

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

April 2016

What's on in April

Julian Dawson's Berkhamsted Review

The Lost Rectory of Berkhamsted St Peter's

50p

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

In this issue...

Welcome to the April 2015 edition of Your Berkhamsted. Now summer has officially begun.... Let us hope for less rain. Her Majesty The Queen has a few mentions this month - it is her 90th birthday on 21st April, although her official birthday will be celebrated in June. Look out for celebrations. On 6th May The Queen will be visiting Berkhamsted; hopefully there will be more information in the next edition. We also celebrate St Georges Day this month on 23rd. I would like this opportunity to thank our volunteers who make this magazine happen such as contributors, distributors and more. Please see our subscription page and get your magazine delivered for free. Our what's on page shows events in April in and around Berkhamsted, also look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Please see email below and get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may have, either to publish or additions/changes to the magazine for consideration.

Jacqueline, Editor

editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk



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Front cover: Cover painting by Jenni Cator, [@artat88.co.uk](http://artat88.co.uk).



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

By Julian Dawson



The Berkhamsted Fun Run marks for many the serious start of the running season. Hemeltoday.co.uk reported that a “Berkhamsted man who is running in the Virgin Money London Marathon on April 24 will be warming up by running the” shorter event. Many deserving charities benefit from both event, but in this case Philip Duncan is running to raise funds for Child Bereavement UK and there is still time to donate both to his and other worthy causes on the Virgin Money Giving website.

If team games are more to your taste familiesonline.co.uk announces changes at “Little Kickers and Little Rugby classes run by Jamie Lustigman in Harpenden, Hemel, Redbourn, Berkhamsted and St Albans”. The organisation offers football classes for the early years of 18th months to seven years, and I daresay is a local feeder for the Raiders club. I doubt this will bring us ever closer, however, to repeating the feats of the 1966 World Cup, which alarmingly is nearly half a century ago. “They think it’s all over”... indeed, well and truly over.

A new source for this column, ehospice.com, explains the use of e-learning in palliative care and education with “Antonia Dean, lecturer practitioner at the Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire [explaining] how she uses e-ELCA in both a flipped

classroom and blended learning approach”. In a highly technical article, the head of research and clinical innovation at Hospice UK explains how to make the most out of end of life e-learning. This is an important initiative which strengthens the knowledge of practitioners in a range of care environments, not just hospices, across the globe.

watfordobserver.co.uk’s excellent sports coverage continues to report on the highly successful season for Berkhamsted football club. “Berkhamsted reached the final of the Challenge Trophy for the first time after a 3-0 win at Chesham United Reserves” and at the time of writing was due to play either Welwyn Garden City or Codicote in the final at a neutral venue. Probably not Wembley, though Vicarage Road would be nice.

Our local letter writers have made telegraph.co.uk again, with Jennifer Habib commenting in relation to the grubbing up of the Tory grass roots that Cameron “has adopted the same view of democracy as the EU commissioners have for the people of Greece”. There is a fascinating disconnect between members of parliament of both Labour and Conservative and their actual membership, the latter being similarly detached from the moderate ground.

(Continued on page 5)

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This is somewhat worrying indictment of modern politics, which has manifested itself in the growth of populist nationalist parties across Europe, and the alarming mop of hair otherwise known as Mr Trump.

Noodles.com is a website that collates press releases. Really, is there no end to the excitement in this column? Bowls England has announced the search for the 2016 Club of the Year, which was proudly won by Berkhamsted BC in 2015. The legend that is the pipe smoking Tony Allcock, now the sport's body's chief

executive, hopes the award will help promote the sport in the country. His predecessor in post, the similarly tobacco inhaling Walt Raleigh, would certainly raise his sword to that.



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What's on

Every 2nd Tuesday at 12.30 to 13.15:

Lunchtime concerts – St Mary's Church,
High Street, Hemel Hempstead

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts

Market (1st Saturday every month)

10am to 4pm. The Town Hall, 196 High

Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3AP

Through the double doors above

Carluccio's on the High St. Lift access at

back. If you would like a stall contact

Claire - Mob: 07968 627 179; Email:

berkhamstedmarket@hotmail.co.uk;

website:

www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk

Tring Farmers Market (Alternate Saturdays)

The Marketplace, Brook Street, Tring

9.00am - 12.15pm

Tring Farmers Market promotes local food

for local people and offers a full range of

produce including: meat, eggs, bacon,

cakes, biscuits, preserves, pies,

vegetables, cheese, fish, plants, jewellery,

crafts and much more. For more info

email:

enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

Mon, 4th April @ 8pm. Film—Wakolda.

In 1960 an Argentinian family welcome a

German doctor into their home and

entrust their young daughter to his care.

