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YB

Your Berkhamsted

SEPTEMBER 2017

Heritage Open Days

**More about The
Graham Green Birthplace
Trust**

**Details on the Oktober Fest
at St Peter's**



Celebrating Berkhamsted's Graham Greene 50p

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

In this issue...

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER 2017 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED. I would like to dedicate this edition to a dear friend, Diane Hughes, who lost her fight with cancer on 17 August. Diane was a kind and loving person and I will miss her immensely. With September comes the yearly 'Graham Greene Festival' this always proves to be popular and is a wonderful part of Berkhamsted's heritage. Also there are the Heritage Open Days, again this is a chance to explore Berkhamsted's history; there are many locations that are not open to the public. School holidays will have nearly ended by the time you receive this edition and there will be new starters going to school; these will be a mix of exciting and nervous times. I still would like to send a plea out - this magazine needs more volunteers - could this be you - learn new skills and be part of a team - please contact me if you feel you could help. Our what's on page shows events in September 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 to the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust for the picture of Graham Greene.

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.

Graham Greene - Excerpts from the Birthplace Trust



About the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust

The Festival

The annual Graham Greene International Festival is the centre-piece of the Birthplace Trust's yearly activities. It normally takes place from a Thursday afternoon to a Sunday lunchtime on the dates which fall closest to Graham Greene's birthday, 2 October. A typical festival programme includes talks, films of adaptations of Greene's novels, discussion groups, guided walks in and around Berkhamsted and social events. There are opportunities to buy both new and secondhand books and there is often a relevant exhibition. The atmosphere is welcoming and informal. Tickets can be purchased in advance for individual sessions (i.e. morning, afternoon, evening) or on a season-ticket basis. This enables you to organise your time according to your needs. **More details about the Festival are on Page 14.**

The Newsletter

The Trust publishes *A Sort of Newsletter* (ASON) quarterly. ASON is a mixture of informed articles about

Greene, news and book, dvd and film reviews of the latest publications about the writer plus other items of interest. It is automatically sent to all Friends of the Trust. If you are not already a Friend find more by visiting the **Membership** page. To learn more about our newsletter go to the **A Sort of Newsletter (ASON)** page.

Current Research

Although Greene died as long ago as 1991, there seems to be little evidence that interest in his life and his work has diminished. Year on year the Graham Greene International Festival has been able to showcase examples of research of various kinds. What has been noticeable to regular Festival goers has been the fact that many contributions have been made by researchers from countries other than the UK which demonstrates the well-known international appeal of Graham Greene.

The stated aim of the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust is to encourage research into the life and work of this author. To this end, the new **Current Research** page is intended to advertise on-going or recently

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completed research projects or forthcoming publications. If you are a post-graduate student, or are engaged in doctorate or post-doctorate work or are writing a book or article on the subject please get in touch with us via the website at webmaster@grahamgreenebt.org.



We would also be interested to hear from you if your research simply includes Greene amongst other contemporary writers. We would hope to be able to feature your particular area of study on this website.

All information taken from

<http://grahamgreenebt.org>

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

Hello from New Zealand

How exciting it was to be back in Berkhamsted from New Zealand and in St. Peters after being married there to my English fiancée Sara (always known as Sally) Wright on 8 December 1956.

That was over 60 years ago and celebrating that occasion together with my 90th Birthday at a special luncheon for family and friends in Eastbourne NZ where we live, a special card arrived from Her Majesty the Queen congratulating us on 60 years of marital bliss.

Sally's family came to Berkhamsted in 1900 so that the boys could be educated at Berkhamsted Boys School. That was the Sprunt Family and they rented a large house, now owned by Berkhamsted Girls School. It was referred to as 'The streaky bacon house' and when you view it you will know why.

It was Col. Sprunt who introduced me to his niece and the world exploded instantly. That was 1953, I was in London studying art. However, look at the plaques to the Sprunt boys in St Peters and see how whole families were shattered by WW1.

In those days rationing was still on and through a friend in the New Zealand Meat Marketing Board in Wellington I could pay him 20 pounds NZ = 20 pound sterling then, and my parents-in-law to be could collect it from Collins Butchers (no relation) a whole side of lamb (near Home & Colonial I think)

On one of our many visits to Sally's home, I was packing up a watercolour I had just completed standing in the High Street and a lady walked up to me and said "should I know you and are you a local?"

She was the editor of a St Peter's magazine. We sat in St Peter's and I pointed out the amazing perspective of the columns when sitting in the pews. We saw the Sprunt Plaques and sat in awe and silence at the history and majesty.

