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YB

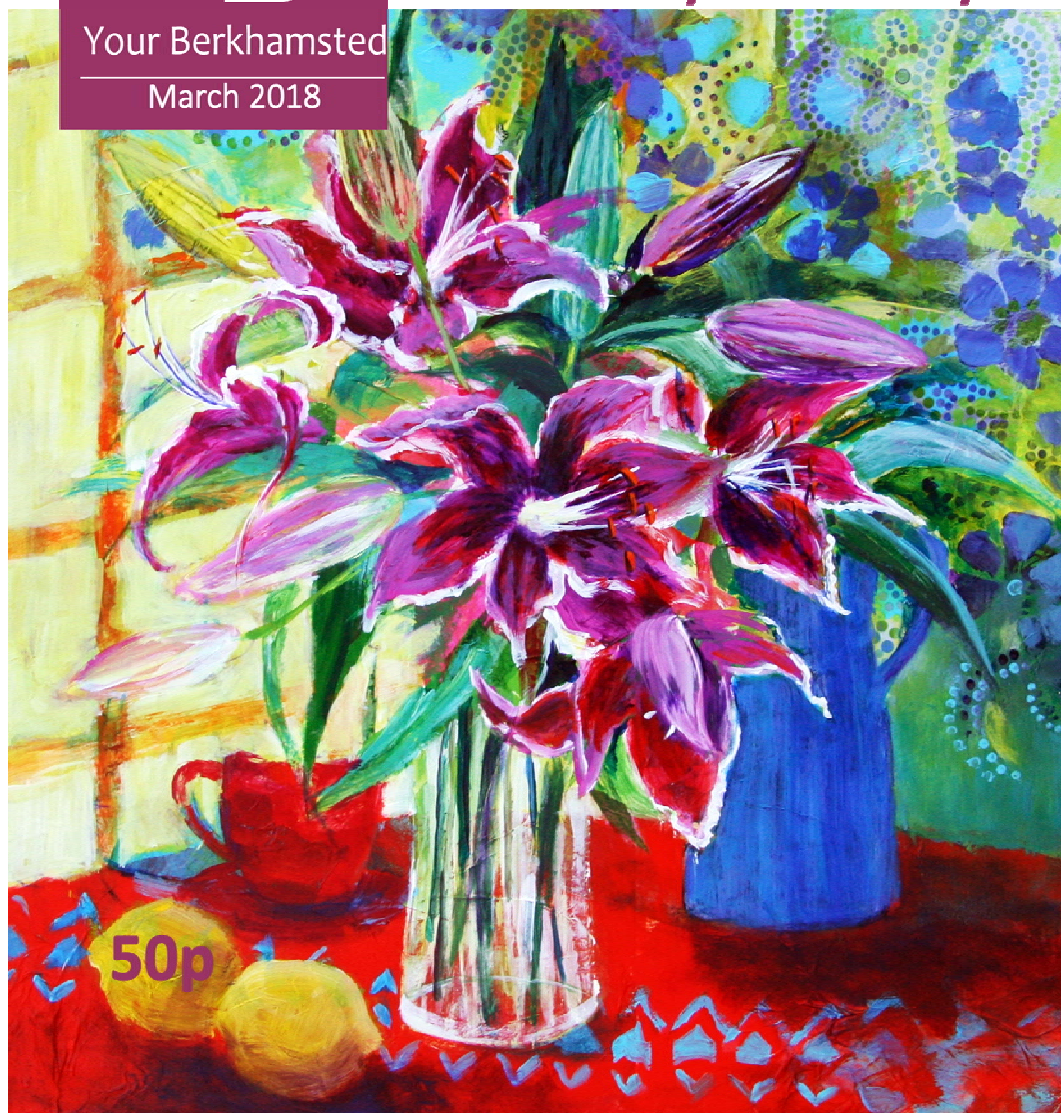
Your Berkhamsted

March 2018

**Berkhamsted Raiders
girls football and Arsenal
partnership**

Beware the Ides of March

More on Rectory Lane Cemetary



50p

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

In this issue...

WELCOME TO THE March 2018 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED.

March brings with it a burst of colour with daffodils and tulips and the lighter nights all give you the feeling that spring is in the air. In this edition, John Gerry has done some research on the Ides of March and the stories that have followed on from this event. Jenny Sherwood tells us how women in Berkhamsted have made a difference in society and with March 8th being International Women's Day, this is perfect timing. Jenny's abundance of knowledge in our local history is always a rewarding read. There is more about the Rectory Lane Cemetery project and James Moir gives us an insight of the conservation work involved. Last, but not least, what a great collaboration with the Berkhamsted Raiders girls football and Arsenal – this will certainly give this team great exposure. Our 'what's on' page shows events in March in and around Berkhamsted and 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

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Front cover: Thank you Mitzie Green for the wonderful picture of 'Lilies and Lemons. You can see all Mitzie's work on her website: <http://www.mitziegreen.co.uk/>

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

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

Berkhamsted in the news by Julian Dawson



In February Nigel Barden hosted the Smithfield Awards hosted by the Q Guild of Butchers and on speciality-foodmagazine.com he celebrates independent food and drink shops. He specifically mentions Eastwoods of Berkhamsted where David and Sarah Bunting offer a marvellous service.

We are very lucky in the town to have plenty of independent stalls in our twice weekly market. Mind you, one does have to pay a premium for the privilege of independence and quality, so those whose budgets are not quite so expansive have to rely on the supermarkets cheap and reliable, but not necessarily exciting, fare. It is good for chefs such as Jamie Oliver to exhort us to use independently owned food and drink emporiums, but not all of us can afford the luxury.