Is he what he seems? Dir: Lucia

Puenzo/2013/Argentina/Cert 12A/93

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. DC

Tues, 12th April @ 8pm. Art - Landscape

in Oils. A demonstration of painting

landscapes in oils by Marilyn Comparetto

Civic Centre.

www.berkhamstedartsociety.com.

Visitors on the door £3

Thurs, 14th April @ 8pm. Talk - Dead

Space to Living Space: Transforming the

Rectory Lane Cemetery. Speaker/s from

Friends of St. Peter's.

www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk Annual

sub per household £5. Visitors £2 at door

payable towards annual sub. DC £1

Sat, 16th April @ 7.30pm . Music- Knights

of Harmony. For One Knight Only... In

Perfect Harmony. The Knights of

Harmony will be joined by the UK's No.1

barbershop quartet, Reckless, and local

quartet The Lacettes for a night of close-

harmony singing, with TV's Gabby Best

hosting. Centenary Theatre.

www.knightsofharmony.org.uk Adult £12,

Under-16 £6, Family £30 (2 adults & 2

under-16s). For tickets, email

tickets@knightsofharmony.org.uk or call

07836 25257

Mon 18th to 19th April @ 8pm. Film - Cafe

de Flore. Two love stories, separated by

time and place – 1960s Paris, present day

Montreal – but connected in profound

and mysterious ways. Dir: Jean-Marc

Vallée/2011/Canada,France/Cert

15/120min/Subtitles. Civic Centre.

www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk

Annual sub: joint £65, single £35 (conc

£60 and £32), DC. Visitors £5 at door (no

conc). 863155. DC

What's on, continued

Out of Town

The Court Theatre -

www.courttheatre.co.uk

Aylesbury Waterside Theatre: for information -

<http://www.atgtickets.com>

Watford Colosseum: for information -

<https://watfordcolosseum.co.uk>

Sat, 23rd April @ 4pm - Dacorum Community Choir celebrates St George's Day. Hemel Hempstead Methodist Church, Northridge Way, HP1 2AU
Tickets on the door, or visit www.dacorumcommunitychoir.org.

We are also changing our weekly rehearsal times after Easter, so could you please replace our listing in your community groups section as follows:

MUSIC: Dacorum Community Choir meets on Tuesday mornings during school term at the Church of the Resurrection, behind the shops at Henry Wells Square, Grovehill, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 6BJ. After Easter, rehearsals will be 20 minutes longer, starting at 9.40 am and ending at 11.30. We are an informal group, open to anyone who wants to share the pleasure and friendship of learning to sing a wide range of community music from around the world. There's more about us and our programme on Streetlife, or phone our membership secretary on 01442 874988.

Mon, 25th April @ 7.45pm – Talk. Thor Heyerdahl: Adventurer or Archaeologist?
Dr J. Bjørnør Storfjell. Music Room, Berkhamsted School.

www.berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk

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

Members £1, visitors £3. 254801. DC

Wed, 27th April @ 8pm – Comedy. Not the Queen's Nostrils. B'sted's Stand-up Club. Kings Arms. £3.00/£1.50 concs. Collection for Pepper Nurses. Book at lstate@btinternet.com

Thurs, 28th April @ 7.30pm – Theatre. Calamity Jane – a musical. Calamity Jane can outrun and outshoot any man in Deadwood. When new girl Adelaid comes to town Calamity struggles with her jealousy. It takes her old enemy Wild Bill Hickok to make her see sense. Court Theatre, Pendley, Tring.
www.courttheatre.co.uk Online tickets
Thurs £5, Fri and Sat £10 and £8 conc.
info@courttheatre.co.uk. 7543560478. DC



Book Review

Twirlymen: The Unlikely History of Cricket's Greatest Spin Bowlers by Amol Rajan

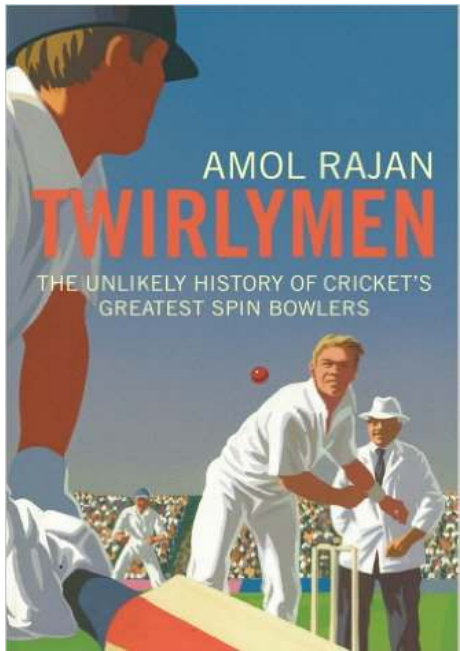
Those who know me will understand my passion for the greatest game within the pantheon of man's creation, that of cricket. Of all sports, cricket arguably has the most extensive and cerebral literature by such writing greats as Neville Cardus, the much lamented Christopher Martin Jenkins, John Arlott, and conceivably the best of all, the Trinidadian Marxist CLR James – *"What do they know of cricket who only cricket know?"* .

