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**YB**

Your Berkhamsted

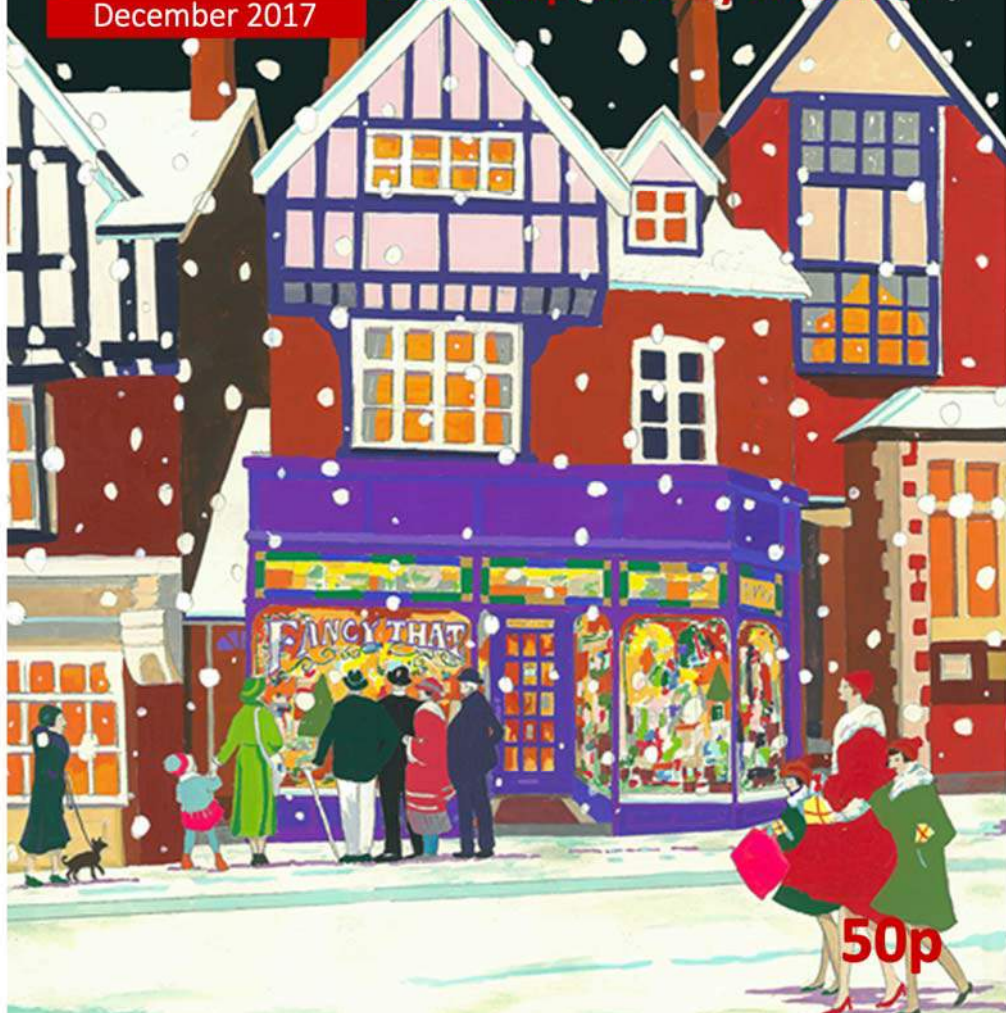
December 2017

Short Story by Nicky Bull

Chiltern Walk

Steaming Through Berkhamsted  
Book Review

Leadership Academy of the Year



**50p**

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



## *In this issue...*

### **WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER 2017 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED.**

Well as I write this we have 5 weeks until Christmas, a busy time of year. Is it really a year gone already? Please remember there are some people out there that do not have friends and family around them – although we should always look out for those who are lonely or not very mobile – this festive season is a great time to reach out and show you care! We have a great short story from Nicky Bull and a book review from our wonderfully talented Mary Casserley. There is a page for the little ones also and a great walk to do with friends or family. So open that mulled wine and enjoy! Don't forget - this magazine needs more volunteers – a time to learn new skills and be part of a team - please contact me if you feel you could help. The 'what's on' page shows events in December 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@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk)



#### **Berkhamsted in the news**

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**Front cover: Thank you Mary Casserley for the fantastic picture of Tring High Street. All images are available at Berkhamsted Imaging. <http://www.marycasserley.com>**

### ***The Town and Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted***

Responsibility for opinions expressed in articles and letters published in this magazine and for the accuracy of any statements in them rests solely with the individual contributor.



## Berkhamsted in the news by Julian Dawson



This month let's start with education, education, education. [tes.com](http://tes.com) explains the crisis in the teaching of English in our schools. Funny how this merry go round manifests itself. Last I heard there was a crisis of recruitment in the world of science, particularly engineering. But apparently the emphasis on so-called STEM – science technology engineering and maths – has left a recruitment hole for the teaching of English. According to the website Michael Bond, vice-principal education of the private Berkhamsted schools group, has seen a lower take-up of English at A-level, and he argues that this is connected to the government drive for students to study Stem subjects. For all that, working as I do for an engineering firm, the low take-up of STEM subjects is still a cause for concern, particularly among girls. We spend a significant amount of our time visiting schools inspiring pupils with stories of engineering prowess, and especially showing that women can take a key role in shaping our future in the world of design.