A number of websites reported the distressing case of domestic violence in the town. Specifically hertfordshire-mercury.co.uk described the succession of crimes committed by Umar Sheikh against his pregnant former girlfriend. Fortunately she has been able to move on with her life, whilst the perpetrator was jailed for 24

months.

berkhamstedtoday.co.uk describes the sad demise of the Berkhamsted Lions Club which will close after 40 years of successful money raising ventures. Another victim of the lives people lead in the 21st century, and a common theme in all areas including our own parish activities. Perhaps it is because many have such busy professional lives that it leaves them wanting to use their spare time for themselves,

watfordobserver.co.uk reports on the local football. Berkhamsted were ejected from the Herts Charity Shield at the semi-final stage, defeated by Welwyn Garden City 4-3, despite the home team scoring first. Not surprisingly whtimes.co.uk (the Welwyn Hatfield Times) was delighted. The Observer also mentions Tring Athletic who at the time of writing have reached the last 16 of the FA Vase. They will need to beat Melksham to get to the quarter finals, though this is certainly a tall order given the Wiltshire team's relative position in the leagues.

Cont on page 5

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This month's guest blog is robin-ince.wordpress.com. Robin Ince is busy writing the third draft of his book, but takes time out to tell us what he has been reading recently, as much to remind himself as to recommend. In Oxfam Books in Berkhamsted he found *The Three Stigmata* of Palmer Eldritch by Philip K Dick. Perhaps not a recommendation this one, more of a warning to beware this novel of paranoia and dystopia

and lack of female empathy. Sounds a riot.

Finally parliament.uk records the latest activity of our Baroness Bowles of Berkhamsted who was questioning the Department of Trade and Industry on a somewhat complex business regulation relating to capital maintenance. No danger of her being absent from the Chamber – Lord Bates please note.



Drawings of Berkhamsted by
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What's on

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

Tring Farmers Market (**Alternate Saturdays**). The Marketplace, Brook Street, Tring 9.00am - 12.15pm. Tring Farmers Market promotes local food for local people For more info email: enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

For events at the Hertfordshire Libraries for young and old

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

www.wea.org.uk. (Adult Learning Courses) £74 for a 10-week course, 2 hours a week. 0300 3033464; information 872432

Sat, 3rd Mar @ 7.30 pm: Berkhamsted Music. Classical String Quartet. The Alauda Quartet will play music by Mozart, Webern and Borodin. Formed in 2011, the quartet are young professionals in residence at Pro Corda. Civic Centre. www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk
Season ticket £52, £15 at the door, u18s free 862798

Sat, 3rd Mar @ 7.30 pm: Dacorum Symphony Orchestra. Programme to include Mozart 'Symphony 40' and

Poulenc 'Concerto for organ, strings and timpani', conductor Thomas Loten. Soloist Alexander Flood. St John's, Boxmoor 7.30 - 9.30pm. <http://dacorumso.org>
Adults: £12 Concessions: £10 Under 18s: FREE 01494 727240, Dacorum Card

Mon 5th & Tue 6th Mar @8 pm:

Berkhamsted Film Society. The Fencer. A young Estonian fencing teacher sought by the Russian secret police has to choose to let his students down or to put his life in danger. Dir: Klaus Härö/2015/ Fin,Estonia,Ger/Cert PG/99mins/subtitles. Civic Centre. 8pm
www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk
Annual sub: joint £65, single £35. Visitors £5 at door (no conc); tickets 863155

Sat, 10th Mar @ 8 pm: Berkhamsted Jazz. Dixie Mix - Simon Nelson (cnt, tpt, voc), Chris Wigley (tb, voc), Peter Oxborough (saxes, cl), Kevin West (ban, g, uke), John Benson (b, voc), Tony Wilkins (d, voc). Civic Centre. www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk

Tue, 13th Mar @ 8 pm: Berkhamsted Art Society. Impressionist Landscape. A demonstration of painting an impressionist landscape in mixed media by Liz Baldin. Civic Centre. www.berkhamstedartsociety.com
Visitors £3 at the door

Wed, March 14th @ 8 pm:
BERKHAMSTED LIVE with THE DEVINE FAMILY Celtic folk/jazz group, MAY CONTAIN NUTS theatre company in 'Little Cuts', LESLIE TATE, author launching his new novel 'Purple'. Kings Arms, 147 High St Berkhamsted, HP4 3HL £5.00/£3.00 supporting Pepper Nurses. Book at lstate@btinternet.com

Wed, 14th Mar @ 8pm: Berkhamsted Citizens' Environment Awards & AGM. Plus a talk on Vernacular Architecture in Berkhamsted. Town Hall.

www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk

Mon 19th & Tue 20th Mar @ 8 pm: Berkhamsted Film Society. Hunt for the Wilderpeople, Comedy. An orphaned city boy is put in the care of a rural family. When he and his foster uncle go missing in the wild bush a national manhunt ensues.

Dir: Taika Waititi/2016/New Zealand/Cert 12A/101mins. Civic Centre

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

Mon 19th March @12.30-

13.45pm: CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCH in the Court House

Do come and enjoy home-made soups and fruit crumbles, and custard! Donations to support Christian Aid's work for the 40 million displaced people in the world: displaced in their own countries, unable or unwilling to cross borders, with no safe place to call home. Donations may be made direct to Christian Aid: www.christianaid.org.uk Margaret Burbidge tel: 862139

Mon, 26th Mar 7.45 pm: Berkhamsted Archaeology Society. Archaeological Conservation at the British Museum. With Hayley Bullock, Senior Conservator at the British Museum. 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, 26th & Tue 27th Mar 8 pm: Berkhamsted Film Society. The Eagle Huntress. In the Altai Mountains a 13-year-old seeks to become the first female to train an eagle and compete in the annual golden eagle contest. Dir: Otto Bell/2016/Mongolia/Cert U/87mins/ narration+subtitles. Civic Centre www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk. Annual sub: joint £65, single £35. Visitors £5 at door (no conc); tickets 863155