Don't go away, there is much more to see in our nineties. **Alan Collins**

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



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**Harvest Taizé Service
Sunday 17
September 2017
at 6.00 pm**

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

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

Saturday 9 Sep—Herts Open Studios

Various venues, times. Until 1 Oct, artists around the district invite you to join them; visitors can always expect to find artists ready to show, demonstrate or talk about their work, or just allow quiet browsing. www.hvaf.org.uk

Tuesday 12 Sept - Exhibition and Book Launch - Upstairs Gallery, 268 High St, Berkhamsted, 10am-4pm. Running to 16 Sep, this features work done by People not Borders and especially the launch of 'I am me', a creative exploration of what it means to be a refugee.

Book Launch continues at the Berkeley Wine Bar from 6.30 pm to 10 pm.

13 Sep—8pm—John T. Smith, 'The Search for Cheddington's History'

Chairman of Cheddington History Society and a Birbeck geographer, John is author of two books on Cheddington. Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society meetings take place at 8:00pm in the Wellcome Great Hall, Town Hall, Berkhamsted £3 at the door.



Wednesday 13 Sep—Exhibition: Something out of Nothing—Upstairs Gallery, 268 High St, Berkhamsted, 10am-4pm. Novel uses of found, repurposed and upcycled materials for wall-hung as well as 3D work. To 30 Sep.

14th Sept at 7pm - Jazz & Wine Evening supporting The Langa Township Pre-school Trust. The Berkeley, 39-43 Lower Kings Road, HP4 2AB Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. Cocktails, Champagne & Canapes, Gazpacho / Mediterranean salad / Scallop, Lamb ragout, wild mushroom ravioli, truffle butter, sage and pecorino, Cheese & charcuterie board

Monday 25 Sep—Talk Egypt in Numis - Music Room, Berkhamsted School, 7.45pm, £5. A talk by Peter Clayton, FSA, chairman of the Berkhamsted & District Archaeology Society, presenting a medallion view of Ancient Egypt and Egyptologists. Annual subs £15, couples £20, juniors £5; £1 on the night for members, £5 for visitors.

Wed Oct 11th BERKHAMSTED LIVE with *portraiture* by artist Sheelagh Frew Crane, *how a film is made* by director Mark Crane, *musical The Lost Children* by jazz singer Alexander Williams + MCs Leslie Tate & Sue Hampton. 8.00 Kings Arms, Berkhamsted, HP43HL £5.00/£3.00 supporting Pepper Nurses.



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Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors – Looking Ahead to the Future at a Historic Local Landmark

Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire – Senior business executives across Dacorum gathered for the latest Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors meeting at the historic Grade II Listed Shendish Manor last week, on Thursday 27 July, to hear speakers Stephen Hung, Managing Director of Regency Homes Ltd and Will Hobhouse, High Sheriff of Hertfordshire,

and to learn about the latest developments and investments into the Dacorum area.

James Doe, Assistant Director for Planning, Development and Regeneration at Dacorum Borough Council also presented at the event, outlining how the council has developed and demonstrates an “open for business” approach, and explained that the Council will work positively with investors to help secure economic growth for the Borough.

Discussing the planning application for the Shendish development, James explained the need for sensitivity and economic justification due to the listed nature of the building which is situated in the green belt. The opportunity to create a new generation building to complement the listed Manor, the creation of jobs, the tourism benefits and the prestige of the scheme all contributed to the successful application.

Next, Stephen Hung, Managing Director of Regency Homes outlined the ambitious vision for the new building, featuring new spa and gym facilities, plus impressive plans for a 900-plus delegate conference suite, which will make it the largest in Dacorum.

Shendish Manor has a long and varied history. The origins of the Shendish name date back to Norman times, when William the Conqueror’s brother is believed to have sub-let the original farmhouse to one Ralf de Chenduit, whose surname evolved over time to the current Shendish. The current Manor house was built in 1853, was home to some 20,000 British Army soldiers in World War 1, and acted as a sports and social club until 1994 when the current owners, Regency Homes transformed the building into one of Dacorum’s leading hotel and conference centres.

The final speaker of the event was Will Hobhouse, the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, appointed by Her Majesty the Queen to represent her in the County of Hertfordshire in all matters relating to law and order. Will discussed his role as High Sheriff and his work with HACRO, the Herts Association for the Care and Resettlement Of Offenders.

Working with HMP the Mount, a category C+ training prison located in Dacorum, HACRO work to secure employment opportunities for ex-offenders, and thus help prevent re-offences. With a staggering cost to the tax payer of re-offending standing between £9.5 and £13 billion per year, and with 46% of adult prisoners re-offending within a year of release, this work is invaluable in providing a much needed second chance to ex-offenders and previously unthought-of opportunities to local employers.

