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**YB**

**Your Berkhamsted**

December/January  
2019

**Graham Greene Birthplace  
Trust launches Graham  
Greene Film Review  
Competition**

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**What's On over Christmas  
and New Year!**



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

## *In this issue...*

### **WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED.**

Christmas is upon us and there is always so much to do. There are those that do not have the same flurry of activity that a lot of us have and we should be thoughtful for those around us. Look out for those who are elderly or lonely – any kind gesture can make a real difference. In this edition Dennis Furnell discusses the creatures that inhabit this area including the deer family. Dennis has a wonderful way of making you feel you are in that place. There is a great competition by the Graham Greene Trust – to watch and review a film or documentary you have a chance of winning £500. Also included is a nice long walk in the Great Gaddesden area. Just what is needed after all the Christmas Pudding. There is a lot of events happening during December and these you can see on our What's on page and throughout the magazine. Please look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Do get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may have, either to publish or additions/changes to the magazine for consideration. And please give us your feedback on the new features.



**JACQUELINE - [EDITOR@YOURBERKHAMSTED.ORG.UK](mailto:EDITOR@YOURBERKHAMSTED.ORG.UK)**

<b>Rambles from Berkhamsted</b>	<b>3 &amp; 5</b>
<b>What's On</b>	<b>6,7,8 &amp; 9</b>
<b>Graham Greene Film Review Competition</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Berkhamsted History society Overview</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Treks that make a difference</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)</b>	<b>14 &amp; 15</b>
<b>Our Clergy</b>	<b>16 &amp; 17</b>
<b>Parish Pages</b>	<b>18, 19 &amp; 21</b>
<b>Five of our favourite festive film scenes</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Hospice News</b>	<b>24 &amp; 25</b>
<b>Rectory Lane Cemetery News and Recipe</b>	<b>26 &amp; 27</b>
<b>Local Circular Walk</b>	<b>30 &amp; 31</b>
<b>Recycling your Xmas Tree</b>	<b>32 &amp; 33</b>
<b>Berkhamsted Racing Driver's Victory</b>	<b>34 &amp; 35</b>

**Front cover: Thank you Mary Casserley for the wonderful picture of the Rex at Christmas. More of Mary's work can be seen at <http://www.marycasserley.com> Also see prints at Berkhamsted Imaging.**

***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.

## Rambles from Berkhamsted by Julian Dawson



The world of social media has changed our views on achievement, and YouTube in particular is creating new stars who in turn start appearing on more main stream channels such as the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing. [pulselive.co.ke](http://pulselive.co.ke) explains how KSI, otherwise known as Olajide "JJ" William Olatunji pioneered YouTube celebrity boxing matches after making a name for himself playing FIFA on a games platform. Berkhamsted School educated Olatunji will be going head to head in a professional boxing bout in a rematch with vlogger Logan Paul at the Staples Corner venue in Los Angeles. It is a somewhat surreal leap from gaming and vlogging to the boxing ring. But since KSI has 20.5 million subscribers with estimated earnings of £1.5 million his influence is not to be dismissed lightly, and I certainly wouldn't want to pick a fight. [newsamed.com](http://newsamed.com) also picks up on this story mentioning that KSI was schooled alongside Simon Minter at Berkhamsted, who has made his name as miniminter on YouTube. KSI consolidated his fame by earning the NME Award for Vlogger of the Year in 2016, and alongside his brother was considered the most influential

YouTube creator back in 2015. In 2018 he challenged Piers Morgan to generate the most tweets in an hour, which KSI satisfyingly won easily by 4000. And as I write this piece, overnight it transpires that KSI was victorious in his bout over Paul.

Continuing the somewhat surreal air of this week's column, Berkhamsted School also appeared in the [hampshirechronicle.co.uk](http://hampshirechronicle.co.uk). Belinda Clark, executive chef for the Berkhamsted Schools (yes, they have one), took a whole day making a 93.1kg Pudsey marshmallow in aid of Children in Need. In a frustrating piece of writing the school has been transplanted across the border into Buckinghamshire, but since this is an apprentice writer we'll give him the benefit of the doubt on this occasion.