Wed, 28th Mar @ 8 pm: Talk & AGM. Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society. Sweet Memories, but don't get me started on Wagon Wheels! Kevin Varty immerses himself in nostalgia for the history of confectionery. This talk is preceded by the Society AGM. Town Hall. www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk Annual sub: joint £15, single £10, visitors £3 (no conc); Dacorum Card. 874598

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www.vynetheatre.co.uk

Sun 4th March 3pm: The Flames of Paris (Bolshoi Ballet)

Sun 4th March 7pm: The Winter's Tale (Royal Ballet)

Fri 16th March 8pm: Sam Kelly & Jamie Francis (Live Music)



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Book Review by John Gerry

A review of Philip Pullman's "Book of Dust - La Belle Sauvage"

It is almost two decades since "The Amber Spyglass" completed "His Dark Materials" trilogy. I was on holiday at the time and committed the unforgivable offence of ripping the book in half so that neither my wife nor I had to wait so long to finish the story. It was a magical magnificent and challenging story, and the arrival of his new book has been eagerly awaited.

"La Belle Sauvage" is the first part of the "Book of Dust". It takes us back 10 years before the beginning of the earlier trilogy, the 11 year old hero, Malcolm, works in his parent's pub, the Trout in Oxfordshire. Across the river there is a nunnery where a 6 month old baby girl has been left for safe keeping. She turns out to be the Lyra of the future book. As before, Pullman's world is in constant stress between the fascist and dogmatic Magisterium where the beautiful and treacherous Mrs Coulter, Lyra's mother, presides, and the "liberals", personified by Lord Asriel, Lyra's father. The fight is on to discover the "dust" of the title and to use its quantum possibilities to advance the cause of either side.

The adventure begins when Malcolm stumbles upon a spy ring and is drawn deep into the conspiracy. The plot is played out against a background of a great flood which drowns out most of southern England. "La Belle Sauvage" is the name of Malcolm's canoe, and it is in this that he has to rescue Lyra, and with the help of a young girl, Alice, seek to evade the villains and deliver Lyra to safety.

The adventures that befall them along the way have something of "Boys Own Paper" in that Malcolm builds fires to keep them warm, looks after the needs of the baby and protects Alice in an old-fashioned chivalrous way. On the other hand, it has lashings of fantasy, wonder and terror. The chief villain is at once charming, brutal and a rapist. His daemon (all the characters have daemons as in the later book - a daemon is inseparable from its counterpart and is perhaps its soul) is a monstrous hyena with a terrifying laugh and one leg missing. A true hellhound of Gothic fantasy!

The tension as the three try and escape from Bonneville, for that is his name, as well as the chasing boats of the Magisterium whilst all the while having to navigate the raging flood makes it hard to put down.

On a more tender note, the burgeoning relationship between Alice and Malcolm counterpoints the terror and makes for some lyrical reading, particularly as Malcolm tries to make sense of his new and surprising feelings toward Alice.

Magic begins to make its appearance with fairies, witches, spectres and prophecies. It is indeed a fantasy adventure story, but overlain with the contemporary relevant themes of religious and political hegemony.

Conclusion!? It was really worth the wait!.... and please, Philip Pullman, not too long before volume Two.



Women in society

2018 brings a number of centenaries and even more anniversaries, the end of the First World

War, the war that was to end all wars, and the beginning of suffrage for women. Was the act that brought the opportunity to some women to vote a result of a few suffragettes in Berkhamsted setting fire to a hay rick on a local farm or was it much more the result of the tremendous contribution made by many local women of all walks of life on the Home Front? Already in the latter years of the 19th century opportunities for girls to receive secondary education had been established with Miss Buss at North London Collegiate School and Miss Beale at Cheltenham Ladies' College, and the setting up of the Girls' Public Day Schools' Trust. Here in Berkhamsted we had the foundation of the Berkhamsted Girls' Grammar school in 1888. In any event these anniversaries and the realisation of the contribution of women in society have led to a concentration and interest in what women have achieved in so many areas. For the first time they have been receiving recognition.

At London's Foundling Museum an exhibition is being prepared, the theme of which is 'Ladies of Quality

and Distinction', with the aim to put the 'First Female Champions back in their Place.' Where normally portraits of male Governors and supporters of Thomas Coram's campaign to establish the Foundling Hospital hang, portraits of the women who contributed so much and whose support finally succeeded in the establishment of the Hospital are to be placed. Readers do not need to be reminded that the Foundling Hospital ended its days in Berkhamsted in the building which is now Ashlyns School.

Members of the National Trust will see from their latest magazine that it is titled 'Women and Power.' As one would expect, Octavia Hill, a great social reformer receives due recognition as co-founder of the National Trust. Also, she did a great deal to solve the problem of social housing for the poor. She herself did not believe in suffrage for women, afraid that it 'would take women away from the quiet paths of helpful real work.' The National Trust had been founded in 1895. With the death of the 3rd Earl Brownlow in 1921 and the subsequent breakup of the Ashridge Estate there was a real threat of massive housing development on Berkhamsted's much loved countryside. Speedy action was required. Again, women rose to the

challenge. Miss Bridget Talbot of Little Gaddesden House, a determined young woman with useful political connections, undertook to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister. The action started with a letter to *The Times* on Friday 9th October, 1925, from Mrs Constance Sitwell, herself a Talbot, deploring the threat to Ashridge. After spending a weekend together, a letter, which they intended to deliver to Downing Street, was composed appealing for funds. Early on Monday morning Miss Bridget Talbot hurried to Downing Street and managed later in the day to meet with Stanley Baldwin. On 20th October a letter was printed over the signatures of Stanley Baldwin, James Ramsay MacDonald, Lord Grey of Fallodon (Vice-President of the National Trust) and Lord Asquith, expressing strong sympathy for proposals to try to acquire Ashridge Park for the National Trust and appealing urgently for funds as only three weeks remained to raise the required amount. The eventual outcome of this campaign was that the National Trust was able to announce that a considerable area of the Ashridge estate had been purchased for the nation. About a year later a further 165 acres including Frithesden Beeches was added. What happened to the house and gardens may be considered on another occasion.