During the event, Gary Stringer, the Place Manager, for Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors reiterated the success of the recent Investment Showcase.

Cont on page 25

Berkhamsted Museum and History Society



VARIOUS ANNIVERSARIES

One is very conscious, particularly in recent years of the anniversaries of significant events in our history. We are very time conscious and there is the urge to mark these anniversaries and to commemorate them in some way, especially when they were tragic events in which many lives were lost. This has been particularly the case with various battles of the two World Wars. Now that few are left who have memories of the veterans of the First World War and very few veterans of the Second World War remain to recount their tales there is an increasing desire to commemorate these anniversaries, lest we forget. On 11th November 2018 100 years will have elapsed since the Armistice and in 2019 we shall have the anniversary of the Peace Day, after WWI. How will Berkhamsted mark these anniversaries.? In 2014 official events paid tribute to the many young men of the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps who were billeted here and trained in the countryside around Berkhamsted. The people of Berkhamsted who sacrificed their lives were also not forgotten and the War Memorial on which the names of many of those men are recorded was given a face-lift. This Memorial, which now has also the names of the fallen of World War Two was moved to its present position from where it was first erected by Water Lane, in 1952.

Several members of the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society have

been working and researching on a book to commemorate these anniversaries, namely Berkhamsted as it was in WWI and how the town coped with the tragedy and loss that it brought to so many local families. The book, which is now going to be two books, is scheduled for publication next year. Full details will be ready later. The books will be called 'Berkhamsted in World War I' and 'Men of Berkhamsted- Lest we Forget.'

Last year Berkhamsted School commemorated the 475th Anniversary of its foundation and the School and the people of Berkhamsted were honoured by the visit of Her Majesty the Queen. To go back still further in time one needs to visit the Castle where an important historic event was not successfully commemorated. In 1216 the troops of Prince Louis of France laid siege to Berkhamsted Castle, in an attempt to seize the crown of England. A group of English barons dissatisfied with King John of England and his taxes had invited Prince Louis over and he laid siege to a ring of castles in the South of England. The Castle was well defended and held out for two weeks. Meanwhile King John had died and the new King ordered Berkhamsted to surrender. Prince Louis unable to capture Dover or Rochester returned to France. To commemorate this anniversary there were proposals to stage a commemorative event of living history but practicalities of meeting the Health and Safety regulations and English Heritage's commitments to nationally important events to commemorate 1066 made this

The Battle of Hastings was nevertheless commemorated by the unveiling of the bronze bust of William the Conqueror, which was commissioned by Jonathan Culverhouse. This was a low-key event in comparison to the excitement of a re-enactment of the Siege or a living history event but nevertheless an appropriate one for such a significant event in our history. Professor David Bates, who unveiled the statue later gave a talk in Old hall Berkhamsted School on the significance of the submission of the Saxons to William the Conqueror at Berkhamsted.

On 24th August 2017 we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Castle Visitor Room. On that day in 2007 Carol Green, then Mayor of Berkhamsted, and Jenny Sherwood as Chairman of the History Society formally opened the Room at 12noon. This was achieved after five years of patient negotiations with English Heritage. In July 2002 the BLHMS wrote to Dr Simon Thurley requesting that more historical information be provided for visitors. To further this aim the Castle Liaison Group was set up under the auspices of the Town Council with representatives of the Berkhamsted & District Archaeological Society, the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society, the Berkhamsted Citizens Association, English Heritage and the Duchy of Cornwall, to which the Castle belongs. In the spring of 2006 the History Society was successful in winning an Awards for All lottery grant which provided the necessary funding to produce the 16 panels and stands for a travelling exhibition. Then in the summer of 2007 English Heritage gave permission for us to use the former ticket office as a Visitor Room, to display the panels which fitted in exactly much to our relief

Berkhamsted Town Council paid for the refurbishment of the Room. In the past ten years relations with English Heritage have improved further and there is the possibility of the acquisition of a piece of land which has the potential to alleviate the parking difficulties.

We have had Gilbert & Sullivan performances for several years now and the possibility of a Living History event looms nearer We may yet return to the days of the historic pageant: perhaps by 2022. There seems to be a genuine desire on the part of English Heritage the Duchy of Cornwall and Berkhamsted Town Council to give the castle the appropriate importance as a historic tourism attraction that it deserves. We conclude with the last two verses of 'A Song of Berkhamsted' written by Gilbert Hudson, written for the Berkhamsted Pageant July 1922

*So both to church and castle
The birth and growth we trace
Of Berkhamsted whose name is read
A fortified home-place
O make we this our heritage
With heart and hand and tongue
A stronghold, of kind and neighbourship
And theme of thankful song.*

Don't forget that guided tours of both the Castle and St Peter's church form part of the Heritage Open Days, 7th -10th September, together with many other interesting events. If we are to be successful in our bid for Berkhamsted's Heritage Hub we need you to demonstrate your interest in Berkhamsted's history. Book now for Heritage Open Days with Jenny Sherwood 01442 865158 or KSherw9100@aol.com. Don't miss this opportunity!