Loneliness is increasingly being recognised as a genuine social problem, and [mynewsmag.co.uk](http://mynewsmag.co.uk) announces the launch of a new Berkhamsted initiative entitled "Berkhamsted Says Hello". This is a joint initiative between Open Door and Age Concern

**Cont on Page 5**

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Dacorum. It aims to generate positive action by bringing people together to help reduce loneliness and isolation through positive actions. We wish them every success in this important initiative.

Another charitable initiative is reported in [spaldingtoday.co.uk](http://spaldingtoday.co.uk). The Foodbank in Sutterton, based at St Mary's was, it transpired, inspired by the bank at Kings Church [sic] in Berkhamsted. Sutterton's foodbank acts as a satellite of Boston's – in Lincolnshire naturally, not across the pond.

It's been a while since I reported on Bunting Magnets of Berkhamsted.

Those suffering withdrawal symptoms will be delighted to know that they have opened a new office in Italy. [eurobulksystems.com](http://eurobulksystems.com) (oh yes) explains that the company has appointed Stefano Maiaroli to spearhead the business. He was on hand at the UK Magnetics Society's two-day Magnetic Materials and Applications MMA event during September in Milan, and was then off to attend his first major international trade show, the K2019 plastics industry trade fair. Furthermore he was also at Ecomondo 2019 in Rimini. Thus the attraction of the social whirl that is the magnetics field.

### Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator



#### Berkhamsted Art Society's Winter Exhibition

in its new venue at the Civic Centre, 161 High Street Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3HB

Friday 13th December, 11am - 8pm. Saturday 14th December, 9am - 5pm. Free admission.

Framed and unframed paintings, pottery, sculpture, woodcraft, cards.

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

07913 604828

[berkhamstedartsociety@gmail.com](mailto:berkhamstedartsociety@gmail.com)

# 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  
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)

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

## December

**Santa's Sleigh** - Berkhamsted Rotary is delighted to announce that Santa will be out and about from Saturday 30th November to Sunday 22nd December inclusive. See website for more details.  
<https://www.berkorotary.org/santa>

**Monday 2nd December 8pm: Shoplifters** - Berkhamsted Civic Centre. **Also 3rd Dec.** Non-members £5 at door. A ragtag Japanese family rely on petty crime to make ends meet. Even so when they find a little girl in the freezing cold they take her in. Dir: Hirokaze Kore-eda/2018/ Japan/Cert 15 120min/Subtitles. <http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk>

**Tuesday 3rd December - Glee Club** - Gable Hall, Prince Edward Street,

Berkhamsted. Every Tuesday 12.30-2pm or every Thursday 8-10pm. Adults singing for fun and raising money for charities.

[www.gobstopperstheatreats.com](http://www.gobstopperstheatreats.com)

**Wednesday 4th December 8pm: Liberty** - St Bartholomew's Church. £3, coffee and refreshments included. The Bucks man, the London shop, the global style. <http://cluster3.website-staging.uk/wiggintonvillage.website/history-society>

**Wednesday 4th December 5.30pm & 7.45pm** - The Berko Speakeasy is a stylish, theatrical evening in celebration of the short story. Listen to the fabulous Speakeasy actors as they lift the characters off the page and bring them to life. Enjoy a glass of wine or two, while you sit back and relax. The Berko Speakeasy will be held in The Greene Room, The King's Arms, 147 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HL. [www.berkospeakeasy.co.uk](http://www.berkospeakeasy.co.uk)

**Thursday 5th December 8.30pm: Moon-dogs** - Blues Bar, Tring. A contemporary modern blues band with a reputation for astounding festival performances.  
<https://www.bluesbartring.co.uk>

**Friday 6th December - Life in a Day** - Tring Park School. Boys' Day of Dance.  
<https://www.tringpark.com/whats-on>

**Friday 6th December: Mother Goose** - The Boxmoor Playhouse. This year's panto will be performed **from Fri 6 Dec to Sun 8 Dec inc and from Fri 13 Dec to Sun 15 Dec inc**. With weekend matinees. See website for times and tickets. <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hhtheatreco>

**Saturday 7th 10am-4pm: December - Book Fair.** Court House, Berkhamsted. Free admittance. A huge selection of second hand books of all sorts on display.  
[Call 01442 862011](tel:01442862011)

