

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

yB

Your Berkhamsted

July 2017

Things to do in the School Holidays

**Love History? - Berkhamsted's
John Sayer**

**Featuring Book, Arts, and
Sports reviews**



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

In this issue...

Welcome to the July 2017 edition of Your Berkhamsted. School holidays will start in July and I have included things to do with your family. Pop along to Hazeldene Farm, which is not too far in Chesham – a great day out. Also in July, although not local, there is a great garden event at Knebworth House with life size dinosaurs and you can find details on the what's on page. Father and son writers, Julian and Matthew Dawson are still providing a great contribution including Berkhamsted in the News, a book review and our sports page. As always Jenny Sherwood provides an interesting history article on John Sayer. I still would like to send a plea out - this magazine needs more volunteers – could this be you – please contact me if you feel you could help – learn new skills and be part of a team - *Our what's on page shows events in July 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: Thank you Mitzie Green for the wonderful painting of the River Wye, near Hughenden Manor. For more of Mitzie's work, please look at her website on <http://www.mitziegreen.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



All you aficionados of Edward II will be delighted with edwardthesecond.blogspot.co.uk.

Gorge yourself on various weird and wonderful facts related to the monarch. The blog writer is in a lather over a letter he has found written by Piers Gaveston probably on 6th November 1309. He rules out 1307, as on that date Piers had just married Margaret de Clare at Berkhamsted – perhaps the town's first society wedding. Gaveston was a favourite of Edward II, but was executed soon after the birth of their child. As Countess of Cornwall, Margaret was assigned Oakham Castle.

Is there a more accident benighted road than the A41 bypass. mix96.co.uk reports on yet another accident on June 2nd when a driver had an argument with the central reservation, rolling over in the process, but fortunately not seriously hurt. For various reasons the grade separated junctions never matched the plans for an A41 motorway. Readers of a certain age will recall that the Tring bypass was originally planned as a motorway, as my ancient sheet 165 indicates. As the CBRD road database says, "it is, admittedly, just the A41 and not a motorway, and the junctions are far too small, with tight corners and inadequate merges, but it does at least exist, and it's precisely on the route of the former motorway proposal." prlog.org reports on a presentation made by Stringer Mann Financial Planners at

Ashridge House. The wealth management briefing covered BOMAD (Bank of Mum and Dad), capital gains tax, and how to spread the risk of your investment portfolio. Ah, it is nice to have those worries I am sure!

On to showbiz. broadwayworld.com critiques the Piccadilly Theatre production of Annie. Not often this column reports from the West End, but we should note that the role of July is alternated by Nancy Allsop, fourteen years old from Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire with two other youngsters. Some way to debut. Let us know if you see the production.

tringtoday.co.uk reports on resident's anger at a planning application to build two homes adjoining the playing fields in Tring. One of the complaints relates to the lack of green space in Tring compared to Berkhamsted. It just shows however how those with homes are always going to militate against those without, simply because there will always be those who protest against developments. Worth noting that much land that is set aside as greenbelt is far from picturesque or good quality, and may indeed benefit from well-built housing with plenty of intervening green space.

Catch up on the latest fines at berkhamstedtoday.co.uk's magistrates page. Check out the going rates for stealing alcohol from Waitrose, or driving without insurance.

Cont. page 5

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Interestingly the fine for the former was less than the value of drink stolen. en.wikipedia.org always discovers lesser known facts about the town. Robert Snooks was the last highwayman to be executed for highway robbery in 1802. The crime took place at Boxmoor, always a dodgy area, and it was “postmaster and High Constable John Page of the Kings Arms in nearby Berkhamsted” who initiated investigations into the crime.

He offered a reward of £200 for assistance for help in apprehending the villain. That would have covered the Waitrose fine nicely.



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

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; 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 For more info email: enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

For events at Ashridge please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 Ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Thurs. 2nd July @ 7pm - live screening. **Otello (Royal Opera House)**
www.vynettheatre.co.uk. Tel: 0333 666 3366. Full programme for 2017 on website.

Sun, 2nd July - Ashridge Trail Half Marathon - Tring Running Club are staging the Ashridge Trail Half Marathon in Aid of Rennie Grove Hospice Care - The Half Marathon starts at 9am - £25 for runners unaffiliated with Tring Running Club, £20 for runners affiliated with Tring Running Club, includes water en route and use of timing chip. Runners must be over 16 years of age (under 18s need permission from parents)



over 16 years of age (under 18s need permission from parents)
Ashridge House
Hertfordshire HP4 1NS. Contact telephone:

[07793886936](tel:07793886936). Call to check latest times or cancellations.