The Countess Brownlow contributed a great deal for the Home Front during WWI setting up a hospital in the

stables of the house. Many of the nurses working in this hospital were young women of Berkhamsted. In Lt Col. Errington's book on the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps during WWI in Berkhamsted a list of the nurses is given. Many local girls, whose fathers and brothers enlisted and were later to lose their lives, are represented on that list. Women from all walks of life are listed in the Red Cross records, some nursing, some knitting, some doing necessary secretarial jobs, as did the Ram daughters and the Misses Pearson. An elaborate organisation was set up under the direction mainly of a number of middle-class women each with their team of 'workers'. All seems to have been directed within the town. One of the leading instigators was Lady Olive Smith-Dorrien whose husband Sir Horace was well known and respected within Berkhamsted. Lady Smith-Dorrien was made a DBE for her services, above all for her Hospital Bag Fund, which involved a notable band of workers, even the girls of Victoria Girls' School. Additionally, she was awarded the gold medal, the Reconnaissance Francaise for her services. As President of the Blue Cross, she did much to alleviate the suffering of horses used for military purposes.

It is interesting to note that many women who have received recognition in the latter years of the 19th century and the early years of the

twentieth century came to the fore and received recognition only after they were widowed, the Countess Bridgewater, Lady Marian Alford, Katherine Finch, Mrs Mary Anne Smith- Dorrien and Catherine Partridge. As married women they were the wife of the Duke of Bridgewater, the wife of Earl Brownlow, the wife of General the Honourable John Finch and the wife of Robert Alger- non Smith. This secondary position is very obvious on memorials and tombstones. Only Lady Marian Alford and Mrs Smith-Dorrien received memorials in their own right. This secondary position exists to this day for the correct address of a married woman is Mrs John Smith and not Mrs Mary Smith, until she is widowed.

An additional and important contribution by the Countess Bridgewater, as well as her providing land to establish the Northchurch and Gos- soms End National School and the setting up of the Soup Kitchen in the Castle grounds was of course the grant of land for the Rectory Lane Cemetery, for which generous act, supported by many voluntary dona- tions, she received due recognition on the dedication memorial.

During the last years we have been identifying women from different walks of life who are buried in Rec- tory Lane Cemetery and who contrib- uted in their own way to the life of

Berkhamsted. Berkhamsted boasts one of the first women journalists, had an innkeeper's daughter who turned the head of a King in exile, had a woman who operated the first tele- phone exchange for 28 years from her front room in Chapel Street. Yet an- other Berkhamsted woman bore fif- teen children all but one reaching adulthood and has a well-known memorial in Castle Street; another played Julia Pargeter in *the Archers* and yet another has a very grand tomb, is remembered but not buried here. The memorial to one woman was paid for by the Inns of Court Offi- cers' Training Corps. Why should that be? Can you identify these women? A booklet on 'Remarkable Women' is to be produced in time for International Women's Day on 8th March. This will help you to identify these women and will provide a basis for another trail to follow within the cemetery. If you want to find out more about the Rec- tory Lane Cemetery Project and about these remarkable women go to the Friends of St Peter's website for de- tails of events taking place. Later in the summer details of the Heritage Open Days, organised by the Berk- hamsted Local History & Museum Society and planned for September will be available. These will give you the opportunity to learn more of Berkhamsted's hidden his- tory and to enjoy the heritage of our town and its surrounding countryside.

Jenny Sherwood



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Suzy Reading has kindly sent some of her guidelines to self care and I will be featuring these in the next few editions.

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Top 5 Self-Care Tips for 2018

1. Repeat after me: self-care isn't selfish. Why? It comes down to the true definition of self-care. Self-care is any act that nurtures your head, heart and body. Self-care is health care. Still feel a pang of guilt? Think of what self-care facilitates in your life – what does it allow you to be and do. When we are well nourished we are best placed to respond to life's challenges with clarity, compassion and resilience. It truly is the ultimate win win.

2. No time for self-care? Seek out 'micro moments' of nourishment. Self-care needn't take large chunks of time. It's about imbuing every day actions with a feeling of tenderness and care. A meditative shower, where you savour the scent of the shower gel and the cleansing property of the water, will set you up for the day better than one spent ruminating on your to-do list. We all have time for this kind of nourishment.

3. Not sure where to start? Get quiet, still and listen to your mind and body – it will tell you what it needs. We often habitually turn to the same types of self-care but we benefit from varying our approach to nourishment. The most effective self-care is a bespoke response delivering the

mind and body what it needs in the moment. Having a broad toolkit from which to choose will serve you well. You'll find plenty of inspiration in my book 'The Self-Care Revolution'.

4. Seek balance in your self-care activities. There is a time for stillness and a time for movement. We need social connection as much as we need time in solitude. We need stimulation and we also need rest and relaxation. We need to plan and take action but we also need space for an absence of striving. Cultivating balance is how we create maximal effectiveness from our self-care rituals.

5. Write it down. The simple act of writing down our self-care toolkit forms a powerful priming action for that behaviour, helping you to make a life-giving choice more often. When we are feeling frazzled, stressed or fatigued it can be hard to put your finger on something constructive. Having a well-articulated self-care toolkit will connect you with a form of nourishment accessible when you need it the most and help you get back on track swiftly.