**Saturday 7th December 10.30am- 3pm: Christmas Market** - Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Organised by Berkhamsted Churches Together. Handmade chocolates, cakes, cards, textiles, preserves, candles, soaps, jewellery and more. Refreshments available. All stalls support various charities.  
[doc\\_hilda@hotmail.com](mailto:doc_hilda@hotmail.com)

**Saturday 7th December 6-9pm: Gin and Jewels Evening** - Bailey and Sons, Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted. Celebrating 100 years, first 100 customers receive complimentary glass of Campfire Gin. Meet special supplier Sheldon Bloomfield, win a Christmas Hamper supporting Renie Grove Hospice. <https://www.baileyandsons.co.uk>

**Saturday 7th December 7.30pm: Onyx Brass** - Berkhamsted Civic Centre. £15. Easily the classiest brass ensemble in Britain with Bach, Shostakovich, Couperin, and music for Advent and Christmas.  
<http://www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk>

**Saturday 7th December 2019 7.30 pm: AMCHOR Winter Concert Venue: St Mary' Church, Old Amersham**  
Haydn: Nelson Mass; Lauridsen: Lux Aeterna; Elgar: Serenade for Strings Amersham & Chesham Bois Choral Society and soloists. Conductor: Nick Austin, with the New Mozart Orchestra and Ben Giddens on organ. Tickets: £16 adults/£8 students, available from The Record Shop, Amersham; Perfect Pitch, Chesham;

Box Office 07702 608314 and from [WeGotTickets.com/amchor](http://WeGotTickets.com/amchor)  
[www.amchor.com](http://www.amchor.com) Registered Charity 1057791

**Sunday 8th December 10am-4pm: French Market** - Berkhamsted High Street. Local and regional cheeses, bread freshly baked every day, patisserie products, olives and dried fruits, handbags, jewellery, provençal soaps, and much more. <http://www.franceathome.com>

**Monday 9th December 1.30-4.30pm: Winter Walk and Christmas Tea** - Latimer House, Church Lane, Chesham. £32.50-37.50. Enjoy a stile-free 3-mile walk through the Chess Valley, a landscape rich in both wildlife and history. After working up an appetite, the walk will finish with a scrummy Christmas-themed afternoon tea at the famous Latimer Estate, which is steeped in history. <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/event/country-ramble-and-christmas-tea-at-latimer-house>

**Tuesday 10th December 7.15pm: Coppelia** - Vyne Theatre. The Royal Ballet's classical story of love, mischief and mechanical dolls.  
[www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk)

**Wednesday 11th December 6.30-9pm: Christmas Wreath Workshop** - The Barn Studio, Stonehouse, Vicarage Lane, Potten End, Berkhamsted HP4 2QZ. Also Lockers Park School, Lockers Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1TL **Sat 14th & Sun 15th Dec. 10am-1pm.** <https://www.reeleylandscapes.co.uk>

Cont on page 8

## December cont...

**Wednesday 11th December 8pm:** The hilltop villages, their artists and local heroes - Berkhamsted Town Hall. Speaker: Chris Brown. <https://berkhamsted-history.org.uk>

**Saturday 14th December 9am-12 noon:** **Tring Shop Local Day.** Church Square. Come along to the Festive Farmers' Market. Tring retailers will have promotions and you could win a goodie bag filled with the best our shops have to offer, just by shopping locally! (t's and c's apply). [www.tringtogether.org.uk](http://www.tringtogether.org.uk)

**Sunday 15th December 8pm: Gabriel Latchin Trio.** Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Members £10, Visitors £13. Gabriel is a very fine pianist and this group have delighted audiences from Aylesbury to Japan. <http://www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk>

**Monday 16th December 8pm: Wild Rose** Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Non-members £5 at door. Jessie Buckley delivers a star-making performance as a rebellious country singer who dreams of escaping Glasgow for Nashville. Dir: Tom Harper/2018/UK/Cert 15 100min (Preceded by a short AGM). [www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk)