And yet for all my knowledge of the game, the legend of the Master Jack Hobbs, the inimitable style of Victory Trumper, the Ashes legends of Botham and Flintoff, there was a part of the game that was a mystery to me. Thus Amol Rajan's "Twirlymen" filled the considerable gap in my knowledge in explaining the "unlikely history of cricket's greatest spin bowlers". Taking a chronological approach to the evolution of spin bowling, it also explains through helpful interludes of diagrams how different approaches of grip can impart variations of spin on the ball. If you ever wanted to know your leg-break from your off-break, the difference between the top-spinner and the googly, how to spot the flipper or the armball, how to play the zooter or doosra, and finally what on earth is the carom ball, then this book is for you.

It is also a great exposition of the eccentrics and geniuses of the spin pantheon, particularly Sidney Barnes, perhaps the most complete bowler in the

history of the game, and whose feats will never be equalled. But the book also reveals the characteristics and actions of such bowlers as W.G. Grace, A.G. Steel, George Lohmann, the demon Spofforth; then later Warwick Armstrong, the Tiger Bill O'Reilly, the wonderful "good morning everyone" Ritchie Benaud, and then to the man who single handedly rescued spin bowling from the monochrome threat of fast bowling, the magical Shane Warne. If such names even slightly pique your interest then this book is an absolute must for your sporting library.

By Julian Dawson



Berkhamsted Museum and History

The Lost Rectory of Berkhamsted St Peter's

Had the Reverend John Crofts, 1810-1851, not demolished Cowper's Rectory and built for himself what is now known as the Old Rectory, a Museum devoted to the life and works of the poet William Cowper might well have been in Berkhamsted rather than in Olney, Buckinghamshire. Cowper's Rectory stood in much the same place as the present Rectory today. Up Rectory Lane just past the gateway into the cemetery on the left-hand side is Cowper's Well, a well, much photographed in the past, presumably providing the water supply for the Rector and his family. The Rectory Lane Cemetery Project has plans to refurbish this to provide a water supply for visitors wishing to tend the graves of their ancestors. Numerous prints remain of Cowper's Rectory, most with a figure of a child and woman in the garden, perhaps indicating a happy childhood before William was left motherless at the age of six.

William's mother is remembered in the memorial in the Lady Chapel, Anne (nee Donne) descended from the poet John Donne. Together with his mother are buried several of her children who did not survive infancy. William and his brother John were the only two who survived. In the church registers of Great Berkhamstead are entries of the baptism of several of William's siblings and then a short time afterwards a funeral service and committal for the same child, both services conducted by the Reverend John Cowper, William's father. Copies of the church registers for these years are in the History Society

collection in the Museum Store.

Does anything else remain which is contemporary with Cowper's lifetime? Cowper himself talks of being taken to school, wrapped up warmly against the winter's cold. It sounds as though he was being pulled along in a sledge and there was probably snow on the ground. Where was this little dame school? According to the Blue Plaque it was in the central building of what is now M & Co. Henry Nash writing in his *Reminiscences of Berkhamsted* in the 1880s, but looking back fifty years, reports that he had heard the building had been demolished.

Consequently it is more likely that that was the site of the little school, which William Cowper attended.

'Where once we dwelt, our name is heard no more,

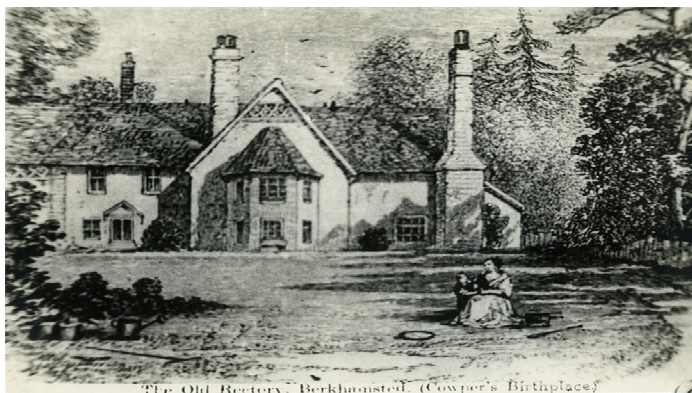
Children not thine have trod my nurs'ry floor;

And where the gard'ner Robin, day by day,

Drew me to school along the public way,
Delighted with my bauble coach, and
wrapp'd

In scarlet mantle warm and velvet cap,
'Tis now become a history little known
That once we call'd the past'ral house
our own.'

