley

Not so much in boots these days as in sandals. I'm currently on my winter break in Cabo San Lucas, Baja, Mexico. Being so used to the great outdoors I find British winters very difficult to cope with so to save myself from cabin fever/SAD/depression, I take myself off for the very worst part, mid December to early February. This time away also helps with that other dreadful part of the year when folk go a bit crazy with the festive period.

Cabo San Lucas experienced a strong category three hurricane back in September 2014. Hurricane Odile wreaked havoc & damage was valued at \$1.22 billion. I saw for myself in Cabo San Lucas & San Jose del Cabo the remnants of the damage; half completed buildings remained just that & palm trees uprooted at the time lay in heaps with other landscaping debris.

Much of the carnage was repaired very promptly including the landscaping. I was impressed with roadside planting & realised, of course, it was all quite new. Some stunning plant combinations of aloe, cacti, bougainvillea & ornamental grasses adorn the roadsides & roundabouts. The planting was mulched with limestone chippings which

attentive gardeners raked in an attractive oriental type fashion.

San Jose del Cabo is home to a cacti farm. Reports on the internet said the business was totally ruined, mud lay inches thick over the specimens, poly tunnels/shaded areas had been stripped away by the force of the winds and the art sculptures

lay decimated. But 18 months on I was amazed at how well the farm had bounced back, there was sign of any damage, the mud had gone (along with the mozzies), the pond repaired & the maze installation re-



installed. Shade canopies had been rebuilt & over 1,800 specimens are again growing aided by local nursery professionals. New bougainvillea 'tents' had been built which will offer visitors welcome shade in a few year's time when they are mature. The roundabout just outside the nursery is one of the most well designed & considered schemes I've seen on my travels-knocked Singapore's municipal planting into second place. So much work in such a short time. If you ever take some winter sun to San Jose del Cabo be sure to take a taxi to Wirikuta Cactus Park, \$8 entrance & some fantastic photo opportunities.

Your Sport

Matthew Dawson

Campana sends fellow Comrades into last 16

Last month Berkhamsted FC achieved a brilliant fate, reaching the last 16 of the FA Vase, a tournament which has a trip to Wembley at the end of it.

At the beginning of January the Comrades rose to the challenge and saw off a spirited fight back from Essex side Hullbridge Sports to win 4-2 in front of a bumper crowd.

Hero on the day was Alex Campana, a former Watford academy product who scored a brilliant hat-trick on a wet and windy day at Broadwater.

Berkhamsted's last 16 match was due to be played on the 30th January, and

therefore by the time you read this article, Berko may either be closer to a dream final at Wembley, or will have actually been knocked out.

Nonetheless, Berkhamsted's achievements in the FA Vase this season have been excellent but have come as a possible distraction in the league though. At the time of writing Berko have slipped to seventh in the table, despite being in the top three for the opening months of the campaign.

However the financial income Berko are receiving from their exploits in the FA Vase almost makes up for their loss in league form. For a club of Berkhamsted's size, progressing through the different

rounds presents a crucial opportunity to earn some extra revenue. There was a prize fund of £2000 for reaching the last 16, and a possible £2500 waiting if they reach the quarter-finals.

Berkhamsted have every chance of progressing through to the next round after their valiant display against Hullbridge but they could have faced possible holders North Shields in their last

16 clash at the end of January.

Berko had a great start to their final 32 game, opening the scoring after just three minutes of their game against Hullbridge. Physical striker Bradley O'Donovan was able to fire home after good work from Alex

Campana who seemed to be at the heart of everything down the left hand side. It was Campana who stole the show, scoring a brilliant individual effort to make it 2-0, before Berkhamsted conceded goals either side of the break from a penalty and a goalkeeping error. The hosts came under serious pressure in the second half with Hullbridge looking the most likely to score the winner. However Campana seized on a loose ball from a goal mouth scramble against the run of play to make it 3-2 late on. He then sealed Berkhamsted's passage into the last 16 by popping up again to slot the ball past the keeper to make it four.

Stats correct up to 16.1.2016



Your Schools' News

Ashlyns School

Friday 15th January saw 180 Sports Leaders from years 7-10 take part in Ashlyns School's first ever Paralympic day. With the help of wheelchair basketball coach (and Dad) Paul Reynolds, all students took part in Wheelchair Basketball, Boc-cia, Blind Football & Sitting Volleyball. Mr Jones said "our Leaders, in the future, may need to teach children with disabilities and so the whole purpose of the day was to give them an insight into what difficulties can be faced when participating in sport with a disability. The Leaders were also given advice on how they can effectively teach students who may have disabilities".

Victoria School

We currently have a vacancy available for a part-time Office Manager. Please see: www.teachinherts.com

Berkhamsted School

Ten Berkhamsted School students are celebrating receiving Oxbridge offers at the start of 2016. Five conditional offers to Oxford and four to Cambridge have

been achieved by current Year 13 students while Emma Lewis, who completed her A Levels at the School in 2015, has secured a firm offer to study Chemistry at Oxford.

Among the students is Charlotte Lee, Berkhamsted School's first recipient of the prestigious [Peter Gibbs Science Scholarship](#), which is named in honour of a much-loved teacher of Science who passed away in November 2010. This fully funded Scholarship is awarded on merit to a talented applicant to Berkhamsted Sixth who demonstrates a passion for Science and aspires to pursue a course of study in Medicine or the Sciences. The Scholarship is funded through donations by parents of the School and Old Berkhamstedians. Charlotte, who joined Berkhamsted from Dr Challoner's in 2014, plans to study Medicine at Oxford

It is also worth noting that Freddy Wilkinson hopes to follow in the footsteps of his sister Katherine, who left the School in 2014 to study Medicine at Clare College, Cambridge.

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