**Thursday 19th December 7.30pm: Charity Christmas Concert**  
Friends of the Belarusian Children's Hospice (UK) (reg charity 1116116) and AM-CHOR (reg charity 1057791) present a Family Christmas Concert  
Venue: Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 5AJ.  
Carols and Christmas music for all ages. Refreshments for which a donation is invited. Tickets £10 adults, £5 children aged twelve and over; under 12s free. Available on the door or contact box office on 07702 608314

## Events at St Peter's Church or the Court House, Berkhamsted

**Sun 8<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm** in St Peter's Lady Chapel: RECITAL CONCERT (1hr) Behind the Mirror (was Chroma) 'A Night in Vienna'. One of an intimate series of concerts founded and curated by Clare O'Connell. Tickets £17/£15 concessions. U18s free from [www.behindthemirror.org](http://www.behindthemirror.org)

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm** at St Peter's: CHORAL CONCERT Berkhamsted Choral Society Shawn Kirchner 'Behold New Joy' plus Christmas music and carols for choir and audience with English Philharmonia Brass. Conductor Graham Wili. Tickets £15 U18s free [www.ticketsource.co.uk/berkhamsted-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/berkhamsted-choral-society)

**Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> December 7.30pm** at St Peter's: CHORAL CONCERT Chiltern Chamber Choir and Bridgewater Sinfonietta. Monteverdi Vespers with Kathryn Jenkin soprano, Jeanette Ager mezzo-soprano, Phillip Conway-Brown tenor, James Preston tenor, Harry Bagnall tenor, Thomas Humphreys bass, Piran Legg bass and the choristers of St Peter's. Tickets £15 U18s free from choir members, Brown & Merry Estate Agents or [chilternchamberchoir.com](http://chilternchamberchoir.com)



## January

**Wednesday 1st January - New Year's Day Walk.** Meet at front of Berkhamsted Station, 10.30am for the traditional Berkhamsted Citizens' New Year's Day walk, led by Paul Crosland. <http://www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk>

**Wednesday 8th January 7.45-9.45pm: Tring Wine Club.** Nora Grace Hall. A community wine club for Tring, with tastings every second Wednesday of the month. 6 themed wines to try, a guest speaker, cheese and prizes. Come along and try something different and meet new people! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/693882891052885/>

**Sunday 12th January 7pm: A Russian Winter's Tale.** The Greene Room, Kings Arms, Berkhamsted. Two Blizzards: the first by Bulgakov, based on his experiences as a young doctor in rural Russia, bursts with realism and humour. The second, Pushkin's exquisite tale of reckless love. Performed by Clare O'Connell (cello) and Viv McLean (piano). <https://www.behindthemirror.org>

**Monday 13th January 8pm: The Children Act** - Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Also 14 Jan. Non-members £5 at door. Emma Thomson excels as a High Court judge who, even as her marriage founders, has a life-changing decision to make at work. Dir: Richard Eyre/2017 UK/Cert 12A/105min. <http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk>

**Wednesday 15th January 8pm: Hartwell, Georgian Parks and Gardens** - High Street Baptist Church, Tring. £4. Speaker

Adam Smith, a lecturer specialising in architectural history and the history of the English country house and estate. [www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk](http://www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk)

**Wednesday 15th January 8pm: The Loxleys – Brothers in Arms of Northchurch.** Berkhamsted Town Hall. Speaker: Richard North, BLH&MS member. <https://berkhamsted-history.org.uk>

**Saturday 18th January: The Beatles** - Nash Harris Dining Room, Berkhamsted School. Gobstoppers Glee Club raising awareness of Sing Inside - a charity which promotes musical education by bringing singing workshops into UK prisons. [www.gobstopperstheatrearts.com/adult-glee-club](http://www.gobstopperstheatrearts.com/adult-glee-club)

**Thursday 23rd January 8.30pm: Ma Bessie and Her Pigfoot Band.** Blues Bar, Tring. <https://www.bluesbartring.co.uk>

**Friday 24th January 7pm: Budapest Café Orchestra.** Vyne Theatre. Traditional folk and gypsy flavoured music from across the world. <http://www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk>

**Sunday 26th January 3pm: Giselle.** Vyne Theatre. Brand new production of an iconic ballet by the Bolshoi. <http://www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk>