BERKHAMSTED'S HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 7TH -10TH SEPTEMBER 2017

'A Walk Back in Time.', a guided tour of Berkhamsted's historic town centre. Meet at main gate to Castle. Thursday 7th September 1000 and Friday 8th September 1500.

'A Walk into the Past- Berkhamsted Place- Successor to the Castle.' Friday 8th September 1000 and Saturday 9th September 1400. Meet at top of Castle Hill. In front of track down to Berkhamsted Place

Ashlyns School- the former Foundling Hospital., tours by former foundlings. Open Sunday 10th September 1300 to 1730, Tours at 1330 and 1530

Berkhamsted Castle Open Sunday 100-1800 Guided tours at 1030, 1230 and 1500

Berkhamsted Town Hall Open Sunday 10th September 1030-1300. Tour at 1100

'Exploring Garrison Town Berkhamsted 1914-1918'— A short Then and Now tour of places special to the IOCOTC. Tours Thursday 7th September 1000 and 1800, Friday 8th September 1400 and Sunday 10th September 1130. Meet at rear of railway station.

'Post a Letter- a tour of Berkhamsted's Postal Heritage.' Sunday 10th September Tours at 1100 and 1430. Meet at front of railway station.

Rectory Lane Cemetery Open Sunday 10th September from 1400-2130. Guided tours at 1430, 1530, 1630 and 1730 Meet some of Berkhamsted's forefathers and find your ancestors in this haven of tranquillity.

St Peter's Church and the Court House Sunday 10th September Tour at 1500. Meet by west door close to the War Memorial.

Old Hall and Chapel, Berkhamsted School Tour on Thursday 7th September 1430. Old Hall was built in 1544 and at the time was the largest school room in the country. The Chapel is Victorian, built by CH Rew, a local architect and based on a chapel in Venice.

Tours of the Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store Saturday 9th September 1030 and 1400. This is an accredited museum and includes collections from all over Dacorum, including those belonging to the BLHMS and to BDAS. Numbers are limited and booking is absolutely essential. Booking to Curatorial staff.

01442879525 or info@dacorumheritage.org.uk

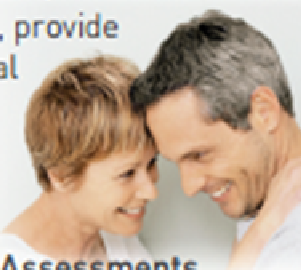
Booking is requested for all other events. Please contact Jenny Sherwood on 01442 865158 or email KShew9100@aol.com Further details are available on Society website www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk and also on www.heritageopendays.org.uk



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Thursday 21 September

Court House and Old Hall, Northampton School

Afternoon session (15)

Guest House, Room 10 (Free to all)

- 2.15 Graham Greene's *Comrades* a guided walk round three rooms, includes WW1 brochure led by Fiona Shepherd, with readings from *A Guy of Us* and *The Human Factor* by Judy Ibbett and Richard Shepherd. Available outside the Court House for information. Caravans and model building shown prepared for the start of the walk at base of Court War Memorial. New flood cut park. If wet, illustrated talk with readings in the Court House.

Dinner session

Old Hall

Dinner and film (17) supper only (17) film only (18)

- 5.15 Film *Septem* 5.25 event for drinks at per bar. £8.00 supper-served two-course supper with coffee/vegetarian option.
(Book by Thursday 14 September at the latest.)
7.15 the 7.30 film: *The Fighter* (2010, 1947 - 162 minutes), directed by John Dahl and starring Hilary Swank. (Followed by film and Peter Lorne. Introduced by Professor Neil Stansell.)



Friday 22 September

The Green Hall, Old Hall, Northampton School

Morning session (15)

The Green Hall

- 9.00 *The Five Lives of the Congo Journal* a talk by Professor Michael Mowatt on the diary Congo kept when he went to the Belgian Congo.
10.45 Book for tea and coffee
11.25 The *Friendship* and Graham Greene writing the *Novel*. Glen Fraser is interviewed by Mike Hill on the nature of the *Friendship* and how it is represented in Greene's writings.

Book for tea

Afternoon session (15)

The Green Hall

- 2.30 *Our Man in Moscow*: the strange and enduring friendship of Graham Greene and communist agent Peter Wilson a talk by Professor Kevin Baine.
3.30 Book for tea and coffee
4.00 *Brighton and Beyond: Writing Modern Crime Fiction* a talk by bestselling novelist Peter James.