Talking of talented young women, the-[portugalnews.com](http://portugalnews.com) reports on the final of the 2017 Telegraph Vitality Junior Golf Championship at Portugal's prestigious Quinta do Lago resort, which was to begin on 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Paul McGinley, the 2014 Ryder Cup captain, sees this tournament as one of junior golf's majors, and the Algarve course has received a multi-million pound investment. Hannah Screen, from Berkhamsted is the defending girls' champion as the 17-year-old recorded a two-shot win last year. Hannah is definitely a name we should be following in the golfing world.

[aboutmyarea.co.uk](http://aboutmyarea.co.uk) is a local interactive website that allows anyone to share information about local activities. Roy Izzard, manager of Hitchin Town FC sets out his key fixtures to look out for. He was particularly excited by an upcoming visit to Kings Langley in the BigFreeBet Cup. "It will be good to cross swords with manager Paul Hobbs and his coach ex Canary Steve Conroy. Interestingly Steve and Paul were on opposite sides when our Vets beat Berkhamsted Vets recently", he says. I imagine he means veterans, rather than a collection of James Herriot types.

[hemeltoday.co.uk](http://hemeltoday.co.uk) reports on the consultation for major house-building plans for Dacorum. Your communications with us have illustrated just how emotive a subject this is. On the one hand we are facing the greatest crisis in the availability of homes probably since 1945.

Cont page 5



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On the other nobody wants the solution to manifest itself on their doorstep. Yet this nettle must be grasped if we are to do anything to resolve the deep gap in the haves and have-nots not only in our town and country, but in the world at large.

So, it is a delight to read a report on [berkhamstedtoday.co.uk](http://berkhamstedtoday.co.uk). It features Open Door, a new community hub and café which offers space to Berkhamsted residents. Near the post office, it opened in the autumn.

It has been founded by volunteers Ceri Lindo and Joan Fisher. Both were keen to offer a venue for the isolated and lonely, or for people who just wanted to be sociable and have a chat. It is also possible to hire the site for workshops and classes. There will also be a pop-up supplement to the Upstairs Gallery above the post office. Look out for exhibitions of work from West Herts College and the Hospice of St Francis.



Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator,  
Art at 88,  
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[info@artat88.co.uk](mailto:info@artat88.co.uk).

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# What's on

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts Market (**1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:berkhamstedmarket@hotmail.co.uk); [www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk](http://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](mailto:enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk)

## For events at the Hertfordshire

### Libraries for young and old

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/events-and-things-to-do>

**FRESH AND FESTIVE! CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE AT WOODS CAPITAL GARDENS CENTRE FROM 23 NOVEMBER** For more information go to [www.capitalgardens.co.uk/christmastrees](http://www.capitalgardens.co.uk/christmastrees)

## Advent Taizé Service



**Sunday, 10 December  
2017 @ 6.00 pm**

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

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

## Sat, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec @ 7.30pm - 9.30pm:

Berkhamsted Music. The Night before Christmas. Much-loved local group Chroma retell a Gogol story, interwoven with Ukrainian and Russian music and song, in what should be a magical evening. Civic Centre. [www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk) Season ticket £52, £15 at the door, under 18 free. 862798

## Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 2.30pm - 5pm:

Berkhamsted Art Society - Winter Art Exhibition: a wide range of members' artwork in all media, including ceramics, to view and for sale. Civic Centre. [www.berkhamstedartsociety.com](http://www.berkhamstedartsociety.com) Free entry, all welcome

## Mon 11<sup>th</sup> & Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 8pm:

Berkhamsted Film Society - Jimmy's Hall. In 1932 Ireland, a village hall where people can dance, study and talk is seen by the powers-that-be as a hotbed for loose morals and subversion. Dir: Ken Loach/2014/Ireland,UK,France/Cert 12A/109mins. Civic Centre [www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk) Annual sub: joint £65, single £35. Visitors £5 at door (no conc); tickets 863155

## Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 8pm - 10pm:

Berkhamsted Lcl Hist & Mus Soc - Local Film Night. Sit back, dim the lights, and disappear into a world of yesteryear... including Old Hertfordshire 1940s-50s. Town Hall. [www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk) Annual sub: joint £15, single £10, visitors £3 (no conc), DC, 874598



**Sat 16th Dec @ 8pm - 10.30pm:** Berkhamsted Jazz - The Ridout Family. Mark Ridout (g), Tom Ridout (ts), Alexandra Ridout (tpt), Flo Moore (b), Tristan Mailot (d). Civic Centre.

[www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk)

**Sun, 17<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 3.30pm - 5pm:**

Dacorum Symphony Orchestra. Christmas Concert. A programme of Christmas music for all the family including Humperdinck 'Hansel & Gretel Overture', Haydn 'Toy Symphony' and carols for all to sing! Rudolf Steiner School, Kings Langley. <http://dacorumso.org> 01494 727240, DC

**Mon, 18<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 7.45pm:** Berkhamsted Archaeology Society. The Marine Antiquities Scheme

Alistair Byford-Bates, Historic Environment Fisheries Liaison Officer. Wessex Archaeology, on a new approach to protecting our shared underwater heritage. Music Room, B'sted School.

<http://berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk>

Annual subs £15, couples £20, juniors £5; £1 on the night for members, £5 for visitors

**Mon, 18th Dec @ 8pm:** Berkhamsted Film Society - My Life as a Courgette. Preceded by a short AGM. A funny, engaging, moving film about a 9-year-old orphan. Dir: Claude Barras/2016/ Switz,France/Cert PG/66mins/subtitles. Civic Centre.