Saturday 8 July 2017 - Sunnyside Rural Trust Summer Fete Saturday 8th July, between 11am-3pm - VENUE: Hemel Food Garden, Two Waters Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 9BY

Free Entry Meet our happy hens, visit our farm shop - filled with local produce, grab a bite to eat - sampling local food, get your face painted and kids can enjoy various gardening activities. Sunnyside Rural Trust provides adults with learning disabilities work experience in horticulture. Profits from this event will help us to continue this popular service.

For further information please email: publicity@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk or call Gemma on 01442 863364 Free Entry

Taizé Service
Sunday 9 July 2017 at 6.00 pm



St Mary's Church, High Street, Northchurch, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 3QW

A quiet meditation service with chants and silence. Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome

13th July—Knebworth Gardens - Garden Theatre – The Lost World

Back by popular demand, Illyria theatre group makes a welcome return. This year, on the 13th July, they are performing “The Lost World”, with our trail of over 70 life-sized dinosaurs, this is an ideal location for the play.

Bring along a low back chair, blankets, and a picnic; kick your feet up and let Illyria entertain you. Although it's in summer, it's also in Britain, so be prepared for all weather conditions; the showstopper is being saved for the end! Recommended for older children and their families. Gates open at 6pm, performance begins at 7pm. Running time: 1 hour 50 minutes including 20 minute interval

Ticket prices: £15 adult, £11.50 child, £45 family (2 adults + 2 children).

Please note that as this is an out-of-hours event, access to the House, Gardens, Park, Adventure Playground and Dinosaur Trail will be restricted.

<http://www.knebworthhouse.com>

Tues, 18th July—Pepper Summer Show—Court Theatre Pendley—Weds to sat—for info pepper.org.uk
A great week of talent for a good cause.

Thurs. 20th July @ 7pm - live screening. Angels In America Pt.1 - Millenium Approaches.

(NT live).

£15. www.vynetheatre.co.uk. Tel. 0333 666 3366.

Full programme for 2017 on website.

Thurs. 27th July @ 7pm - live screening. Angels in America Pt 2 - Perestroika (NT live).

£15. www.vynetheatre.co.uk. Tel. 0333 666 3366.

Full programme for 2017 on website.

<https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/things-to-do/east/hertfordshire/berkhamsted>





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Book Review

by Julian Dawson



The Cat's Table. By Michael Ondaatje. Jonathan Cape

Sri Lankan-born Canadian novelist Michael Ondaatje is better known for his epic work “The English Patient”, later a successful film. His oeuvre depicts misfits and migrants missing from written history. His sixth novel, “The Cat’s Table”, is a more personal story which hints at memoir without being truly autobiographical. Set in 1954, it depicts the 21-day voyage of Michael, an eleven-year-old Sri Lankan, on the liner Oronsay from Ceylon to England. There he is to join his long separated mother. It mirrors the author’s own emigration to Canada when he was 19. The narration is by his older disillusioned self, so an apparent story of innocent youth is

coloured by loss and trauma.

The ocean vessel is a microcosm of 1950s society, in a not dissimilar way to the clerical Grantchester mysteries. Michael sits at the “cat’s table”, the least privileged eating place as far from the captain’s table as possible, a skipper who is quite clear that he finds his Asian cargo distasteful. Two other Ceylonese boys join him in a small cabal where he can escape his aunt in first class, who nominally takes responsibility for him. Being socially invisible allows them to witness all kinds of drama that will ensure Michael’s long term distrust of the “authority and prestige of all Head Tables”.

The authors’ style is effortless, drawing you in and ensuring the pages turn quickly. A 21-day voyage swiftly takes you to the closing pages leaving you with the same taste of loss and regret as the novel’s characters.

Berkhamsted Museum and History Society



John Sayer, local benefactor and Chief Cook to Charles II

Close to the fine tomb probably of Henry of Berkham-

sted, at the east end of the north aisle in St. Peter's, stands another fine and much later chest tomb, belonging to a distinguished and notable citizen of Berkhamsted. Those who are versed in Latin will see that this tomb commemorates one John Sayer who died in 1682 and who was the chief cook to Charles II, staying loyal to the King whilst he was in exile during the time of the Commonwealth. What were his connections to Berkhamsted and where else have I seen his name mentioned, the reader may ask? Cross over to Dean Incent's house and then walk in a westerly direction and after some time you will see a modest single storey brick building with four rather tall chimneys and six front doors denoting that it was *'The Guift of John Sayer Esq 1684'* These are the Sayer's alms houses still used as such to this day, although now the need to provide more modern facilities has reduced the six to four dwellings.

The fact that John Sayer was related to the Reverend Joseph Sayer, Rector of Northchurch from 1675 to 1693 might be of some relevance in that it

brought them both close to each other in the search for a country dwelling. This must however remain supposition and may well be pure coincidence.