Suzy is a mother of two, a Chartered Psychologist, Yoga Teacher, and Health Coach. She specialises in self-care, helping people manage their stress, emotions, and energetic bank balance. It was her life experience of motherhood colliding with the terminal illness of her father that sparked her passion for self-care which she now teaches to her clients,

young and old, to cope during periods of stress, loss and change and to boost their resilience in the face of future challenges. Suzy is a contributing editor for Psychologies Magazine and the Psychology Expert for wellbeing brand Neom Organics. She figure-skated her way through her childhood, growing up on the Northern Beaches of Sydney, and now makes her home in hills of Hertfordshire. Her first book 'The Self-Care Revolution' published by Aster, is out now.

Join Suzy's Wellbeing Community at:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/suzyreading/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SuzyReadingPsychologyAndYoga/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SuzyReading>



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Your Berkhamsted Clergy

If you belong to any professional body or enjoy your hobbies with others in some form of collective grouping, be it a cricket, golf, or bridge club, then there will be the annual general meeting to be dealt with. These are not usually well attended, but legal matters such as the accounts and the governing body have to be voted upon and accepted. The Church of England is governed by something called *Canon Law*. I guarantee the reading of these Canons as a cure for any insomnia. The Canons lay down that by the end of April of each year there must be an *Annual Parochial Church Meeting* at which the Churchwardens are elected into office, along with the members of the Parochial Church Council. The Treasurer's report and parish accounts have to be accepted and then there is the report from the parish priest outlining any significant events or issues of the past twelve months. We have a reputation for getting through the business in an efficient manner- the best record was two years ago when we completed the whole meeting in fourteen minutes! A significant part of my report for this year's meeting concerned what happened in St. Peter's on the evening of the town's *Festival of Light* last November. I share with you some of these reflections and would value your opinions in response to it.

"My reflections on this past year at St. Peter's must needs be seen in the wider context of contemporary British society. Anyone who refuses to accept that the Church in this country is in serious decline- apart from some very large evangelical/Pentecostal style churches –

cloud cuckoo land. Britain is a fragmenting post-Christian society. From how we are governed, through what we are fed by the media and advertisers, down to the daily lives and aspirations of the vast majority, **the concept of God as a fixed point of reference is almost totally absent**. During my 32 years as a priest I have witnessed that an ever widening gulf has opened up between the institutional church and the society to which it has traditionally ministered; this is particularly so with the Church of England, "The Church by Law Established". There is a huge mis-match between what happens in the institutional churches and the way people outside think, talk and live. If we just shrug our shoulders and simply expect people to come on our terms to things we have always done and are comfortable with, not least at the time which most suits ourselves, then the last one out of the door simply throws the key away. The question is, how is this gap between church and society to be narrowed? I have no easy answers and would instantly mistrust anyone who claimed to have any! Maybe, just maybe, this year we have begun to bridge that gap.

I regularly hear folks waxing lyrical about St. Peter's as that "iconic building in the main street of our town". But what of the vast majority who walk by daily and never darken the doors? How do we encourage them to cross the threshold, which for so many is an enormous step? How can we use our "sacred space" to offer the possibility of an encounter with God? Well, we have done so this year, possibly

for the first time, on the Sunday before Advent when many gathered in the town for the Festival of Light and the switching on of the Christmas tree lights. Here I want to offer my thanks to all who came together and brain-stormed their ideas. It really began to take off last year with a brightly lit stall, smiling faces and mulled wine for sale as people walked past the building. Why was that an important step? Simply because the perceptions of so many outside the church is that it is miserable and only has negative things to say. This is not helped by the petty arguments within Anglicanism, not least about human sexuality. The key message we have to get across is that Christianity is about human flourishing, which is part of the message we all must convey. Here was life and laughter and welcome. This year the group became more daring and creative. Lights were placed showing a pathway into the building which was illuminated by hundreds of night lights and candles, a gentle holy smell of incense and live organ music gently playing as background. People came. More people came. I went in to say the evening office by candlelight in St. Catherine's chapel and people respected the silence along with my mutterings. And still they came, necessitating me rushing around to find loads of votive candles for them to light. Hundreds came through our door and most accepted the gentle offer of a card giving details of our Christmas worship. For me, this has to have been the highlight of the past year; nay, of my three years here. All of this developed with no, or very little, clergy input, merely permission to be creative.

Why did so many come? Will we see them at other services? Maybe not, but

for a very few exceptions. Yet I have met people in shops and along the High Street who have made comments such as, "Thank you for opening the doors and allowing us in (!!!!)" ; "Well, all I can say is that it was a special spiritual experience "(several of these latter type comments). Why was this event so appreciated by folks? What we offered was a "thin place", where the division between heaven and earth is a mere breath. Most of these people (although some did come to the Advent Carol Service the following week) are church goers of the Alan Bennett or Philip Larkin type, defined in Larkin's poem, *Churchgoing*: "*Once I am sure there's nothing going on, I step inside.*" (Collected Poems, Philip Larkin, Faber & Faber, 2003).