[www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk)

Annual sub: joint £65, single £35. Visitors £5 at door (no conc); tickets 863155

Showing at the [The Vyne Theatre, Berkhamsted Arts Centre](http://www.vynetheatre.co.uk)  
[www.vynetheatre.co.uk](http://www.vynetheatre.co.uk)

**3rd December 2pm:** Live recording - The Nutcracker. The Bolshoi Ballet

**3rd December 6pm:** Live recording - A Woman of No Importance. Classic Spring Theatre Company

**10th December 2pm:** Live recording - The Nutcracker. The Royal Ballet

**Willow Wreath Workshops**

**Wednesday December 6th** Potten End Village Hall, Berkhamsted HP4 2RH 6-9pm

**Saturday December 9th** Potten End Village School, Berkhamsted HP4 2QY 10-1pm

**Sunday December 10th** Potten End Village School, Berkhamsted HP4 2QY 10-1pm

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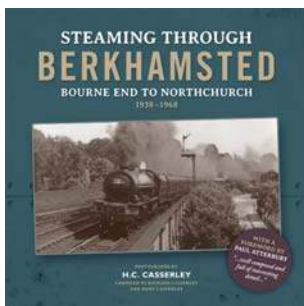


## Book Review

### By John Gerry

#### Steaming through Berkhamsted

Mary Casserley will be known to many for her two books of historical Berkhamsted, “Postcards of Berkhamsted 1902 - 1945” and “Drawings of Berkhamsted 2000 - 2002”, as well as for her popular paintings of local scenes. (Some of which have appeared on the cover of this magazine).



On this occasion, she has worked with her father Richard Casserley to put together a fascinating photographic history of the railway in Berkhamsted 1938 - 1968.

Richard's father H.C. Casserley was a famous railway photographer who published over 30 railway related books and who had a house built in Berkhamsted

positioned so that he could see both the up and down lines from his windows.

“Steaming through Berkhamsted” brings together those from the 60,000 photographs of railway life that he took that cover Berkhamsted from just before the second World War to the end of the steam era in 1968. Captions are provided to give the historical context of each photograph by Richard, whilst Mary has dug out a few older images showing, for example, the original station built in 1837 ( nothing remains although it was in much the same place as the current building), and a very early photograph of an express train from 1905!

Dipping into the book is fascinating. You see the broken locomotive, the Royal Scot, as she lay in a turnip field having rolled down a steep embankment. 43 people perished in that accident, and it took a month for the locomotive to be recovered; you are taken back to the deep snows of 1947 to see the overnight postal train struggling through the drifts some 12 hours late; you wonder at the fast non-stop Euston to London train picking up the mail bags at a speed of 60mph, and there is everywhere the nostalgic (for those over 50 anyway) sight of steam itself.



Tragically, Richard Casserley died just a few days before this book was published, but the 123 page book he produced is an insight into one small part of Berkhamsted history. It will be a great Christmas present for anyone who was once a “trainspotter” and for those Berkhamstedians interested in the history of their town.

***You can buy the book from Waterstones , the commuter café at Berkhamsted Station and also the Way Inn***



## Short Story and more

The short story holds an important place in English Literature. From Edgar Allan Poe to Kate Mosse, writers down the ages have turned their attention to this form.. It's now "Your Berkhamsted's" turn! We are asking for our readers to let us publish their work. Don't let inexperience put you off trying. Your subject can be humour, adventure, love, fun, mystery or just an intriguing situation. Around 700 words and if you wish it can be anonymous. Let's write lots of stories and enjoy the reads. Over to you all!

### The Birthday Present

It is a good thing that we are friends – and have been so for thirty years or more – or this embarrassing error on my part might not have been a source of mutual amusement but rather of disappointment, or even offence. We remember each other's birthdays, too many of them for comfortable counting now, with cards and small gifts, and occasionally these have been belated: such is life for all of us now that online diaries and facebook messages remind us only on the morning of the day in question that yet another year has passed. This year, however, I was unusually well-prepared: a writer friend had published a slim volume of short stories and I had acquired a second signed copy of this book earlier in the year, with its one-a-week-for-a-year tales of Belfast life. It would be perfect for my

friend's forthcoming birthday as she and I share an interest in writing. The book had resided – carefully placed in late spring among the shoe boxes, handbags and occasional heaps of sorted stuff destined for a local charity shop – in the bottom of my wardrobe. It nestled nicely with a couple of other items earmarked as rainy-day presents: the colourful notebook that pushed an online clothes order over the 'free postage' threshold; a gift-boxed pen from some swanky-hotel-based conference my husband attended some time ago; and a pretty blue-green box of bath treats. It was the latter that was almost my undoing!