Supposedly, Charles II was sometimes rather tardy in paying his servants and needed to be reminded that payment was overdue. As chief cook Sayer was entitled to an annual salary of £150 plus £40 for his livery and the upkeep of his horses. It was apparent that Sayer also had additional wealth since he was sufficiently wealthy to take on the lease of Berkhamsted Place in the 1660s, acquiring it from the Earl of Portland. The house had suffered considerable damage as the result of a disastrous fire. The restoration work which continued into the time of Sayer's son, Edward, retained some of the original chequerboard work of flint and Totternhoe stone, which can still be seen in the remains of the gateway to this day. The design of the house, as it was from Sayer's time until it was demolished in 1967 can be seen in a print drawn up for Edward Sayer, a copy of which remains in the Society's collection.

Obviously, Sayer spent much of his time in London and it was there that he met Samuel Pepys, the diarist, who has recorded mention of Sayer for posterity.

I went with Captain Morrice into the King's Privy Kitchen to Mr Sayer's, the master cook and there had a good slice of beef or two to our breakfast; and from thence he took us into the wine cellar where, by my truth, we were very merry, and I drank so much wine that I was not fit for business

In his Will, dated July 1681, Sayer bequeathed £1000 in trust 'for the building of an almshouse and for the purchasing of land for the relief of the poor in the parish of Berkhamsted, St Peter'. He died in 1682 before the scheme could be fully implemented, so it was left to his wife, Mary, to execute his wishes. She added several hundred pounds to John's original bequest. The alms houses were built at a cost of £269 and the balance of the funds was used to purchase land, the annual proceeds therefrom was to be devoted to the needs of the almswomen and the other poor of the parish. Initially an allowance of two shillings a week was awarded to the almswomen and every three years they were entitled to new cloth gowns of 'twenty shillings value at least'.

Originally the almshouses 'consisted of twelve rooms designed for the habitation of six poor widows who had lived in Berkhamsted or North-church for at least ten years' and 'were of good fame, constant frequenters of divine service as by law established in the Church of England

least 55 years'. Nowadays the eligibility has been slightly relaxed and also 'single' includes widows

As a steward of the manor, in residence at Berkhamsted Place, Sayer interpreted certain rights to tolls as devolving to him. For many years these monies had been allocated to maintain the church and the poor of the parish. This immediately brought friction between Sayer and the Vestry and the people of the Parish, who lodged complaints with the King. The Court of the Exchequer decided in favour of Sayer since it was decreed that he was upholding the rights of the King. As it turned out all the monies were returned to the community 'the better to preserve peace and amity among his neighbours.' Sayer did not want strife with the burgesses and the Vestry of St. Peter's.

Jenny Sherwood
Berkhamsted Museum and History
Society



Things to do in the School Holidays

Sportspace has various programmes for different age groups - <http://www.sportspace.co.uk>

Wendover Woods also **Go Ape** – <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wendoverwoods>
<http://goape.co.uk>

Whipsnade Zoo - <http://www.zsl.org/zsl-whipsnade-zoo>

Tring Museum - <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/tring/index.html>

Butterfly World St Albans - <http://www.butterflyworldproject.com>

Odds Farm Park - <http://www.oddsfarm.co.uk>

Mead Open Park - <http://www.meadopenfarm.co.uk>

Treasure Trails - <http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk>

XC Centre Hemel - <http://www.thexc.co.uk>

Ski Centre Hemel - <http://www.thesnowcentre.com>

Bletchley Park - <http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk>



Berkhamsted Castle - <http://www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk>

Narrow Gauge Leighton Buzzard - <http://www.buzzrail.co.uk>

College Lake Visitor Centre and Reservoir

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/collegelake>

<http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/tring-reservoirs>

WarnerBrosStudioTours <http://www.wbstudiotour.co.uk/>

NationalTrust - <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

Ashridge Walking Trails— For events at Ashridge please visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 Ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

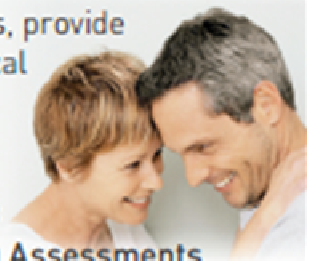
Walk up near Alpine Meadow (fields up near back of Bridgewater school) to see the unearthed WWI training trenches



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DISCOVER THE WORLD OF ARTISTS AND MAKERS THIS SEPTEMBER, COUNTY-WIDE

For almost 30 years, artists and makers across Hertfordshire have been welcoming visitors for the annual Herts Open Studios in September. This year, the county's largest free-to-enter art event is no exception as nearly 130 artists and makers take part over 3 weeks from 9th September to 1st October 2017 inclusive.