Although William Cowper was sent away to school when his mother died he returned regularly until his father died when he was eighteen years old. It was during his time at Berkhamsted that he had learnt to love nature and the countryside.



He later wrote lovingly and nostalgically, of Berkhamsted and its surrounding countryside and what he had lost when he had to leave it after his father's death. 'I sighed a long adieu to fields and woods, from which I once thought I should never be parted, and was at no time so sensible of their beauties, as just when I left them all behind, to return no more.'

Interest in William Cowper and his hymns and poetry has fluctuated over the years. Nevertheless certain features bear witness to attempts to revive an interest in keeping his memory alive. Although we cannot say with Robert Southey that Berkhamsted would be 'more known in after ages as the birthplace of Cowper than for its connection with so many historical personages who figured in the tragedies of old' we have a number of features in the town to remind us of our poet.

John Wolstenholme Cobb, whom we featured in an earlier YB, Rector from 1871-83, did his best to arouse interest in Cowper. He raised funds for the Cowper Memorial window in St. Peter's church and provided an inscribed marble slab on Cowper's well.

More recently the new Cowper window, with its delicate tracery was unveiled a little late for the Millennium. This depicts St Peter's Church, a deer and a hare, showing Cowper's love of the countryside and nature, and in its delicacy something of his vulnerability.

What else remains in our town to remind us of our poet? From Victorian times we have Cowper Road, steadfastly referred to as Cowper Road, to prevent confusion with William Cooper, the inventor of sheep dip. More recently after the break up of the Millfield estate we have Gilpin's Ride. I wonder how many seven year olds know of the connection with William Cowper and can recite large parts of Cowper's poem today. 'John Gilpin was a citizen of credit and renown, A Trainband Captain eke was he of famous London Town'

Last but not least, we must not forget the Cowper Society, which runs cultural events in St Peter's Church throughout the year, ranging from lunchtime recitals, concerts and talks, keeping alive the memory of William Cowper in Berkhamsted, his birthplace. His home may no longer stand, but his memory lives on.

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!"

Playing Dollies

The waitress slid two mugs of hot chocolate across the table and scurried away. 'How naughty we are, Pimm,' Rosemary giggled. Pimm's woolly smile beamed up at her. Rosemary winked and plunged her mouth into the swirl of whipped cream. 'Delicious! And quite wickedly so.' Little sticky bubbles clung to the white hairs above her top lip. 'Not thirsty today, Pimm?' Rosemary stroked the rag doll's hat and glugged down the second cup. She mopped the evidence from her bristles and summoned the waitress. Rosemary studied the girl. She was about sixteen. Soaked in perfume and swamped by her skirt. Her shoes were new but cheap with silly, pointy toes. 'Is it your first day, dear?' The waitress nodded. 'Well, you be sure to enjoy it. A first day should be special, you know – lucky.'

The girl smiled.

'Please could we have a pot of tea for two? And take these mugs away, will you?'

Rosemary glanced up at the clock. Heat rose from her stomach and rushed through her body. This was her favourite part. Watching and waiting.

'As we always say, dear Pimm, where there's a will there's a way. But when there's no will, well, there are so very many ways.'

A beige hat bobbed under the trellis and into the coffee shop. Rosemary swallowed, forcing down bubbles of excitement.

'Hello, Agnes my dear.'

Agnes Peterson's pale blue eyes peered out from their thick, folded lids. With her liver-painted lips and hunched back she lumbered towards the table like a giant tortoise. She threw a large sports bag down on the table and lowered herself onto the chair.

'Rosemary, I just don't think I can do it.'

Rosemary eyed the big black bag.

'Rosemary, could we see if Jack's absolutely sure about this? Maybe it was a mistake?'

'A mistake? You heard the poor man – he was crying. He's trapped, Agnes. Surely, you wouldn't want to prolong his suffering?'

Agnes shook, tears zigzagged across the lines on her face. She clutched Rosemary's arm.

'Please, Rosemary...'

'Well, I'll try, Agnes.'

Rosemary threw her head back, slammed her hands down on the table. She growled and hissed like a frightened cat. Mouth gaping and eyes fixed open.

'Agnes?'

'Jack? Jack – darling...'

'Agnes, help me!'

'Please Jack, please just tell me why?'

'I don't *want* to help those donkeys, I *need* to help those donkeys or...well, I'm scared Agnes...'

Rosemary hesitated. The waitress hovered beside her.

'One pot of breakfast tea and two cups.'

'I can't even begin to tell you what I've seen. What's waiting for me if I can't, you know...move on. It's terrible, Agnes, just terrible...'

Agnes sobbed into her hands. Rosemary rolled her eyes and started to groan.