Evening session (18)

The Green Hall

- 7.30 Film night: *Confidential Agent* (Warner Brothers, 1945 - 122 minutes), with Charles Boyer, Lauren Bacall and Peter Lorne. Introduced by Mike Hill.

Tickets for all events are available for purchase online at www.grahamgreenebt.org

Saturday 23 September

Green Hall and Old Hall, Northampton School (Castle Street)

Morning session (18)

Green Hall

- 8.45 Day Begins, David Sjö and Graham Greene a talk by Andrew Lewis. History agent and biographer of Borges.
10.45 Book for tea and coffee
11.45 Judging a book by its cover: Tim Hetherington, photographer of the *Visiting Greene* book cover, is interviewed by Mike Hill about his work.

Book for tea

Afternoon session, including *Brilliant Book* (22)

Green Hall

- 3.30 *Writing Modern Fiction* featuring novelist Louise Doughty is introduced about her work and the craft of writing fiction by Dr Chris Munday.
4.30 Book for tea and coffee
4.00 Graham Greene and the *Discovery* Cruise a talk by Peter James, formerly Irish Literary Consul in New York, about the *Discovery* Cruise he knew.
5.15 The *Brilliant Book* by Peter James.

Evening session (18)

Old Hall

- 7.45 *Twisted Dream*: three courses with wine and coffee, vegetarian option. Limited to 40 tickets. Book by Thursday 14 September at the latest.

Sunday 24 September

Old Green Centre and Old Hall, Northampton School (Castle Street)

Morning session (15)

Old Green Centre, Castle Street

- 9.00 *A Tour of the School Archives* including a look at the Exhibition Room, the green hall, school Old Hall and the School Chapel.
(Book outside Old Hall.)
8.45 David Pearce on Graham Greene a tribute to the late David Pearce, captured on radio and film talking about Graham Greene.
11.00 Book for tea and coffee
11.30 *Secrets and Lies* (screened under sign in The Palace) a talk by Professor Neil Stansell.

Lunch (12)

Old Hall

- 1.00 *Paradise* Lunch, cold buffet, wine and coffee, vegetarian option. Limited to 40 tickets. Book by Thursday 14 September at the latest.

Festival venues will also feature exhibitions, a Festival Bookstall, and Richard Ford's bookstall, with a large selection of books by and relating to Graham Greene.

A free Festival brochure will be available during the Festival. It will include a full Festival programme, details of speakers and more.



Mike Hill, Festival Director

Tickets

Tickets are available to purchase online at www.grahamgreenebt.org.
A Season Ticket to all events, including both times, but including meals, is available for £99.
There is free admission to Festival events (including meals) for under 25s.
If you have any queries or problems with tickets, please email grahamgreenebt@btinternet.com or phone 07908 504466.

Friends

Become a Friend of the Graham Greene Festival Trust at www.grahamgreenebt.org and receive a quarterly newsletter and a Festival discount of £1 per event (for up to five events).

Founded by the Graham Greene Festival Trust (charity No. 1000000), a member of the Northampton Area Trust.



PROGRAMME

'But who are you, Mr. Greene?' You're Charlie now, said. The writer's answer came: 'I am my book!' Graham Greene wanted to be judged by what he wrote, and he carried eleven and self-justification to the point of refusing appearance on film and at literary events whenever possible. But a festival in his name was never taken seriously, and here it is now in its sixteenth year. People from all over the world will again descend on Northampton to celebrate his life and work - many of them named Greene. Festivals, some first time visitors. All are welcome and all are invited to a varied and interesting programme. There will be discussion and debate, but if laughter and laughter, too, I hope you will come along.



'Greene, by Paul Myer'
On the Graham Greene Festival Trust website (www.grahamgreenebt.org) you will find further details of the talks, interviews, films, books and speakers, the online library service, and information on any changes that may arise. Tickets will be on sale at the door for all events other than the meals, but it would be preferable if you could book in advance online from the website. Season tickets are available for those who wish to attend all talks and films. Sponsored by Graham King and supported by Northampton School.