Countywide, more than 10,000 Open Studios visits are anticipated, with additional local events and trails adding to the journey of discovery, the opportunities for visitors. From students to graduates, individuals to families, visitors of all ages and interests are bound to find a warm welcome as they to explore the wealth of talent and creativity across Hertfordshire.

Herts Visual Arts, the only county-wide membership organisation for artists and makers, brings Open Studios to the county each year with an enthusiastic team of volunteers.

Working hard on a mission of wider art engagement across Hertfordshire, HVA helps member's network and access widespread opportunities. HVA also provides on-line gallery space for members and organises both member-only and public events – bringing artists, makers and all Hertfordshire residents closer together.

A widely-acclaimed Spring Exhibition at Welwyn Garden City's New Maynard Gallery gave visitors just a taste of amazing work to be experienced during Open Studios. Next, the all-new Herts Affordable Art Fair in Hitchin at the end of July not only provides a feast of art, but also marks the launch of this year's Open Studios Brochure and Art Trails. There is painting, sculpture, printmaking, glass, photography, ceramics, textiles, jewellery and much more waiting for visitors. The high quality and enormous variety of arts, crafts, artists and makers here in Hertfordshire ensures an exciting Open Studios experience.

This year, the sought-after Open Studios brochure is in a new A5 format. An amazing mine of reference information with all Open Studios artists individually listed, there are indexes and more to help visitors plan individual journeys through the arts. Widely available at public locations across the county, the brochure is also available on-line via the Herts Visual Arts web site.

Visitors can always expect to find artists ready to show, demonstrate or talk about their work, or just allow quiet browsing if that is preferred. Regardless, a warm welcome is assured at every venue and the brochure lists opening hours,

demonstrations, refreshments and accessibility information. How often can you be sure of an opportunity to talk to an artist about their work, watch work in progress or perhaps even have a go yourself?

“Each year Open Studios is such an exciting event, both for the artists taking part and for our visitors,” said Herts Visual Arts Vice-Chair, Hillary Taylor, who continued “Whatever our visitors interests, wherever they are, there’s bound to be somewhere local to visit, from individual studios to larger mixed groups. Welcome to Open Studios 2017.”

Herts Open Studios takes place from 9th September to 1st October 2017 and is free to visit. Colour brochures are widely distributed across Hertfordshire, including selected museums, tourist information locations, and other public places. It includes full details of every participating artist, images of their work and opening hours.

Herts Visual Arts is the Hertfordshire-wide not-for-profit organisation for visual artists. Run by and for members, HVAF supports artists and

makers around Hertfordshire. The annual programme includes members meetings, exhibitions, Open Studios, the Herts Affordable Art Fair and more.

www.hvaf.org.uk

Herts Affordable Art Fair will be at the Sun Hotel Hitchin 29th/30th July 2017 during the Hitchin Festival. <http://www.hertsaffordableartfair.co.uk/>

Herts Open Studios is Herts Visual Arts annual flagship event, when artists open their doors to visitors. Details of participating venues and artists will be available online and in print from Summer 2017.



The dates for 2017 are 9th September to 1st October

<https://www.hvaf.org.uk/Open-Studios/About-Open-Studios>

Twitter: @HVAF #HertsOpenStudios #HVAFMbr

Facebook: @HertsVisualArts

Picture by Lorraine Benton

Education Landmark for Hemel Hempstead

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire – Over 50 local businesses were treated to an advance preview of the new Hemel Hempstead campus of West Herts College, on Thursday 11 May, when the Business Ambassadors held their most recent event at the venue.

Introduced by the Principal, Gill Worgan, this new landmark for Hemel Hempstead is the first phase of the redevelopment of the College and home to its growing range of modern courses. In addition, the building is integral to the town centre's ongoing regeneration, and is a major investment in college provision – offering facilities that are available to local businesses as well as local people. During her presentation, Gill stated “this is a landmark moment for West Herts College and we're looking forward to supporting the local economy and engaging with local businesses.”

With further presentations from Skillmakers and a case study of a successful apprenticeship partnership between the College and Hightown Housing Association, the event was further demonstration of the Ambassadors aim to connect local business with local educators.

The UK has seen a decline in investment in training over the past 20 years which has resulted in a shortage of skills across a number of sectors and occupations. The Government's Apprenticeship reforms will address this from entry-level jobs to degrees. Hightown Housing Association, who have, “upped our game” in terms of the apprenticeship scheme and seen “massive benefits” as a result, with recent research from the National Apprenticeship Service reporting that 88% of employees participating in the new Apprenticeship Scheme have seen a more satisfied workplace. Additionally, Tribal Group recorded an 85% higher retention rate.