For many years now I have been a shower-only bather: never having developed the soft-focussed TV ad habit of wallowing in deep foaming bath with candles or even wine-glass of bubbly to hand, I prefer the functional rather than leisure-based use of a bathroom. However, I do have a friend who extols the virtues of such a pastime for escaping from demanding family or otherwise hectic life and so this gift had appeared one Christmas – or possibly birthday past. On a whim, I added it to the book as an additional token of good wishes for my busy friend's forthcoming day. Accompanied by a card, the present was duly left on her doorstep – but within hours I was plagued by a nagging fear: what if, in fact, she had been the one who had given me the bathing box? A week passed and, like a tiny buzzing insect bursting into occasional activity in an unreachable corner, the thought recurred at intervals. Eventually, I gave in



to the pricking of conscience and, at the end of a phone call, dropped in my confessional question: had I returned to her a gift that she had first given me and, if so, I was *really* sorry! 'No problem at all, it wasn't me,' she replied, as I explained the perplexing provenance of the blue-green box. Flooded with relief, and pricked with the realisation that I need not, after all, have been so honest, I relaxed. Not for long, however, as just the following week, when we shared a short car journey, it was time for another confession. 'I must tell you something,' my friend said. 'You know that bath treat that you gave me for my birthday – well, when my husband saw it on the dresser

he asked where it had come from. I told him that you gave it to me but he is absolutely sure that he won it a while back. And after my knee operations I can't use the bath but only have showers. So, in fact, although I had forgotten, it seems *did* give it to you after all!' We both laughed; and I laughed again to hear that in the end it had found its way, full circle and some to a welcome from my friend's visiting daughter, who wallowed in the bubbles, lit the candle, sipped the tea and salved both our consciences. Memory is a strange trickster but we haven't forgotten that we are friends!

Nicky Bull



*To celebrate National Poetry Day, we held a poetry competition. Cobham Consulting asked people to get their creative juices flowing and write a poem about Berkhamsted and the local community.*

I'd love a little trip, she said  
To some historic place like  
Berkhamsted

How to get there, I scratched my head  
26 miles from London is Berkhamsted

I'll get a train or bus instead  
But somehow I'll get to Berkhamsted

I'll cycle the Chiltern Hills and ache my legs  
Anything to make it to Berkhamsted

It is the best thing since sliced bread  
So come and visit Berkhamsted

Lorna



## Berkhamsted Museum and History Society



### **'BERKHAMSTED IN WWI' AND 'MEN OF BERKHAMSTED – LEST WE FORGET'**

For the last 3 ½ years several members of the Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society have been researching the archives of their Collection stored in the Dacorum Heritage Trust's Museum Store in the old fire station behind the Civic Centre, to gather information and gain some idea of what life was like for those who lived in Berkhamsted during those years, 1914-1919, and the years that followed. As well as seeking information from the Society's archives we have researched military records, gathered people's memories and used many other sources of information, such as diaries, parish magazines and newspaper accounts.

We have sought to find out as much as possible about the lives of those whose lives were cut short by the War and killed in action, but we wanted also to remember those who returned but were severely injured, scared

mentally as well as physically and whose lives and those of their families were to be never the same again. This task and its end result proved to be greater than anticipated and what set out as one book has resulted in two, which complement each other. These books constitute part of the History Society's contribution to the commemoration of WWI. The books cost £10 each and will be available at Society meetings and from Jenny Sherwood

01442865158,

[KSherw9100@aol.com](mailto:KSherw9100@aol.com) or

Janice Boakes

[Janice.boakes@ntlworld.com](mailto:Janice.boakes@ntlworld.com)

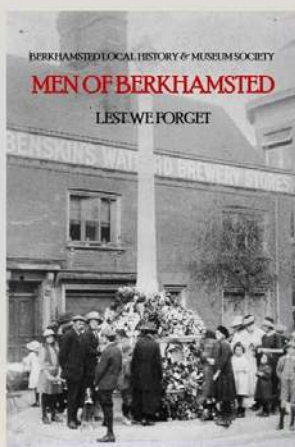
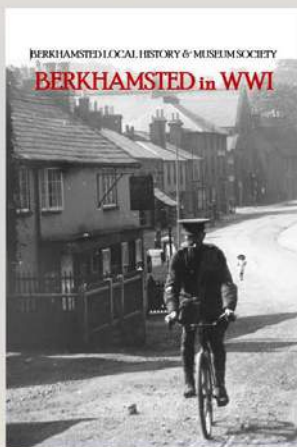
They will also be on sale at the Court House on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December from 9am-1230. They would make excellent Christmas presents for anyone interested in the history of our town or for those whose ancestor's name appears on the War Memorial. We are grateful to Berkhamsted Town Council for their contribution towards the cost of producing these books.



## BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY & MUSEUM SOCIETY

presents two new books...

Things were about to change on the eve of World War One in Great Berkhamsted: "Tent pegs for the army, wheelbarrows, spoons, scoops, shovels, bowls &c. are made here ; a considerable trade is carried on in brushes and timber, and there is a large sheep dipping powder manufactory, and a mantle factory ; there are also nursery gardens and watercress beds." (Kelly's Directory, 1914). We explore the new era of fighting men at the front, the changing role of women, the sacrifices of families, the suffering of survivors, celebrations of peace and plans for memorials in **Berkhamsted in WWI**



Who has walked past Berkhamsted war memorials, looked at the names and wondered about the men listed there? Who were they? Where did they work? Where did they live? How did they die? Who did they leave behind? What connections do they have to today's people of Berkhamsted? You can read about their lives in **Men of Berkhamsted: Lest We Forget**

Great presents at £10 each + P&P

Contact Jenny for your copies [ksherw9100@aol.com](mailto:ksherw9100@aol.com)



## It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

### Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer  
had a very shiny nose.

And if you ever saw him,  
you would even say it glows.

All of the other reindeer  
used to laugh and call him names.  
They never let poor Rudolph  
join in any reindeer games.

Then one foggy Christmas Eve  
Santa came to say:

"Rudolph with your nose so bright,  
won't you guide my sleigh tonight?"

Then all the reindeer loved him  
as they shouted out with glee,  
Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer,  
you'll go down in  
history!