Clearly many want to engage spiritually within a "sacred space", yet many are afraid of being caught up in the institution. So what perhaps is for many, a frequent occurrence in their daily lives. Questions buzz around as we ask how we might connect a moving experience such as several clearly experienced in St. Peter's that evening, to the message of the gospel. T.S. Eliot captures what I think many feel these days: "*We had the experience, but missed the meaning.*" The Dry Salvages, in the Four Quartets, T.S. Eliot, Faber & Faber, 1959 One thing is certain in my mind: not by any formal, structured act of worship. This is simply three steps too far ahead. We need to tread warily, ask for the Holy Spirit to nudge us in the right direction and be creative within our own tradition. Just be aware of one thing: making spiritual connections is not a job solely for the priest: it is for all the baptised. "

Fr. Tim

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 - 14th January William Edward Harris
28th January Florence Emilia Smith

Weddings - None

Funerals - None

All Saints

4th		Third Sunday of Lent
10am		Morning Worship - Richard Hackworth
11th		Mothering Sunday
8am		Holy Communion - Red Rachael Hawkins
10am		All Age Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkins
18th		Passion Sunday
10am		Morning Worship - Revd Brian Tebbutt
4pm		Service of Wholeness and Healing - Revd Rachael Hawkins, Audrey Cox & Tracy Robinson
25th		Palm Sunday
10am		Holy Communion - Revd John Kirkby
4pm		Messy Church - Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Team
26th	8pm	Monday of Holy Week - Meditative Worship
27th	8pm	Tuesday of Holy Week - Meditative Worship
28th	8pm	Wednesday of Holy Week - Meditative Worship
29th		Maundy Thursday
8pm		Holy Communion – (preceded by meal from 7pm and followed by Vigil until midnight) - Revd Rachael Hawkins
30th	11am	Service for Good Friday - Revd Rachael Hawkins

Further information available from our church websites:

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

News from the Hospice of St Francis



March 2018

The Hospice of St Francis supports more than

2,000 people each year affected by life-limiting illnesses both in its inpatient unit as well as its health and wellbeing hub, the Spring Centre, which offers groups, therapies and courses to help people live well for longer.

One of the patients to have benefited recently from the Spring Centre services is 65-year-old Valerie McPherson. Months of rigorous chemotherapy and drug treatment for renal cancer took its toll on Valerie, reducing her mobility and altering her appearance. So when The Hospice of St Francis' Complementary Therapy Coordinator Sandy Winyard suggested a mini-makeover, Valerie jumped at the chance.

She says: "I'd been wearing a wig for a couple of months when Sandy suggested I had a wig fitting and a mini makeover – I was thrilled! It's something I've always wanted to do but have never got round to. It made me feel splendid, pampered and glamorous and showed me just how good I can look!"

If you, or someone you know, have cancer or another life-limiting illness and feel you might benefit from our

Spring Centre's free services, please ask for a referral from your GP, call 01442 869550 or visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/springcentre where you can see a full calendar of Spring Centre groups and therapies.

Make a Will Month

March sees the return of our Make a Will Month, which offers people the chance to make a Will while donating to the Hospice.



During March, participating solicitors will waive their usual fees for their standard Will writing service in return for a donation. This year, 13 solicitors across Herts and Bucks are taking part – the highest number ever – making it even easier to make an appointment. Lisa Gomm, 45, who took part in last year's Make a Will Month with her partner Jamie Poulton, said the experience was easier and more straightforward than she expected it to be.

"We've supported the Hospice for a while so knowing we could make a Will and benefit the Hospice at the same time was the incentive we

needed to get it done. If you are going to pay to have your Will written, it's good to know that the money is going to such a worthy cause."

There is no obligation to leave a gift to the Hospice in your Will, but if you decide to leave a legacy it will help fund future care for local people.

For more information and a full list of participating solicitors, visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/MAW or follow us on Twitter @hospicstfrancis #makeawill. Anyone interested should contact the solicitors directly and quote 'The Hospice of St Francis Make a Will Month' when making an appointment.

The Bubbles are back!

For the third year running the bubbles are coming back to Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead! Registration for the fun, family fundraiser - **Bubble Rush HERTS** - is now open! Taking place on Sunday 29th April, everyone from tots to teens

and grown ups to grandparents can enjoy the masses of multi-coloured pink, yellow, green and blue foamy bubble stations on the 5km bubble-filled fun run route whilst raising funds for local Hospice care.

Fran Martin, Senior Events Manager at the Hospice, said: "We want to get 2,500 people enjoying the thrill of the bubbles this year and, if everyone raises, just £10 a kilometre, we'll smash our fundraising target, raising over £125,000 to support local people living with a life-limiting illness!"

Book your place today at www.stfrancis.org.uk/bubblerrush or visit our Bubble Rush event page on [Facebook](#) for more information.

For further details of all our events visit www.stfrancis.org.uk/events or call 01442 869555

Follow us on

Facebook: the hospiceofstfrancis,

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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

Put a spring in your step



After the doom and gloom of winter, how much we look forward to spring sunshine and bluebells under delicate lime-green beech leaves.

When is the best time to see these natural wonders? Early May! What happens every year in early May? The Berkhamsted Walk and this year is the 50th anniversary! We hope to make this a Golden Year with more walkers, celebrities and a brand new route.

The money raised from this sponsored walk is given to The Children's Society whose projects work tirelessly to help children of this country facing neglect and abuse with nowhere else to turn. We support children in care with no other adult in their lives to listen and advise them, who must leave care at 18 and live on their own. There are children who run away from home because their lives are unbearable through adult conflict, abuse, either physical or sexual, even danger to their lives. There are children who struggle by themselves to look after sick or disabled parents or siblings. They need support and some joy in their lives. Children of families trapped in debt suffer in so many ways, leading to bullying, loss of self-esteem and reduced opportunity.

Our contribution can mean the difference between loneliness and comfort, having a listening ear or being ignored, having

someone to trust or being abused. The Walk has raised over £300,000 since it began in 1969. £8,500 was added last year. Help us to make it £10,000 more this year!

Our Walk organisers are planning new routes and as always there are three options! The Challenge at 18 miles is for the really hardy, the 12 mile Bluebell walk for beauty and fresh air. These start from the Court House, next to St Peters church, HP4 1AX, between 10am and 11.30am. The six mile Fun Walk for all ages starts at Ashridge College, HP4 1NS, between 11am and 2pm and has a quiz arranged for young people to hold their interest. Checkpoints every three miles make sure no one gets lost and serve drinks and sell biscuits.