The focus of this brand new campus at Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, will be 16-18 year olds predominantly for technical and professional courses; students will benefit from the latest facilities, technology – including smart screens throughout the College - study spaces, kit and equipment. Phase 1 is complete, with Phase 2 under consideration.

Skillmakers, an organisation founded to bridge the gap between employers and local skills to connect the right people at the right time, is unique at this time in the wealth of consolidated information it provides on its website at www.skillmakers.co.uk. Richard Moore, Programme Director, for Skillmakers, described their role as a “triage for businesses”, offering free-of-charge advice and guidance on training, recruitment and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

For further information on West Herts College, visit www.westherts.ac.uk or for information on the Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors visit www.investhemel.co.uk or contact Gary Stringer, Ambassador Place Manager, on tel: 01442 228808.

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

The church calendar includes two periods which the church calls “Ordinary Time”. The first is between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, and the second is between Pentecost and Advent. Together they total about 34 weeks of the year. This month, July, falls in the second period of Ordinary Time. In everyday terms this seems a curious name to give to two thirds of the year, suggesting that this time is somehow less worthy of our attention than the other 18 weeks. Of course, those other 18 weeks include the big Christian festivals of Christmas and Easter and the preparations and devotions which accompany them, but that doesn’t mean Ordinary Time is somehow less special for Christians or for the church. In fact during the course of July the church remembers several high profile people who play an important role in the New Testament and in the history of the church.

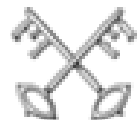
These include St Thomas the Apostle, who we sometimes (unfairly in my view) call Doubting Thomas, and Mary Magdalene who was the first person to meet the risen Jesus after his crucifixion. There are St James the Apostle, St Martha whose brother Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus, and Saints Anne and Joachim who by tradition and some early Christian writing are believed to be the parents of the Virgin Mary, and therefore Jesus’ grandparents. During July we also especially remember St Benedict, St Gregory of Nyssa and St Ignatius of Loyola. St Benedict founded twelve communities for monks in Italy in the sixth century, and was the author of the Benedictine Rule to

guide the lives of his monks. (St Benedict is also the patron saint of Europe. I wonder if this includes Brexit?) St Gregory was a learned theologian and bishop of Nyssa in Cappadocia (modern day Turkey) in the fourth century, and he made key contributions to the Doctrine of the Trinity and to formulating the Nicene Creed. St Ignatius of Loyola was a sixteenth century Spaniard who led a rather rakish and swashbuckling life until his spiritual conversion while convalescing in hospital, which led him to found the Society of Jesus, aka the Jesuits.

If you should happen to look at a copy of the church lectionary which sets out the bible readings for every day of the year you will find other names listed for special remembrance during July, but there is nothing “ordinary” about the people I list above.

I am writing this two days after the General Election which, for me at least, doesn’t seem at all like “ordinary time” – quite extra-ordinary in fact. Whether our political situation will be any clearer and calmer by the time you read this I can’t imagine. But the quiet progress of the church year, and the extra-ordinary people it commemorates, might perhaps offer a more peaceful, less perturbed perspective to our daily lives than the commotion of our daily news. If I might suggest, why not look these people up on the Internet over a cup of coffee one day this month? It would be an interesting way to use fifteen minutes of our “ordinary time”.

Richard



Regular Church Activities

- 3rd Mon Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534.
- 1st Tues Tuesday Club, 7:30pm A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Rosslyn Laidler: tel 01442 879992
- Tues Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10–11:30am. All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Kate Spall 873470 .
- 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. 120 Valley Road. Tell us if anyone needs your prayers. Contact Margaret Burbidge 862139
- Wed Julian Meeting, meets about twice a month, 11:30am. All welcome. At Ruth Treves Brown, 3 Sherwood Mews, Park Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HX. Tel 863268.
- 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. Peggy Sear 01296 584530.
- 1st Sun Sundays Together Lunch 12.30pm, Court House. For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Carolynne Charman 869003

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)

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.

Simon Vivian, Assistant Curate

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

This Month's Diary

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

Sat 24th June 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

Sun 9th July 3.00pm: Rachel Gordon PIANO PUPIL CONCERT in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's Church.

St Peters Berkhamsted

Baptisms

28th May Zachari John Mahadevan

Weddings—None

Funerals—None

All Saint's

2nd Third Sunday after Trinity - (Action for Children)

10am Morning Worship - Revd Rachael Hawkins

9th Fourth Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion - Revd John Kirkby

4pm Messy Church – at Spring Meadow Farm during All Saints' Camping

Weekend

Revd Rachael Hawkins and Messy Church Team

16th Fifth Sunday after Trinity

10am Morning Worship - Revd Brian Tebbutt

23rd Sixth Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkins

30th Seventh Sunday after Trinity

10am Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkins

4pm Service of Wholeness and Healing

Further information available from our church websites:

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

News from the Hospice of St Francis



The Hospice of St Francis – Hospice News July 2017

Brian Hill, 76, is known throughout The Hospice of St Francis for his bright and cheerful waistcoats. He has been a volunteer in the Hospice's IT department for the past three years, but Brian would never consider his faithful work as just helping the Hospice, but



as the continuance of a relationship that has been of tremendous help and support to him following the death of his beloved wife Linda in January 2013.