Robert L May



### The Wizard of Oz

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | A | E | A | U | N | T | E | M | H | S | C | W | L |
| I | E | I | R | U | R | D | N | K | Y | A | U | I | C |
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WIZARD  
MONKEYS  
MUNCHKINS  
UNCLE HENRY  
GLINDA  
TOTO  
SLIPPERS  
GALE  
DOROTHY  
WICKED WITCH  
WATER  
GARLAND  
NIKKO  
JUDY  
AUNT EM  
MELTING  
RUBY  
TIN MAN

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/147/>



## Recipe—Gingerbread Men



1. Melt the sugar, golden syrup and butter in a saucepan, then bubble for 1-2 mins. Leave to cool for about 10 mins.
2. Tip the flour, bicarbonate of soda and spices into a large bowl. Add the warm syrup mixture and the egg, stir everything together, then gently knead in the bowl until smooth and streak-free. The dough will firm up once cooled. Wrap in cling film and chill for at least 30 mins.
3. Remove the dough from the fridge, leave at room temperature until softened. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6 and line two baking trays with baking parchment.
4. Roll out the dough to the thickness of a £1 coin, then cut out gingerbread people with a cutter. Re-roll the excess dough and keep cutting until it's all used up.
5. Lift the biscuits onto the trays and bake for 10-12 mins, swapping the trays over halfway through cooking. Leave to cool on the trays for 5 mins, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Use the icing to decorate the biscuits as you wish, and stick on sweets for buttons. Leave to dry for 1-2 hrs. Will keep for up to three days in an airtight container.

## Exhibition Display Opportunity

If any local charity or organisation would like to use the Long Room of the Court House (the room at the front ) to mount a short exhibition or display on a Saturday morning between 9am and 12 noon this space is available free of charge. To check availability and make your reservation contact Kathie Lally at [kathleenlally21@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenlally21@gmail.com)



## Your Berkhamsted Clergy

### Christmas Musings

At some stage during our Christmas worship we will proclaim some words from the Gospel of St. John which explain how that writer understands the Christmas event we are celebrating: **“THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONGST US”**.

Well, we may think, that’s lovely poetry and all of that, but really, what is he saying? What St. John actually says is that the Word, (i.e. God) pitches his tent among us, and so, no matter what, God always accompanies us on the journey of life, no matter what we do, no matter how many times we turn our back on God. Here is no cosy, twee stuff but a radical statement that God, quite literally, changes his address from heaven to earth. The question is, do we really believe that God assumes our humanity and became one of us? After all, that is what we affirm in the Christian declaration of faith we call the Creed (from the Latin, *credo*, which means “I believe”):

*For us and for our salvation he  
came down from heaven,  
Was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary  
**And was made man.***

This is the staggering claim of Christianity at Christmas, but again I ask, do we really believe it?

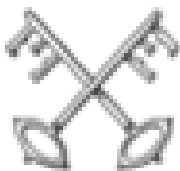
A great spiritual writer and monk, the late Thomas Merton, always claimed that some Christians do not actually believe in what we call in the trade, the INCARNATION, God becoming a human being in Jesus Christ. We may believe that Jesus was divine, but that humanity was kind of attached to him- not in a way that had any effect. That is NOT the way it is. God is fully human in Jesus: that is at the heart of our Christmas celebration. Merton went on to say that if we did believe in the truth of the Incarnation, that God was fully human & present in Jesus Christ, we would have a greater respect for each other and ourselves. Perhaps that is where Christianity has gone wrong from time to time when folks think that they have to become less human to become more holy, closer to God. The truth is I think the exact opposite. Is it not possible for me to be fully human, and the more fully human I become, the closer to God I am? One of the early Christian teachers, St Irenaeus caught this idea well when he wrote, “The glory of God is a person fully alive”.



Christmas is far earthier, so much more deeply radical than romantic cribs and beautifully decorated Christmas trees, though they have their place in my home as they will in yours I expect.

Do join us for worship over this Christmas and celebrate gloriously God becoming a human being. And have yourselves a lively and happy Christmas.

Fr. Tim



## Christmas services at St Peter's

| Dates                           | Theme  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec</b>   | An Advent Celebration -<br>2 till 4pm<br>(a seasonal craft workshop<br>With worship) |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>  | 6pm Advent<br>Carol Service  |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> December</b> | 6pm<br>Parish Carol<br>Service   |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b> | 4pm and 5.15pm<br>Crib services<br>11.30pm<br>Midnight Mass                          |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup> December</b> | 8am<br>Said Eucharist<br>9.30am<br>Family Eucharist                                  |

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm:** CONCERT in St Peter's Church, Lady Chapel. Sounds tastic Bring a Bear concert. A fun and informal introduction to classical music for the whole family with Ben, violin, and Rebecca, piano; free refreshments. Adults £7.50, children & bears free. Book via [www.soundstastic.co.uk](http://www.soundstastic.co.uk)

**Sun 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm:** CONCERT in St Peter's Church. Berkhamsted Choral Society with concert brass. Conductor Graham Wili. Festival music and carols. Tickets: £15, DC £8, U18s free, 07500 431643 or [www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk)

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm:** TALK in the Court House. Cowper Society Winter Talk no 1. Adrian Davis, Handling Handel. Free entry. Retiring collection

**Tue 12<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm:** CONCERT in St Peter's Church. Words and Music at Christmas with Anton Lesser, reader. Chiltern Arts presents its third and final launch concert ahead of its inaugural festival in February, featuring artists such as Tenebrae, the Academy of Ancient Music and Tasmin Little. Tickets: front nave £20, back nave £15. U25s £15 & £10, gallery £15, U18s free <https://chilternarts.com/festival>