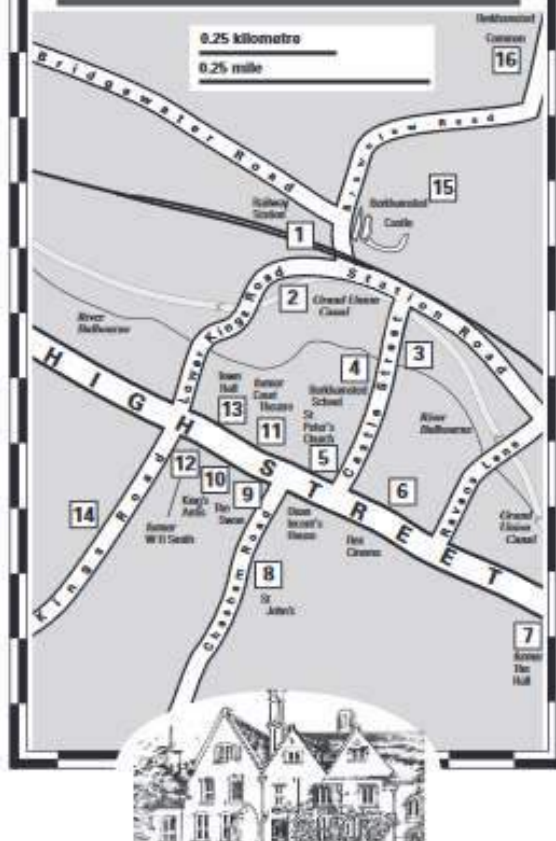
Mike Hill, Festival Director

19th Graham Greene International Festival 2017
Thursday 21 - Sunday 24 September

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Your Berkhamsted Clergy

In addition to many interviews, assessments and much theological training over several years, the actual 'process' of becoming a priest in the Church of England is two-fold, involving two ordination services. Back in July 2016 I was ordained in the cathedral by the Bishop of St Albans as a 'deacon'. This past July, I was back in St Albans Cathedral for a very similar service, to be ordained by Bishop Alan as a 'priest'.

While some might blanch at the analogy, the process has been likened to that of getting married. If one considers ordination to be about the formalising of a particular relationship between God, the person to be ordained, and God's people, the moment when one is ordained a deacon has been likened to the moment when a couple gets engaged, and the moment when one is ordained a priest likened to the actual wedding ceremony.



Therefore I've spent a lovely year here in Berkhamsted as a deacon. It's a word derived from the Greek word 'diakonos' meaning 'a servant', in the context of a person who supports and executes the commands of another. It's therefore a fundamental aspect of all ministry, modelled for us by Jesus when, for example, He Himself washed the feet of His disciples before His Last Supper. So, whilst as a priest I'm now able to preside at the Eucharist, pronounce the absolution of sin after confession, and invoke God's blessing, the important thing for all ordained clergy in the Church of England to remember is that we are, throughout the whole of our ministry, first and foremost deacons. No matter what our later, more specific appointed title or position might be (eg priest, rector, vicar, archdeacon, bishop, archbishop), the foundation of our ministry must always be diaconal. It was therefore wonderful to receive a little purple square of terry towel cloth as an ordination present from my former vicar in Stockport which I now keep in my cassock pocket as a reminder to me of my calling to God's ministry of service.

On both occasions, the twenty or so of us to be ordained went on a three day retreat to Felden Lodge (the Boys' Brigade headquarters near Boxmoor) to reflect and worship together in preparation for the important occasion. And then, both years, we gathered in a packed cathedral full of family, friends, and supporters from our various,

parishes for an uplifting service during which, after taking our vows, Bishop Alan laid his hands upon our heads and invoked the Holy Spirit to come upon us to support us in our future ministry.

As you might imagine, both ordination services were joyful events. However, whilst I was fully aware of the import of my ordination to the diaconate, at my ordination to the priesthood I was completely taken aback by the power of the occasion. I didn't expect to be so moved by it; not least by the moment at the end of the service when, as we processed out with smiles beaming across our faces, applause rang out from the congregation drowning out the energetic organ

voluntary - a great sound of love and support mirroring that of God's. And then we - the newest priests in the Church of England - stepped out through the cathedral's great west doors into bright sunshine, reminding us all of Jesus' Great Commission to "go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation". Though I know it won't all be plain sailing in the years to come, it's a commission which fills me with great delight, and I look forward to my continuing ministry for the next couple of years here in Berkhamsted, and in my future parishes.

God bless
Fr. Simon



23 and 24 September 2017

Once again, St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, is celebrating Germanic culture – especially the music – with its annual Oktoberfest; this year has the added link to Berkhamsted of a concert featuring Handel's Foundling anthem.

Handel wrote the Foundling Anthem in 1749 to help raise money for children at Thomas Coram's London Foundling Hospital (later rebuilt in Berkhamsted and eventually becoming Ashlyns School). The piece culminates in the ever-popular Hallelujah chorus.

Everyone is welcome to join any of the Oktoberfest events and also to join the Oktoberfest Chorus.