“My volunteering story began the same way as many others do – with a personal bereavement, the only difference being that before bereavement, *my* story was *our* story.

My introduction to hospice care began with my partner's terminal decline from cancer. Up until then, like many others, I knew little about hospices.

The care we received can only be described as inspiring. Nothing was too much trouble.

After Linda died, the Hospice supported me through weekly bereavement counselling and invited me to join its six-week *Cooking with Chris* course, which brings together the recently bereaved to develop kitchen skills and learn new recipes. Being retired and having experienced first-hand this level of care and dedication not only of the clinical staff but of the supportive care team as well, I wanted to give something in return.

Every week I leave the Hospice with a quiet acknowledgement of what they have given me during that time: the pleasure of their daily greetings, their interest in me as a person, the warmth and temporary companionship of being a valued member in a special team of people.”

If you would like to volunteer for The Hospice of St Francis visit stfrancis.org.uk/volunteer.

Family Fun at the Steam Fayre!

Enjoy a packed weekend of family fun at the Dacorum Steam and Country Fayre from 10am-5pm on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 July with everything from heavy horse, blacksmithing and birds of prey displays to glass blowing, archery, steam engines, vintage tractors and fire and military vehicles.

There's fun for the children too, with circus skills, Thomas the Tank Engine rides and a children's fair. Adults £8; Concessions/Children £5; Family £20 – all proceeds to the Hospice.



The action takes place at Green Croft Farm, Potten End, HP1 2SG. For more information, visit dacorummachinery-andsteam.co.uk/

Wedding Dress Ball

Whether newly married and living happily ever after, long-term partners, single, separated or just up for a laugh, The Hospice of St Francis is hosting their inaugural Wedding Dress Ball on Saturday 7th October.



Set at the stunningly refurbished Pendley Manor, Tring, this unique evening will include a drinks reception, delicious three-course meal, entertainment, photo booth, raffle and live auction.

Tickets are priced at £65 per person or get the whole Wedding Party together again for a discounted price of £600 for ten people.

Mud Pack Challenge

From beautiful white dresses to thick mud, join us for our fourth Mud Pack Challenge on Sunday 15 October and make muddy memories as you negotiate our fun, exhilarating and muddy obstacles set in the stunning grounds of Ashridge House. By raising sponsorship for us you will enable us to help make more special memories for patients who need our care. Sign up now at: www.stfrancis.org.uk/mudpack

See how our Art Bags have helped!

Join us on Wednesday 5 July 5-6:30pm to see the fruition of our soap carving Art Bag project with a special screening of an animation film, including behind the scenes footage. The Art Bags are given to people connected with the Hospice to encourage them to get involved in a creative, mindful activity to boost wellbeing. All are welcome to the free screening, which will be followed by our regular Film Forum. Find out more at www.stfrancis.org.uk/artbags

www.stfrancis.org.uk

Facebook at: **The Hospice of St Francis**

Twitter: **@hospicstfrancis**

Tel: 01442 869555

Your Garden

Every once in a while I encounter a garden which disappoints. Woburn Abbey Gardens in Bedfordshire left us feeling rather flat after our visit recently during an April bank holiday.

Suggestions for the new landscaping project at the park were put forward by the renowned landscape gardener Humphrey Repton back in the early 19th century at the request of the 6th Duke of Bedford. The layout of the garden is

magnificent & the walkways around this part of the estate are very good indeed. Not all Repton's ideas were executed & other gardeners had a hand in the final design.

We walked around the perimeter of the 'pleasure grounds' & saw a magnificent collection of trees. The remnants of snowdrops, bluebells & narcissus were decaying underfoot & I imagine this would have been a tremendous sight just a few weeks earlier. The grounds were very quiet; we had arrived early & really enjoyed these furthest reaches of the garden.

The Pavilion & Rockery however, were frightful. What we couldn't understand is that this feature in the garden had won a grant for reconstruction in 2012. I have no qualms in saying that it looked like it needed another grant for a further reconstruction. There was evidence of glyphosate use on weeds,

(a rockery should never be allowed to get weedy, never mind that it is a main feature in a listed historical garden), there was no exemplary planting to



speak of (unless you consider osteospermums choice plants) & there were unconcealed steel wired armoured cables & black ribbed conduit lying around Now, if this area was under review/reconstruction/replanting/refurbishment or whatever then is should have said so.