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30pm:** CONCERT in St Peter's - Chiltern Chamber Choir with Helen Meyerhoff, Stella Woodman, Harry Bagnall, Thomas Humphreys & Bridgewater Sinfonietta. G. F. Handel Messiah. Director Adrian Davis. Tickets in advance £14 from Brown & Merry, 124 High St, Berkhamsted or £16 on the door. U18s free. [www.chilternchamberchoir.com](http://www.chilternchamberchoir.com)



## 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

### St Peter's

Baptisms

3<sup>rd</sup> September - Kaiya Marley Lewis

Weddings

2<sup>nd</sup> September - Andrew Lee Dent and Rachael Samantha Palmer

Funerals

13<sup>th</sup> September - Doris Emily May Erica Hughes

### All Saint's

3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday

10am Morning Worship - Revd Rachael Hawkins

4pm Messy Church - Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

10<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Advent

10am Holy Communion - Revd John Kirkby

17<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent

10am All Age Morning Worship & Holy Baptism  
(with Nativity) - Revd Rachael Hawkins

4pm Carol Service - Revd Rachael Hawkins

24<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Eve

Holy Communion - Revd Canon Gareth Powell

4pm Crib Service - Revd Rachael Hawkins

25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

10.30am All Age Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkins

31<sup>st</sup> First Sunday of Christmas

10am Holy Communion - Revd Brian Tebbutt

Further information available from our church websites:

[www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk) and [www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk).



## News from the Hospice of St Francis



**December  
2017**

work to make the Hospice survive into the future, "Carry on being this army, this passionate, committed army of people who care about this Hospice. I wish you all the strength, all the success, to carry on your wonderful work."

As Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn to all things festive - a time for celebration but also for reflection and a chance to remember those who are no longer with us.

You can remember and celebrate someone special this Christmas by pledging your support for our annual Light up a Life Appeal. Light up a Life gives everyone who has lost a loved one the chance to dedicate a light in their memory on our special Tree of Remembrance standing in our beautiful Hospice grounds.

If you'd like to dedicate a light in honour of someone special or to make a donation to our Light Up a Life Appeal to help ensure that those facing loss receive the care and support they need not just at Christmas but all year round, please visit [stfrancis.org.uk/LUAL](http://stfrancis.org.uk/LUAL) or call 01442 869555.

### **Dame Esther came to visit!**

We were delighted to welcome Dame Esther Rantzen, DBE, as guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting last month. The celebrity campaigner, who spent the first five years of her life in Berkhamsted, talked about hospice care, loneliness and her earliest memories of the town. She also met patients and volunteers, including our oldest volunteer, 90-year-old Bill Frew, and urged us to continue our good



There are plenty of opportunities this December to take part in fun and festive events to help us to continue to provide care and support when it matters most to patients and families facing progressive illness. Here are just a few:

### **Christmas Carol Concert**

Come and sing your heart out at our first ever Christmas Carol Concert in the stunning surroundings of St Albans Cathedral and Abbey at 3pm on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. The historic Cathedral will be the setting for a magical afternoon of popular carols and performances from [Harpenden Choral Society](http://Harpenden Choral Society) and Sir John Lawes School Choir, guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit.

Tickets, priced from £9, are available from the Cathedral website [stalban-scathedral.org](http://stalban-scathedral.org) or from the box office on 01727 890290.



## Santa Dash

Kick-start your Christmas by joining us to celebrate a decade of dashing on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December alongside hundreds of Santas descending on Riverside, Hemel Hempstead, for our 10<sup>th</sup> annual Santa Dash! Be one of the throng of Santas of all ages who'll walk, scoot or sprint the 2.5-mile route, before receiving a shiny medal, mince pie and well-deserved hot drink. Register now at

[www.stfrancis.org.uk/santadash](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/santadash)

## Christmas Cards and Trees for sale!

Our exciting new range of Christmas cards is now on sale! Featuring a selection of 22 festive designs, from robins and snowmen to more traditional nativity scenes, the cards are on sale at all Hospice shops and online at [stfrancis.org.uk/christmascards](http://stfrancis.org.uk/christmascards). 100% of the profits go directly to the Hospice.

Our top quality non-drop Nordmann Fir Christmas trees will also be on sale at the Hospice for the third year running from 9 to 5pm every day from 1<sup>st</sup> December! In

sizes ranging from 4-9ft and prices starting at £30, £5 from every tree sold will go to the Hospice.

## Give Up 2 Give Back

If you've overdone it on the mince pies or spent too long on the sofa over the festive season, why not start the New Year by giving up to give back to The Hospice of St Francis?! Give up anything from your takeaway coffee or chocolate bar to your nightly glass of wine or favourite deli sandwich in this month long campaign - and give back what you've saved to support the Hospice.

Earn virtual medals along the way or take a day off with a cheat fine – you could even get sponsored! For full details visit [www.stfrancis.org.uk/giveupgiveback](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/giveupgiveback)

For more details on all of the above and more, check out our website at [www.stfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk) or follow us on

**Facebook** : The Hospice of St Francis,  
**Twitter**: [hospicstfrancis](https://twitter.com/hospicstfrancis) or **Instagram**: [HospiceofStFrancis](https://www.instagram.com/HospiceofStFrancis)







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## Your Garden

### **Adventures in Boots by Helen Re-eley.**

Waterperry Gardens in South Oxfordshire, is a short drive from Berkhamsted on a good day, about an hour. One Sunday in September, we took a mooch out to see the Michaelmas Daisy Festival, the garden was featuring.