For more information
(and to join the Oktoberfest Chorus) go to:
www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/oktoberfest



2017

Saturday 23 September

4.30 p.m. Handel and the Foundlings
including The Foundling Anthem
Oktoberfest Chorus and Orchestra
Ashlyns School Chapel

7.30 p.m. German Wine Tasting
led by WSET Tutor Mike Eggleton
The Court House

Sunday 24 September

9.30 a.m. Parish Sung Eucharist
including a Buxtehude Cantata
St Peter's Church

11 a.m. Bavarian Breakfast
Sausage, beer and music
Outside St Peter's Church

For more information go to:
www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/oktoberfest



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 Cowper Society supported by the Friends of St Peter's.

Sat 9th September at 7.30pm: CHORAL CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Berkhamsted Choral Society Society & Chorley Wood Choral Society. Conductor Graham Wili.
www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk

Fri 22nd – Sun 24th September: St Peter's KULTURELLES OKTOBERFEST at St Peter's Church – Organ music, talk, wine-tasting and Bierfest.
www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

Sat 30th September at 7.30pm: ORCHESTRAL CONCERT at St Peter's Church – Mendelssohn Overture Hebrides; Elgar Sea Pictures, soloist Jeanette Ager; Nielsen Helios; Britten Sea Interludes (from Peter Grimes). Director by Adrian Davis. Tickets £16 [£15 prepaid], U18s free www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk

St Peters

Baptisms

23/7/17 Theodore Stephen James Miller
Sebastian John Tailby
Kayden Lucas Rocha
Willow Matilda Christine Heath

Weddings

8/7/17 Stefan Adam Szpryt and Charlotte Marie Drake
15/7/17 Zachary William Holmes and Elodie Adeline Babu Lawley

Funerals

17/7/17 John Christopher Cossins

All Saints

3rd Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
10am Morning Worship - David Williamson
10th Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
10am Holy Communion - Revd John Kirkby
4pm Messy Church - Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Team
17th Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
8am Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkin
10am Morning Worship - Revd Rachael Hawkins & Rob Wakely
24th Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
10am Holy Communion - Revd Richard Lowson
4pm Service of Wholeness and Healing - Revd Rachael Hawkins,
Audrey Co x & Tracy Robinson

Further information available from our church websites:

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

News from the Hospice of St Francis



September 2017

Anyone who has a relative or

close friend with a life-limiting illness will appreciate the importance of hospices during this difficult period in the lives of the patient and all involved.

The support that hospices provide at this time is invaluable and we at The Hospice of St Francis serve patients and families across West Herts and South Bucks, providing free expert care and support.

People often think that we are funded by the NHS, but in reality, we receive less than 20% of our over £5m annual running costs from the Government. For the remainder, we rely on voluntary donations.

If you would like to help us raise funds to ensure that we can sustain our vital services, , there are a number of exciting fundraising events coming up this autumn. Here's just a taste of them!

Mud Pack Challenge

If you haven't signed up yet for our legendary Mud Pack, don't delay! Nearly 700 people have already signed up to get filthy in our five or 10-mile muddy obstacle challenge around the stunning grounds of

Ashridge House and there are just 200 places remaining!

Grab your friends, step out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself for charity on Sunday 15 October.

Registration costs £35 per person (including your exclusive Mud Pack T-shirt). Sign up now at stfrancis.org.uk/mudpack

Wedding Dress Ball

If you fancy something more sophisticated and you're looking for a chance to wear your wedding dress or favourite bridesmaid's dress again, why not join us at our inaugural Wedding Dress Ball on Saturday 7 October?



Whatever your marital status enjoy this unique evening set in the stunningly refurbished Pendley Manor, Tring, which will include a drinks reception, delicious three-course meal, entertainment, photo booth, raffle and live auction. Tickets priced £65 per person, or £600 for a table of 10 are available from our website.

What's Your Hospice Challenge?

Take on a run, walk, cycle or sky dive to support The Hospice of St Francis and really push your limits! Visit stfrancis.org.uk/challenge to choose your Hospice challenge. **Alternatively, if you'd like to travel further afield, come and find out more about our adventurous Trek Sahara in November 2018 at our Trek Sahara Open Evening on Tuesday 7 November at 6.30pm.**



Farewell to Steve Jamieson

Finally, we were sad to bid a fond farewell last month to our Chief Executive Officer, Steve Jamieson, who has left us to take up the helm at The Society and College of Chiropodists and Podiatrists in London. Steve had been a committed leader for our organisation since March 2015, during which time he has overseen a raft of organisational changes to improve efficiency, procedures and our ability to provide the excellent care for which we are known – as recognised when we were rated *out-standing* by the Care Quality Commission in 2016.

Our search for a new Chief Executive Officer is well underway and we hope to announce the appointment of a successor shortly.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates about our care and events or visit our website at stfrancis.org.uk to find out more.