'I'm so sorry - I'll get you another cup.'

The waitress scuttled away.

'Oh no! Agnes dear, I'm losing him...I'm losing him...'

'No! Jack? I'll do it, my darling. I'll do it, Jack, I promise.'

'That's my lass. Don't forget me, Agnes! My beautiful, Agnes...'

'Jack?'

Rosemary flopped onto the table, her nose skimming the teapot. Agnes stared at her, crying, mouth open and arms outstretched. Rosemary shook her head.

'Here's your cup.'

The waitress placed a cup down in front of Pimm and backed away.

'How sweet! She thought Pimmy wanted one!'

Agnes looked up, her face blotchy and swollen. Rosemary leaned over and poured the tea.

'Drink that, dear, it'll make you feel better.'

'Has he really gone this time?'

'Don't torture yourself, Agnes. You've set him free now and we both know he's gone to a better place.'

Agnes pushed the black bag across the table.

'It's all there, just as he asked. Twenty thousand pounds, in £50 notes,' she whispered.

Rosemary took the bag and patted Agnes' shoulder.

'It's what he needed, dear. You heard him. And it'll make such a difference to those poor little donkeys.'

Agnes nodded. She closed her eyes and blew her nose. Rosemary slurped her tea and winked at Pimm.

'Take care of yourself then, Agnes dear.'

'Thank you, Rosemary.'

Rosemary bowed her head.

'What use is a gift that can't be shared?'

Rosemary picked up the black bag, sat the rag doll on the top and trundled over to the counter.

'Hello, dear. I've come to settle up.'

The girl jumped forward and stared at the till.

Rosemary pulled out a £50 note and handed it to the waitress.

'Keep the change, dear'

'But, I...'

'It's your first day! Everyone should be lucky on their first day.'

By Julia Brilleman



Celebrations

Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday Service Sunday 12 June 3pm

We will be holding a service at St Peter's to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday at 3pm on Sunday 12 June. This will be followed by 'Tea on the Green' just outside the church with tea, scones, cake, Pimms, Haresfoot Ale, children's games, country market stall and raffle (3:45pm – 5:30pm). This event is open to the whole town and we will be inviting as many people as possible to join us to mark the occasion. There will be no Petertide Fair this year. We hope members of the congregation will step up to help, particularly with baking cakes and serving tea – more in due course! If you would like to nominate a charity to be a recipient of all money raised on the day, please email: prunellamurray@btinternet.com with brief details. The congregation will be asked to vote for their favoured charity in due course.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is celebrating its 60th year and 14 to 19 year olds in Hertfordshire (up to 25 for those with disabilities) are being encouraged to take part in the range of activities and volunteering opportunities it has to offer.

**Visit www.youthconnexions.org or 01992 588225
<http://www.dofe.org>**

For more information

Hertfordshire Year of Walking

Hertfordshire Year of Walking is set to culminate in an exciting, quirky and diverse Walking Festival for the month of May, 2016! The county-wide festival will showcase the best that Hertfordshire has to offer from nature trails, singing jaunts, pub history walks and bird walks.

Welcome to our Walks & More programme. It lists a variety of outdoor activities aimed at inspiring you to explore the Hertfordshire countryside. Activities include walks, cycle rides and family events led by someone familiar with the area who can help you get the most out of your local countryside. It's the [Hertfordshire Year of Walking](http://www.hertslink.org/cms/getactive/walksandmore/), so what better time to explore you local countryside?

<http://www.hertslink.org/cms/getactive/walksandmore/>



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The Berkhamsted Bluebell Walk 2016

Join the 48th Berkhamsted Walk on Sunday 8th May 2016 to raise money for The Children's Society and help change children's stories.

It is a painful fact that in Britain today many children and young people are still suffering extreme hardship, abuse and neglect. Too often their problems are ignored and their voices unheard. Now it is time to listen and to act. Help us to make a difference to the lives of these vulnerable young people by taking part in the Berkhamsted Walk and raising sponsorship to support the work of The Children's Society.

Alternatively you can park at Ashridge Management College HP41NS and set off from there on the **6 mile Fun Walk** any time between 11am and 2pm. A quiz to keep the children busy provides extra fun!

Two prizes will again be awarded for the highest amount raised; in the first category by one individual and in the second by a family group or small group of walkers.

To learn more visit www.berkhamstedwalk.com and download sponsor forms or collect one



So dig out your walking boots, limber up and ask your family, friends and work colleagues for sponsorship, or even to join you on the walk. Come along and walk with us on well marked paths through Ashridge and enjoy the bluebells and beech trees this Spring.

Choose the route that suits you. **The 18 mile Challenge and 12 mile Bluebell Walks** start from the Court House, HP4 2AX between 10am and 11.30am.

from St Peter's Church, The Complete Outdoors, the Library or phone 01442 864968 to speak to Ann Browning.