Over the years I've made several visits to Waterperry. Back in the day there was an event called Art in Action which was very affordable to begin with & then it wasn't. The event stopped in 2016.

About four years ago I joined a group of horticulturists for a day & was guided around by the HG Pat Havers. Waterperry grow ancient varieties of apples which interested some of the group but not me - I can't abide the sharp sour things. The highlight for me is always the ornamental gardens & in particular at Waterperry the 'Long Border'. Butterflies & bees were in healthy supply but you can

never have enough butterflies especially in an herbaceous border. Some of the plants were vast, taller than me. Closer to the border edges lots of beautiful pink sedums were in bloom-I do love a good sedum in its prime, it makes such a good cut flower too.

Waterperry Gardens isn't packed out with visitors like, say for example RHS Wisley. As lovely as it is, you have to choose your time for Wizzers. There were parts of Waterperry we had completely to ourselves apart from the insects.



However, Waterperry Gardens isn't just a place to visit in September as it's open all year & is free to visit in January so if you're keen on taking frosty photographs get yourself up there for a very reasonable day out. For RHS members there is free access in March & October.

[www.waterperrygardens.co.uk](http://www.waterperrygardens.co.uk)

TTFN [helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk](mailto:helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk)  
07708 643313



## Hosting with HOSTUK 2017-18

***Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2***

How true such advice can be. Hospitality is an equal partnership, the feel-good factor of offering it and the delight in receiving it.

HOST UK is a charity whose mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. We operate *all* year round including Christmas and New Year when being welcomed into a home is vastly preferable to lonely halls of residence.

Hospitality can be offered for one day (daytime only), three days and two nights at the weekend, or at New Year, or four days and three nights during the Christmas festive period.

The choice is yours. **And remember...your offer can be made at *any* time of the year.**

If you should like to know more please look at our website: [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org)

Or email us on: [info@hostuk.org](mailto:info@hostuk.org)

### Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



Jay McGuinness is a stunning Siberian Husky born in 2015. He is alert, responsive and good with other dogs. He walks well on the lead and know basic commands. Jay will need an experienced home with high fences! He could probably live with a female dog. His owners will need to commit to caring for his amazing coat! He may be vocal when left alone.

If you can offer Jay 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.

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

01525 220383 e-mail: [appledown.kennels@btinternet.com](mailto:appledown.kennels@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.appledownrescue.co.uk](http://www.appledownrescue.co.uk)

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# Ashlyns School - Leadership Academy of the Year

In September 2017 Ashlyns School in Berkhamsted was awarded the prestigious title of Leadership Academy of the Year, by Sports Leaders UK.

Sports Leaders UK is a charity that changes lives by equipping people with the skills and motivation to create and run sporting activities in the community. The leadership skills which students develop also prepare them for further education or employment. Ashlyns School was commended for developing a range of creative initiatives which go

beyond the required learning outcomes of Sports Leaders UK awards and qualifications.

The National award recognises the school's commitment to developing leadership skills, especially Sports leadership, within the school and local community.

In recognising Ashlyns School, Sports Leaders UK wrote, "Ashlyns School is among an elite group of Sports Leaders UK centres with an extensively developed programme incorporating Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Qualifications in Sports Leadership, in addition to the Young Leaders

your programme was considered to be an outstanding demonstration of Leadership, the panel was impressed by the cycle of leadership and use of existing sports leaders to support recruitment and development of new and younger sports leaders. The engagement and links with primary schools achieve a significant benefit across the local community. Inspiring

future leaders has exemplified the positive benefits that embedding leadership opportunities for young people can achieve".



Mr Jones, Head of the Leadership Programme, said, "This award is a tremendous testament to the work that our leaders across the entire school produce on a continual basis. They are an absolute credit to the school and deserve all the praise that they receive. May I take this opportunity to say a massive thank you and well done to all involved, in particular our local primary schools who have supported the programme and given extensive opportunities for our Leaders to thrive".

**David Jones—Ashlyns School**



## **Bridgewater Monument to Pitstone Windmill Circular Walk**

This walk links two great reasons to visit the Ashridge Estate - the Bridgewater Monument and our ancient postmill. You could make it a day out for the whole family. It includes some spectacular views across the Chilterns and the Vale of Aylesbury, especially if you get the chance to climb the monument.

Please note that this route does include some walking on the road and may not be suitable for families with young children as, in places, crossing can be difficult and there are no verges (see particularly points 4 and 9).

1. Stand facing the Bridgewater Monument. This 33-metre-tall tower was erected in 1832 in memory of the Third Duke of Bridgewater, also known as the 'Canal Duke' because of his role in starting the canal-building boom of the late-18th and early-19th centuries. To the right of the Monument there are two paths. Take the one to the right along Duncombe Terrace following a well-surfaced path and signs for mobility vehicles. Follow this path for approximately 1 mile (2km) through woodland until fields begin to appear on your left and you pass a house on your right. At the house go through a gate and turn left onto a track. Continue to follow the track as it bears right, away from the house.

2. After approximately 200m you will come to a footpath marker. Turn left off the track, following the boundary trail, onto a footpath which descends gently down the hill and through a gate emerging into a more open landscape. You will find fields to your left and chalk grassland to your right. The fields are separated from the grassland by a thin wire fence. Follow the path to the corner of the field in front of you. When you reach the field continue ahead following the fence line, and keeping it, to your left.