Walking behind us was a family of Japanese tourists; I was embarrassed, I felt like I needed to excuse the thing.

Alas, one of the ornamental ponds was also in disarray choked with weeds & also looked like it could

attention. The garden structures around it were in good order but this part of the UK was in a period of drought after a dry winter I did wonder whether this had any bearing on the poor state of the ponds.

The Orangery was a welcome respite from quite a chilly day. This area is rented out for meetings/ weddings & the like & was looking really good. The camellias were in tip-top condition and the compost all raked & cleaned. The kitchen garden and outside formal areas around the main buildings also were in very good order but I must say, the work involved here is very easy garden-keeping.

The real challenge keeping a historical garden together is ensuring the features work & are fit for public scrutiny. They of course are the difficult expensive bits to maintain but Andrew Russell the incumbent

Duke of Bedford is one of the **richest men in the world** with assets worth £685,000,000.00 give or take a few quid. So, are you thinking what I'm thinking?



TTFN

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Hazedene Farm

The market town of Chesham has a new attraction, hidden in the Asheridge vale along the quiet, winding Asheridge Road on the edge of the historic market town of Chesham lies' a small, quintessentially English

working farm brimming with rare breed farm animals. A collection of nearly 50 native breeds, the largest of its kind in the country can be found here, many nearing extinction. In some instances the farm is the last bastion of some particularly rare bloodlines of these breeds. On a warm summers morning one may

see a small litter of piglets running free around the farm between feeding times, giving mum a break, hoping to catch a visitor unaware in the hope of being fed something else. They scamper around the farm yard in search of creatures to play with, hoping to find Hector, the mischievous black and white farm dog, then find a warm spot to snuggle up, 'heap up' might be a better term, and catch a mid-day nap. The free-ranging hens, scratching about

the paddock beside the farmyard, yearn for the hill of the wild goats, yet know their fate if they venture that far, for the wily fox will often stroll and sunbathe among the coloured sheep and goats of the hill,

waiting, hoping for a brave bird to venture that far.

From the hillside it is possible to marvel at the Red Kites that soar magnificently over the valley and get a glorious view along the valley to the town of Chesham in the distance. The lambs and kids on the hill stay close to mum but sometimes 'creep' from



their field to visit the children of the valley, returning later to their family as it gets cool and dark in the evening, they keep warm and safe among the flock, protected by the great spiral horned ram of the valley.

This farm is rich in wildlife, wildflowers and traditional farm crafts and is bordered by ancient Beech woodland. The chalk grasslands of the farm thrive with an abundant

array of wildflowers, butterflies and wild birds, bordered by lush hedge-rows flush with Bluebells, Travellers Joy and the stealthy Badger.

This peaceful and idyllic farm, one that has seen a great deal of change in the past year is called Hazeldene

Open Farm. It is a traditional farm within an Area of Natural Beauty designed and managed with nature in mind, offering a unique and inspiring opportunity for all ages but children especially, to discover and appreciate our countryside and farm animals.

There are no gimmicks or cheap children's entertainment here

just an opportunity for exploration and discovery. The farm is stocked with chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, pigs, goats, sheep and cattle in all manner of sizes and colours offering a unique chance to interact with a diverse array of farm livestock in a safe, non-intensive environment. The farm is run with sustainability and the highest standards of Animal welfare in mind and we are determined to provide the kind of unique, natural, safe, educational and interactive experience that is so often hard to find, particularly for children today.



Once visitors have fully explored the farm they can take a gander at the traditional butchers shop stocking the farms own produce and the Red Kite tea room and farm picnic area that can be found in the courtyard and beside the ancient farm house.

Hazeldene Open Farm is open now from Wednesday to Sunday and every day during school holidays.

10am – 4pm

Adults £5, children £3, under 3's go free.

We welcome large groups and have ample parking.

Hazeldene Open Farm, Asheridge Road, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 2XD.
Phone 01494 783501

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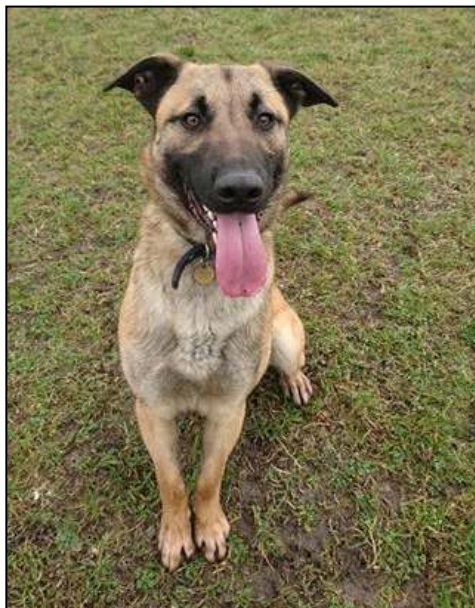


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Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



Handsome Aragorn is a Malinois cross who was born in Feb 2016. This big, proud young man was extremely nervous when he came to us. He is doing well now and is learning to trust people. He can be a bit wary at first but is extremely affectionate once he gets to know you! He will need owners with experience of his breed, who are willing to commit time and energy to his socialisation. He can only go to a home where any children are over 13 years.