Glorious weekend at Sacred Heart's Golden Jubilee celebrations

The weekend of 16th-18th June this year saw some gloriously hot weather. The Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Park Street were also celebrating the 50th anniversary of the official opening of their new church on 4th June 1967.

50 years on saw many of the Berkhamsted churches come together to create some wonderful floral displays in Sacred Heart. On entering the church you were hit by the most marvellous scent from the wide variety of flowers used in the arrangements. The theme was 'Creation' and it was interesting to see how the flower arrangers had depicted the verses from Genesis. Children from St Thomas More School had decorated jars and pictures were displayed around the church.



The Berkhamsted Quilters had put on a lovely display of their work in one of the rooms, there were plants to buy and welcome refreshment from the hot weather. The church hall had also been beautifully decorated with plants and vegetables.

The present Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, celebrated a special mass on Sunday morning. He com-

mented that the church looked beautiful and he was very impressed with the flower arrangements.



The weekend closed with a 'Songs of Praise' service with hymns old and new sung by the congregation, choir and also children from St Thomas More School.

The proceeds of £1600 has been sent to CAFOD, the Catholic international development charity.



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Your Garden

Adventures in Boots 'Awkward Hill', Bibury

It isn't just cake that lures me to a National Garden Scheme (NGS) opening in July. In particular, I'd wanted to visit Victoria Summerley's 'Awkward Hill Cottage' garden in Bibury, Gloucestershire for the last couple of years but as summer timetables are quite tight here, the garden remained unvisited until this summer 2017.

Victoria built the garden from new pretty much & just about all the work was completed by her. Now, if you were to see what's been achieved you'd realise just what a herculean feat this is. Basically there wasn't a garden when Victoria bought the cottage a few years back she's removed an enormous amount of overgrown shrubs, reduced trees in size, cut out new beds & built a pond. With just the occasional 'bit' of help from a local chap she has created & built the most diverse space on all four sides of her cottage.



The garden is not called 'Awkward Hill' for nothing, as it runs downward from the cottage on three sides. Blessed with steps & walls made from the local Cotswold stone, the garden blends with the cottage well but not in a perfect way-that would be too contrived.



Apart from a classic contemporary planting scheme, Victoria has decorated her garden with some delightful ornaments-a pale terracotta urn graces the end of the garden & an oversized rusted metal lantern stands sentry at the end of a flowering border. Added to this is the pasture beyond the Cotswold stone boundary wall home to a local sheep herd, in fine song along with the birds on my visit.

The container planting caught my eye too. Victoria is a fan of succulents, echeverias & sempervivums planted in pots & sited in the sunniest corners of the garden so they could bake in the summer sun which is what they like best.

And talking about best...I really, really had the best almond slice I'd ever tasted. My visit was July 1st.



Had a long chat with Victoria-she's had a book published called The Secret Gardens of The Cotswolds & it was through this book that I found the beautiful Eastleach House, Cirencester, Gloucestershire which I wrote about earlier in the year. I think the entrance price to her garden was £3 each-a far cry from another NGS garden I visited this year & really good value. Victoria's premise on pricing is that she wanted two senior citizens to come out for the afternoon have a cup of tea & a piece of cake for a tenner which is more in line with my thinking on charity garden openings.

TTFN

helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk

07708 643313

www.ngs.org.uk

Cont from page 9

Held on Thursday 13 July, Dacorum Borough Council and the Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors hosted a unique event at the House of Commons, 'Hemel Hempstead – Your Platinum Investment', showcasing exactly why Hemel Hempstead is the prime location for investment. Over 80% of the specially invited attendees, which included institutional investors, relocating companies, house builders, developers and architects confirmed they would be "more likely to invest" in this rapidly evolving Hertfordshire town, as part of the post event survey.

Gary Stringer said: "The success of our recent Investment Showcase and today's presentations really demonstrate the ongoing commitment to develop Dacorum into a place we will all want to invest, play and work in for the foreseeable future."



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Kenzo is a handsome Akita who was born in 2007. Sadly, this older boy found himself back in the care of Appledown when his family moved. He may have a few miles on the clock, but this nice-natured lad has a real spring in his step and loves a good walk. He is great with people and is house trained, but would prefer to be an only pet. We really hope he won't spend the rest of his days in kennels, and will find the loving home he deserves.

If you can offer Kenzo 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
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Sunnyside Rural Trust works with local people with learning disabilities offering work skills in all kinds of gardening activities. We have three sites in Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Northchurch and grow a wide range of fruit, vegetables and plants to organic principles. Our produce is sold in our farm shops and also on a weekly market stall on Berkhamsted High Street on Thursday mornings.

WWW.SUNNYSIDERURALTUST.ORG.UK

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