3. When you come to a point where two paths form a crossroads, marked by a signpost, continue ahead in the direction signed Ivinghoe. Pass through the gate into a more defined field and continue ahead following footpath signs and the line of a hedgerow, keeping the hedge to your right. When you arrive at a gate in the corner of the field go through it and onto a narrow track which seems to be within the hedgerow. Follow this track to the road.

4. When you reach the road, turn left. CAUTION: this is a very busy road with limited visibility. There is a verge on the left side of the road which you can use but it is uneven so take care. Cross the road where you feel comfortable and continue until you come to the National Trust car park which is near a very tight bend in the road. Cross the car park and go through a gate at the back. You will now be able to see the Pitstone Windmill very clearly. Follow the path directly towards the windmill.

5. On leaving the Windmill continue across the field to the opposite side to which you entered. When you reach the edge of the field turn left and follow the field margin to the road.

6. Cross the road and turn left. CAUTION: this is a very busy road, there is a verge on the right side of the road but it is uneven in places. Following the road you will eventually come to an opening into a field to your right. Turn in here and then turn immediately left following a narrow track with bushes on both sides. Follow this track as it bends right. Go over a stile and



continue ahead on the footpath. The footpath winds up hill through bushes following a road, which you can glimpse to your left, before arriving at the edge of a field. When you arrive at a gate go through into the field. Please make sure that if you have a dog it is on a lead and under control as this field is often used for livestock.

7. With your back to the gate go straight ahead passing in front of the hill to your right. Keep an eye out to your left for the National Trust's Pitstone Hill car park. When you meet the track which comes from the car park and goes up the hill turn right towards the hill. You do not need to climb the hill itself but can take the left fork and walk around the contour, keeping the hill on your right, if you prefer. This lower route soon bears right and begins to run parallel to a fence. Follow the fence to its corner where you will find a sign post.

8. Follow the sign left through the gate into the field. The path skirts the edge of the field for approximately 100m before bearing left across two fields divided by a rough track. When you reach the tree-line beyond these fields turn left and walk around the edge of the field until you come to the road.

9. Turn right and follow the road until you meet a substantial wall to the left and a signpost to your right.

10. Turn left following the sign indicating the Bridgewater Monument. Go through a gate into a stable yard. Keeping the stables on your left cross the yard and continue straight ahead onto a track. Ignoring farm tracks to the right and left you will eventually come to a fork marked by foot-path signs.

11. Take the right fork following the purple arrow. The path climbs uphill into woodland. Follow this path until you come to another fork. This time take the left option past the 'No Horses' sign. Continue straight ahead through a clearing until you come to a well surfaced track. Turn right onto the track which will bring you back to the Bridgewater Monument.





## Businesses Vote in Favour of BID for Hemel Hempstead Town Centre



**Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire** – Businesses in Hemel

Hemel Hempstead town centre have voted in favour of establishing a Business Improvement District (BID).

Almost £1million of levy investment will be put back into Hemel Hempstead over the next five years, complementing the regeneration work that has been delivered by Dacorum Borough Council and will be enhanced further by the investment of Capital & Regional, owners of the Marlowes Shopping Centre.

The BID, developed by Central Management Solutions (CMS), was jointly funded by Dacorum Borough Council and Capital & Regional, and demonstrates a unique working relationship between public and private owners.

The BID was developed using CMS' five stages of BID development. **Associate Director of CMS, Lee Walker, said:** *"It is excellent that businesses have voted in favour of the plans put forward by the Hemel Hempstead BID. The BID steering group have provided clear direction and show a determination to see more*

*investment in Hemel. The BID can now deliver for the next five years against a strong business plan which will help to compliment the other fantastic developments works that are taking place in the town."* 84% of businesses in Hemel Hempstead voted in favour by number, with 86% in favour by Rateable Value, representing an overall turnout of 37%. In the UK, 'Rateable Value' means a value ascribed to a domestic or commercial building based on its size, location, and other factors, used to determine the rates payable by its owner.

A BID is a defined area in which a levy is charged on all business rate payers in addition to the business rates bill. This levy is then used to develop projects which will benefit the local area. The core BID priorities in this instance will focus on:

- Improving visitor experience and the working environment
- Accessibility
- Cleanliness. waste remove and recycling
- Place marketing and enhanced promotion

More information can be found on BIDs here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/business-improvement-districts>.



**Commenting on the result, BID Steering Group Chair and Marlowes Shopping Centre Manager, Vince Williams said:** *“This is a fantastic result for local businesses and the town. It gives us the opportunity to bring businesses together to shape our future over the next 5 years, by putting the building blocks in place to create a vibrant town centre that will attract more visitors, who are staying longer and spending more money with local businesses.”*

**Mark Gaynor, Dacorum Borough Council’s Corporate Director (Housing and Regeneration) and Director of the Business Improvement District Board, said:** *“Congratulations to Hemel Hemp-*

*voted to create a Business Improvement District for the town centre. The ‘Yes’ vote is a huge economic boost for the town centre, which will benefit from at least £900,000 investment over the next five years.*

*“We hope the establishment of a Business Improvement District will create further opportunities for local shops and businesses and we’re looking forward to being part of, and working with, the BID as it develops.”*

For further information, visit [www.investhemel.co.uk](http://www.investhemel.co.uk) or contact Gary Stringer, Ambassador Place Manager, on tel: 01442 228808.

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