If you can offer Aragorn or any of our other dogs a forever home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 am and 4 pm, or phone for more details. Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under seven years of age. Full details of

the rehoming process can be found on our website, or please contact the kennels.

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY

01525 220383 e-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram!

Looking for volunteers to assist with the running of the Your Berkhamsted magazine. There are various roles and an opportunity to be creative. We need writers (short stories), local artists for our front cover, someone to help us with an evaluation project, help with distribution to name a few.

Please contact editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk for more information!

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Your Sport

An interview with ex professional footballer Tommy Smith

Former Premier League and Championship footballer Tommy Smith played nearly 600 professional matches throughout his career. The forward enjoyed two spells at Watford, a club where he quickly became a fan favourite, as well as playing for a host of other clubs in the top two divisions. He is now retired, but lives in the local area, and that gave *'Your Berkhamsted'* the chance to speak to him about his career and life after football. Smith was in the Watford Academy from a young age, and was given his chance in senior football by the late Graham Taylor in 1997. It was the former England manager who laid the foundations for the early part of his career, and for that reason Smith only has positive things to say about him. *"He was a very honest man and he was somebody I could trust. He had quite a big part in bringing me through from the youth team, into the reserves, then into the first team so I trusted him and his decisions,"* he said.

Taylor was as much a manager as he was a mentor for Smith, whose career from that point would bring him plenty of success, particularly in the second tier of English football. He achieved promotions with Watford, QPR and Cardiff, whilst

also winning four player of the year awards as he found his feet in the Championship. *"I think the Championship is a great league, and it's certainly more physically demanding than the Premier League. Obviously the standard's not as good but I think sometimes you can have a better career in the Championship than you can in the Premier League,"* Smith admitted.

A one year spell at Sunderland and two years at Derby between 2003 and 2006 helped him mature as a player, before returning to Watford for three seasons. During the 2008/09 season he scored 17 goals for the Hornets, a campaign which earned him a move to Portsmouth. At the time they were Premier League regulars, but it was a transfer that didn't quite work out. Smith joined them just as the club entered administration, which made the switch to Pompey a troubling one. *"I didn't get paid for the first three months I was there, so this dream move for me of going to the Premier League and an established Premier League club fell apart quite quickly,"* Smith revealed.

Despite getting relegated with Portsmouth during the 2009/10 season, Smith's time there wasn't all full of bad luck, as he helped his team reach an FA Cup final. Reflecting upon his

only full season with the club he said, *"I did enjoy certain aspects of it. We got to the FA Cup final which was brilliant, and the fans there and Fratton Park, it's a great club."*

His performances did not go unnoticed, as the following year Smith was signed by QPR in a season drastically different to the previous one. *"At the time, you just get on with it and you do your best, but certainly now looking back it was something which was a bit of a shame. It lead me to sign for QPR, where we had a great season and got promoted to the Premier League so every cloud has a silver lining,"* he said.

Smith had a similar type of time with Cardiff, as he left QPR to join the Welsh side in 2012/13, helping them to achieve their first promotion to the Premier League. *"It was a fantastic experience to go through that, so that was brilliant. QPR's was just as good but just very different on different levels,"* he said.

After two campaigns at Cardiff, Smith's final team and season in football was to be with Brentford in the Championship.

However after being told he wasn't in their plans following the 2014/15 season, he chose to retire having not found another suitable club. As he approached retirement, Smith revealed the struggles he was facing as an ageing footballer; *"I'd almost reached my limit with it, and I was finding it harder to get out of bed and go to training in the mornings. That was enough to tell me that enough is enough,"* he said.

Many footballers find life after football tough, but that hasn't been the reality for Smith who seems to be enjoying retirement. *"For me I'm not missing it at the moment. I'm sure there will be a time when possibly I look out and think I'm really yearning for it, but at the moment I'm quite comfortable,"* he said. Despite not missing football, the problem for a lot of players once they hang up their boots is trying to find a way to keep themselves busy. Some go into punditry, and others go into coaching. Smith however now works in property, as he strives to accomplish things outside of sport.

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