The Children's Society needs all you can raise to make a difference to the lives of the most disadvantaged children in this country. Please don't let today's neglected child turn into tomorrow's missing teenager or addicted adult.

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

“ Some thoughts on Robotics and Technology “

There have been a lot of robots in the press recently. Driverless vehicles have a high profile. There will be a trial of driverless trucks on the M6 this year, and of driverless cars in 2017. A recent video on the Internet showed a robot developed by Google stacking boxes while some heartless experimenter pushed it over and knocked the boxes out of its arms. The robot meekly gathered itself up and carried on, clearly unprovoked to retaliate. I wonder when these wondrous machines will greet us in restaurants or the doctor's surgery. But could they, I wonder, ever appear in church? I have no idea about the theology of robots, but perhaps one day a robot might hand out hymn books at the door of St Peter's. Do you think that is fanciful? I recently visited a London exhibition illustrating how information accessible through the Internet shapes how we perceive and interact with each other. One novel idea, already up and running, was developed for an enclosed nunnery in New York. It automatically searches the Internet for news items worthy of prayer and suggests these to the nuns as they pray. There is a "Click to Pray" phone app for praying with the Pope. Wider afield there is a US patent for an Internet controlled Tibetan Prayer Wheel, and I am sure much more. The church is wisely cautious about technical innovation. At St Peter's you can donate money on the Internet or by a text message, but technology does not yet accompany our worship to the extent it accompanies other parts of modern life. Worship and prayer are about personal

response to God. Worship is strengthened by our thinking and reflecting about it, by adding our own private prayers to those we share together. Technology is good if it promotes all that, but not if it is a distraction. But technology can facilitate worship too. Do you remember St Pixels, the Internet church? It started in 2004 and held its last service in November 2015. It built an on-line church community which continues to meet through Twitter and Facebook. One member said that through St Pixels they met friends for life even though they never met in real life. Another member thanked St Pixels for their sanity, for being there when life was darkest and for celebrating when it was brightest. Such a sense of community is a great compliment for any church, whether it is twelfth century building or a twenty-first century web site. For myself, I will continue to appear in church in person. But if they ever do replace me with a robot, I do so hope that you will be able to tell the difference.

Richard Hackworth



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

Registers - St Peter's

April

Baptisms

None (Lent)

Weddings

None (Lent)

Funerals

23rd February Edward Kingston George Lewis

3rd March Yvonne Joy Smithies

Services - All Saints

April

3rd: Second Sunday of Easter, 10am Morning Worship, Revd Brian Tebbutt

10th: Third Sunday of Easter, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

17th: Fourth Sunday of Easter, 10am Morning Worship, David Williamson

24th: Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Janet Ridgway

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

Sun 1st May at 6.15am: MAY MORNING MADRIGALS sung from the Tower of St Peter's Church under the direction of Adrian Davis, followed by BREAKFAST in the Court House. Donations for breakfast please.



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



April 2016

New Chairman of Trustees

We said goodbye to our chairman of Trustees, Charlie Toner in March, who is retiring after six years at the helm.

"The Hospice helps so many patients and their families in such a caring way – and I've been proud to be able to help," he said. "It was often challenging, always interesting, very rewarding, but also *fun* – which isn't a word a lot of people associate with the Hospice, but any work you enjoy should be fun. It's also been a privilege."

Alison Woodhams, who has worked in senior finance posts at the BBC and University College London, succeeds Mr Toner with immediate effect.

Hospice Events

The Hospice is working hard on its packed programme of fundraising and awareness events to raise money for the care we provide to people with a life-limiting illness, and their families including:



Midnight Walk - 10th Celebration Party!
We are excited about celebrating 10 years of night-time walking for Hospice care on Saturday 25 June and this year's theme is NEON!



A decade ago, **700** people joined The Hospice of St Francis for our very first Midnight Walk and since then, **8,298** others have walked **78,780** miles at night between them to raise **£1,211,852.88** for local hospice care.

This year, we hope that as many people as possible will join us on this year's Midnight Walk, whether they walked a year ago, ten years ago or have never walked before. We promise a party atmosphere with our new UV pods to pop neon bubbles and glow under UV lighting!

The party kicks off at 9pm at Hemel Hempstead School, snap up an Early Bird registration for £15 Adults and £10 for 11-18's, just visit: www.stfrancis.org.uk/midnightwalk

The Garden Party at Ashridge House – Sunday 22 May 1-5pm

Bring the family and join us for teas on the lawn before browsing the stalls in the stunning grounds of Ashridge House, kindly sponsored by Home and Abroad Rentals. There'll also be refreshing Pimms, hot barbecue or salad lunches on the terrace, cream teas, live jazz, children's entertainment and a shopping village.