So, download a sponsor form at www.berkhamstedwalk.com, pick one up from church, the Berkhamsted Library or the Complete Outdoors shop in Bourne End, or donate on the day.

We are sponsored by the Complete Outdoors. They present £100 in vouchers to the walker or walker group raising the highest amount. Last year's winner was a very young hero, Felix Partridge! His family has supported the walk since moving to Berkhamsted in the 1970's. His father walked the 18 miles when aged nine. Felix started at four years old and completed the six mile route followed this with 12, then 15 and finally aged seven years walked the whole 18 miles! He raised £477 which won the prize for 2017. See him receiving his certificate watched by

members of the committee and David from the Complete Outdoors. Pray for a

fine day on Sunday 13th May, and we will see you there for a great day out!



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Beware the Ides of March!

The 15th March is perhaps best known for the assassination of Julius Caesar on the steps of the Roman senate. “Et tu Brute” was the famous Shakespearean cry as he was stabbed 23 times by as many as 60 senators, led famously by Brutus and Cassius.

There is, however, more to the Ides of March than Julius Caesar. First of all, in the early Roman calendar, Martius was the first month of the calendar year, not the third. Then again, the Romans did not count the days of the month as we do, from 1st to 30th or whatever. They worked backwards from three fixed dates, Nones, Ides and Kalends. The Ides was on the 13th or 15th depending which month it was. All these calculations were intent on making the Ides of March the first full moon of the year.

It was already a special day for the Romans. It was the sacred day of Jupiter, the king of the gods. On 15th March, Jupiter’s High Priest, Flamen Dialis, led sheep down the Via Sacra for ritual slaughter.

The 15th March was also the Feast of Anna Perenna, a lesser goddess, when the “common people” celebrated with picnics, drinking and dancing.

So, on to the fatal day in 44BC. Caesar had previously been warned by a soothsayer that he would be killed

the Senate, it is recorded that he saw the soothsayer and joked that “the Ides of March have come”. Chillingly, the reply came “Aye Caesar, but not yet gone”. Thus ended the Roman Republic and ushered in the “Golden Age” of the Roman Empire under Augustus (after a few years of civil war).

We can ask ourselves whether the Ides of March has been influential through the ages. Do things of import happen on that day? Well, there are some notable happenings. In 1877, the first official Test Match was played between Australia and England at the MCG, Melbourne. Eleven years later, the Anglo-Tibetan war started on that date. Rolls Royce was incorporated in 1906, whilst 1917 saw the abdication of Tsar Nicholas!! And the end of 304 years of the Romanov dynasty (with huge world-wide consequences!). From the sublime to..... the first Women’s Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge was rowed in 1927, and Iran nationalised its oil industry in 1951. As we put up with what seems a very wet spring this year, we can reflect that in 1952 on 15th March, the world rainfall record was beaten in Reunion when 73 inches fell in 24 hours. I will not complain about British weather ever again! South Africa announced its withdrawal from the Commonwealth in 1961 and the first Internet domain name was registered in 1985 (appropriately it was

“symbolics.com”). Mikhail Gorbachev was elected President of the Soviet Union in 1990. And, finally in our ramble through the ages, 2011 saw the beginning of the Syrian civil war (now that is depressing; the Syrian people are now nearly in their seventh year of misery).

Turning away from history, we can muse as to whether The Ides of March have influenced our culture, other than the Shakespeare play which was probably written in 1599. Amongst the more unusual future productions of Julius Caesar were the appearance of John Wilkes Booth (later to assassinate Abraham Lincoln) as Mark Anthony in 1864, a production in Beechwood Canyon, Hollywood with Tyrone Power and Douglas Fairbanks that drew 40,000 spectators, an all-black production by the RSC in 2011, and an all-female production at the Donmar Warehouse in the same year.

There have been many films and TV films based on Julius Caesar, but far fewer links with the Ides of March. One highly regarded political thriller

of that name was directed by George Clooney in 2011. This was concerned with the machinations of election to the White House.

In literature, EW Hornung, best known as the creator of Raffles, wrote a short story titled the Ides of March in 1898, whilst Thornton Wilder wrote a novel of that name in 1984 describing the events leading up to Caesar's death.

The most noteworthy musical references were probably the 1st track on the 1981 Iron Maiden album, “Killers”, whilst a US rock band took the name Ides of March in 1970 and had a hit, “Vehicle”

So, come the 15th March, steer clear of soothsayers, Senate steps and anyone called



Brutus.....and remember the quote from Thornton Wilder “It is only dogs who do not bite

their masters”.

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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 10th Mar at 7.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia, Director Adrian Davis. Aaron Copland Fanfare for the Common Man; Edvard Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor, soloist Florian Mitrea; Antonín Dvořák Symphony No 9: From the New World. Tickets: www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk £15 in advance or £16 on the door. U18s free. Aitchison's High St; 873205.

Mon 12th March at 8.00pm: TALK in the Court House. Cowper Society Winter Talk. Adrian Davis, Handling Handel. Free entry. Retiring collection

Sat 24th Mar 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

Sun 25th Mar at 6.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's - Chiltern Chamber Choir with Bridgewater Brass & Jonathan Lee, organ. Director Adrian Davis. Lux Aeterna: Duruflé Requiem, Langlais Missa Salve Regina, Poulenc Litanies à la Vierge Noire, Purcell Music for Queen Mary. Tickets in advance £14 from Brown & Merry, 124 High St, Berkhamsted or £16 on the door. U18s free.



Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

Handsome Bailey is a Scottie x Kelpie who was born in Feb 2017. Being a very young lad he can tend to be a bit over-excitable, but he is learning to curb his enthusiasm and is walking well on the lead. This bright and friendly boy will need an owner who is willing to carry on with his training and can offer the active life he will enjoy. He is great with people, good with other dogs and has lived with cats. Bailey needs a home where any children are older (13+).