Ashridge Golf Day

Our 6th Annual Charity Golf Day on Friday 15th April is taking place at Berkhamsted Golf Club in Hertfordshire. So, if you need a break from the tread-mill or want to take a little time out and mix with your network of friends and clients, join us! It's £95 a head, £60 for members. Call 01442 869555.

Forget-Me-Not-Garden

We will be displaying 1,500 beautiful handcrafted forget-me-not flowers at the Hospice in May. The flowers will be produced by the team who brought a sea of poppies to the Tower of London and will give people a unique way to remember a loved one. Anyone is welcome to buy a flower for £25. They will be displayed at the Hospice throughout May and then sent to those who have purchased one as a special keepsake in June. For more information, email vanessa.howden-smith@stfrancis.org.uk or call 01442 869555.

Designer Sale at Returned to Glory

Returned to Glory, our pre-loved furniture showroom on the Northbridge Road in Berkhamsted is hosting a Designer Weekend on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 May with lots of upcycled pieces and designer soft furnishings available to buy. Pop in early to grab a bargain!

Spring Centre courses

Our therapeutic gardening group starts again on Wednesdays in April. We welcome anyone who has been recently bereaved, carers or people who have a life-limiting illness to join us to spend a couple of hours doing some gentle tending of our vegetable patch. We're also running a computer course, Pilates and Nordic walking over the next few months. Find out more by calling the Spring Centre team on 01442 869550.



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

Facebook: TheHospiceofStFrancis
Twitter: hospicstfrancis

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FUN DOG SHOW!



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Entries on the day

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THE BIG SPLASH EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

The Big Splash is a fun filled Easter Holiday Club for children in years 1-6. Three days jam- packed with games, crafts, drama, music, great Bible teaching and much more. Being held at Ashlyns School on Tuesday 5th-Thursday 7th April from 10am – 12.30pm. It's free! Just complete a registration form (available from churches) for your child and either email it to sharon@sunnysidechurch.org.uk or post it to Sunnyside church (postal address can be found on the form). Come and be part of The Big Splash adventure!

THE OXFAM BUCKET

Stacking buckets inside one another has saved Oxfam significant sums. Flying jerry cans filled with air to emergency situations was costly and inefficient, so specially designed buckets with removable taps and tightly fitting lids to avoid waste and contamination were substituted. Air circulates freely round the base so that stagnant water does not provide a happy hunting ground for mosquitoes. Costing just £2.50, the buckets are used to carry and store life giving water. They have proved invaluable to refugees on the move. A bucket filled with vital hygiene items costs £15 from the Oxfam Un-wrapped gift range.



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and 9.00pm finish

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by 6 April Email: ecrossley@oxfam.org.uk Tel: 07795 335391
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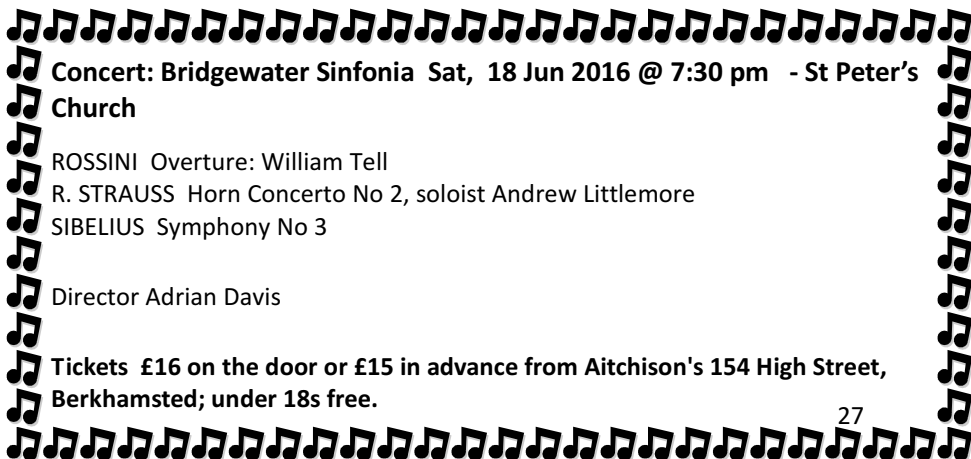
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A decorative border made of musical notes surrounds the concert information.

Concert: Bridgewater Sinfonia Sat, 18 Jun 2016 @ 7:30 pm - St Peter's Church

ROSSINI Overture: William Tell
R. STRAUSS Horn Concerto No 2, soloist Andrew Littlemore
SIBELIUS Symphony No 3

Director Adrian Davis

Tickets £16 on the door or £15 in advance from Aitchison's 154 High Street, Berkhamsted; under 18s free.