If you can offer Bailey 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. **Join our Facebook group to see more photos of Bailey and other dogs awaiting homes.**

Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY
01525 220383 e-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk **Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram!**

Getting the conservation works underway!

by James Moir, Project Manager Rectory Lane Cemetery

Families invited to comment as work is scheduled on first tranche of Memorials

At last, the fabric of the Cemetery will begin to receive the attention it has deserved for so long! We are currently finalising the specifications for the various jobs such as rebuilding the collapsed section of the west wall and strengthening other boundary walls and structures, restoring the gate piers, cleaning the foundation stone and enhancing the Memorial Arch to name but a few.

But the very first job is to begin work on the memorials in the Lower Cemetery nearest the High St. To start this, the Friends of St Peters' is appealing for any of the descendants of 17 families buried in the lower part of the Cemetery (most Northern area closest to the High Street) to get in touch.



We are keen to discover any further information on the nominated memorials or the individuals they contain.

Some descendants may have details

or photographs that could add to the knowledge of future generations. As responsibility for maintaining individual memorials normally rests with the families concerned they may also wish to help with the cost of the restoration or may have alternative plans and would prefer to commission the work themselves.



The monuments include some unusual tombs and structures. Some have been chosen because they mark the last resting place of historical figures in the town and otherwise they may be lost. Obviously, there are Health and Safety considerations too.

Planned conservation work includes re-assembly, replacement of missing stonework, repairs in lime mortars, re-carving inscriptions where appropriate, treatment with light steam cleaning or the application of a protective lime layer.

This work will form the first part of the physical transformation of the

Cemetery financed by the Big Lottery Fund and Heritage Lottery Fund and will begin this April. As the year progresses visitors will see further conservation work on memorials in the upper terraces and remedial works to various parts of the boundary walls. A full list of the memorials and the planned works together with photographs can be found on:

www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk/
Family members or interested parties are asked to contact with their views about the planned work by **March 30th** via jamesmgmoir@aol.com, 07545 786 372 or to see the nominated monuments online www.stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk/

Names on those monuments affected

Family name and first names	Year of death
Barnes: Charles	1864
Tyler: Mary Ann	1873
Creedy: John; son John	1857; 1872
Groves: Martha Mary; husband John	1890; 1908
Leach: daughter Esther	1954
Hewson: Ann	1852
Holloway: Stephen; Lucy	1866; 1878
Hurst: John; daughter Sarah Ann	1857; 1857
Key: William	1890
Lane: John Edward; Arthur; Mary Ann	1868; 1870; 1894
Lane: Ann; husband Henry; son Hervey	1856; 1865; 1879
Leaper: Hannah; husband Thomas; daughter Anne	1843; 1850; 1856
Page: Mary	1865
Parkins: John; wife Mary	1854; 1872
Rippon: Richard Oliver; wife Mary Charlotte; daughter Clara Jane	1898; 1910; 1895
Rolph: John Frederick; Margaret Kerr; Sara Louisa Jane Eliza, wife of John; son Everard who died at 9 months	1862; 1869; 1873; 1874; 1873
Smith-Dorrien: Sir Horace Lockwood	1930
Tompkins: Thomas; Emily	1887; 1912
Unwin: Henry; wife Ann Susanna; daughter Ann	1870; 1886; 1873

BERKHAMSTED RAIDERS RAISE THE BAR FOR GIRLS FOOTBALL WITH ARSENAL PARTNERSHIP



- Raiders joins Arsenal Women FC as sister club for 2017/18 season
- Raiders Girls section moves to new permanent “home” for girls football at Bridgewater School
- Club awarded Football Foundation “Grow the Game” grant to support growth of girls football

Berkhamsted Raiders CFC is demonstrating its commitment to doubling female participation in football by funding a series of initiatives and partnerships that promote the sport to girls and support the club’s growing girls section.

One such initiative has seen the club become an official Arsenal Women sister club for 2017/18. The programme aims to raise awareness and support the development of girls

football in local grassroots clubs and generate more opportunities for girls to play the game.

The partnership with Arsenal Women gives Raiders a range of playing opportunities for the girls and development opportunities for the coaches, as well as allowing them access to an Arsenal player ambassador, monthly session plans and tickets to Arsenal Women’s games.

Tom Hartley, Arsenal Women’s Development Officer explains: “Being a sister club reflects Berkhamsted Raiders’ passion and commitment to girls football. There is an increase in interest and support for girls football at the moment, and it is great that we can support Raiders to inspire more girls to fall in love with the game.”

New home for girls football in Berkhamsted

To further maintain the development of its girls section, Raiders has provided them with their own, permanent “home” at Bridgewater School in Berkhamsted for the new season.

Under the partnership agreement with Bridgewater School, Raiders has exclusive use of the school fields on Saturday mornings for competitive

matches. The club has invested £5,000 in a storage shed, permanent goals, Samba goals, nets and associated equipment and around £2,000 annually to cover grass maintenance and pitch marking. The equipment and facilities will also be available during school hours for school use.

Grant for girls football

A Football Foundation "Grow The Game" grant of £4,500 spread over three years awarded to Raiders last year will further help to fund the expansion of girl's football at the club.

Keith Pollard, Chairman of Berkhamsted Raiders CFC comments: "As a club, we fully support the current growth of girls football, which is evidenced by our efforts to promote the game locally and invest in suitable initiatives for our own teams.

This year we have seen a 50% increase in the number of female players across all age groups. We are committed to continuing this success by seeking out more exciting opportunities that will help us to develop girl's football and encourage even more players to get involved."



Berkhamsted Raiders CFC



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