27

Your Garden

By Helen Reeley

AAAAdventures April in Boots

Recently I visited Andalusia again. I love this part of Spain & have been several times but never in March & I was surprised that spring wasn't more advanced in fact it was really chilly. Spain is a wind energy leader in Europe with about 20% of its energy coming from wind power & Andalusia is a main wind power region. What does this mean for garden owners in this region? Well the wind is something they have to contend with especially in the flat exposed areas where it's whipped up across the marsh land & golf course.



I was amazed to hear the gardens experience the occasional frost & this year some damage has been noticed on the mainly evergreen planting in the gardens. Not really a problem as the dead growth can be pruned off but couple the frost with winds that hamper

growth & the variety of plant specimens limits choice. Add into this concoction frightful soil which is full of builder's rubble & patches of the gardens which are susceptible to flooding, garden owners have a real struggle to make their out door spaces really lush all year round. Despite the challenges one of the gardens I saw was full of very healthy looking large shrubs which the owner lovingly tended all year round with the help of an experienced local gardener. The garden largely contained evergreen shrubs; tamarisk, azaleas, magnolias, choisya along with palms, cordylines, hibiscus, oleander & bougainvillea. I was surprised to see so little traditional Mediterranean planting-lavender, rosemary, sage, were all absent.

And in the summer the scorching winds whoosh across the water from Africa making container planting very high maintenance-pots need to be watered twice a day & water isn't cheap!

The cacti in the gardens gave an excellent display as did the succulents even in a cold & windy March they looked very good. I've always wanted to grow a garden in a really dry climate-such a challenge especially if one was to conserve water supplies, so different from what we're used to here in England.

TTFN, more next month-Helen
helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk

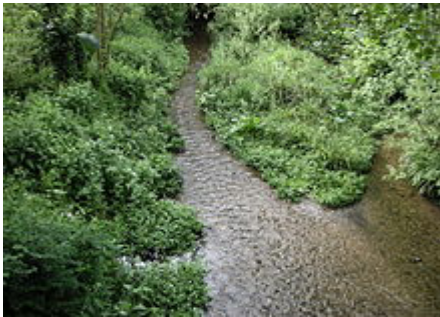
Your Recipe

By Samantha Elgar

Winkwell Watercress Soup is an old boating recipe, in days gone by, boaters could gather watercress in plentiful supply from beds in The River Bulbourne whilst traveling from Cow Roast to where the Bulbourne joins the River Gade in Apsley.

The River Bulbourne was rich in eels and fish, as well as powering two watermills in Berkhamsted, another in Bourne End and filled the three moats of the Castle.

The water cress was even farmed at Winkwell to supply London.



River Bulbourne in Berkhamsted



Traditional Narrowboat Stove

The river is usually just a stream nowadays and dried up completely during October 2011, the watercress is long gone but this recipe lives on:

WINKWELL WATERCRESS SOUP (serves 6-8)

2 bunches fresh watercress
1lb potatoes, thickly sliced
2 large onions, chopped
2 pints vegetable stock
2oz butter
1 bay leaf
Salt & Pepper
3-4 tablespoons milk

Wash the watercress well.

Place watercress, potato slices, onions, stock, butter and bay leaf into a large saucepan and season well.

Bring to the boil, cover and then simmer until the potatoes and onions are soft.

Remove the bay leaf then push the soup through a sieve into a clean saucepan, stir in the milk and reheat but do not bring to the boil.

Your Schools

Berkhamsted School

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is to visit Berkhamsted School. This is to mark 475 years since its foundation in 1541 by John Incent, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

Queen Elizabeth II will arrive at the school on Friday, May 6 to celebrate the milestone.

At present no further details— look out for more details in the May

Berkhamsted School

We were delighted earlier this month to report that Joe Beadle (Year 10) has been selected as orchestral pianist for the National Youth Orchestra's spring season.

Also Alexandra Bugar (Year 12 - above) has been selected to perform with the National Youth Training Choir on 10th April at the Royal Albert Hall in the

imaginATIONS concert, featuring conductors such as Dominic Peckham and John Rutter, and will perform again in the summer with the Choir. Another talented performer, Alex Porter (Year 8 - below), will perform over the summer with the National Youth Music Theatre in *The Piper of Hamelin*, an opera by John Rutter and Jeremy James Taylor.

We wish Joe, Alexandra and Alex all the very best for their performances on a national stage over the months ahead.

Ashlyns School

Athletes Getting Ready! Eleven Year 8 students were selected to go to Lee Valley Athletics Centre on in March to receive high level athletics coaching on three athletic events of their choice. The day was a huge success and was great timing for the start of the Athletics season after Easter. Well done to everyone who came and represented the school so excellently.



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