**Monday 27th January 8pm: Rams** - Berkhamsted Civic Centre. **Also 28 Jan.** Non-members £5 at door. A touching tragic-comedy. Two feuding brothers are forced to come together to save their unique breed of sheep from extinction. Dir: Gri-mur Hakonarson/2015/Iceland Cert 15/93min/Subtitles. <http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk>

## Graham Greene Birthplace Trust launches Graham Greene Film Review Competition

The Graham Greene Birthplace Trust invites entries for the inaugural Graham Greene Film Review Competition. Organised in partnership with The Centre for New Writing at Manchester University, this competition commemorates Graham Greene's legacy as a film reviewer by offering a cash prize of £500 for the most imaginative, original, and thought-provoking review submitted.

Giles Clark, Chair of the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust, explains: "The Graham Greene Film Review Competition has been created to further enhance Greene's reputation and widen knowledge of his work. We have chosen to make this a prize specifically for film reviewing because films are a popular medium for the younger generation, some of whom may not know Greene's work, while among the older generation who may be familiar with his novels, Greene's superb body of film criticism may be unknown. We hope that the competition will attract many entries from up-and-coming writers as well as more established talents."

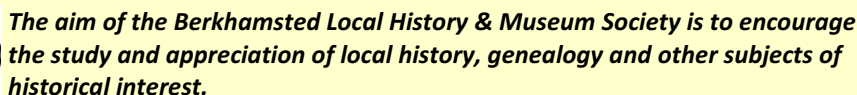
The Competition for the Graham Greene Film Review Prize is open to anyone aged 18 or over at the time of entry. The closing date for submissions is 5:00 pm (UK time) on 31 March 2020. International entries are welcome.

To enter the Competition, entrants must submit a review of a film (documentary or otherwise) with a run time of at least 80 minutes. The word limit for submissions is 1000 words. Entries must be in English. The entrance fee is £10 per submission.

Full submission details, along with guidelines from the judging panel, are available on the website of the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust:

<https://grahamgreenebt.org/>

The winner of the Competition will be announced at the end of May 2020 and the winning entry subsequently published in *The Manchester Review*. The winning entry will also be showcased at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Graham Greene International Festival, to be held in Graham Greene's native town of Berkhamsted in October 2020.



Whilst members are under no obligation actively to pursue local history research, every encouragement will be given to those who wish to do so. There are many subjects which could be studied. [Courses](#) in Local History are available at Oxford and Cambridge.

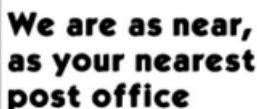
Why not come along to our Society meetings? They are arranged from September until March and currently take place at 8pm in the Town Hall. At the start of the season a [Programme](#) is issued to members giving details of talks, mostly illustrated Powerpoint presentations, on a variety of subjects connected with local history. During the summer months outings are organised, in association with Probus, to places of historical interest and there are occasional evening visits with conducted walks to nearby towns and villages. Check out our [membership form](#) for details of the annual subscription, which includes a copy of the *Chronicle* published in March each year.

The Society's collection of archives and artefacts is deposited in the Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store in Berkhamsted. The [BLH&MS Collection Policy](#) sets out the conditions for acquiring items. The collection is available for research purposes by prior arrangement with the [Collections Manager](#).



<https://berkhamsted-history.org.uk>

**Handleless Handbags?  
Unzipp Holdalls/Travelbags?  
Battered Briefcases?  
Gaping purses/wallets?  
Sad Vintage Leathergoods?**



**01753 862824**



**[www.leathergoodsrepairs.co.uk](http://www.leathergoodsrepairs.co.uk)**

[illegible]

## Treks That Make a Difference

After 3 successful treks to Machu Pichu, The Great Wall of China and most recently 3 different canyons in America, school friends for over 40 years, Jacqui and Sam, are planning their next adventure. This time in the jungles of Cambodia, where they will trek over 100km in hot, humid and wet weather, camping in tents.

They have so far raised over £25k for the local Hospice Of St Francis. These funds are essential for the day to day running of the Hospice. It costs five million pounds to run the centre each year and they rely on donations from the public.

The George & Dragon in Northchurch have been great supporters of Sam and Jacqui. They hold a popular Wednesday quiz night and teams donate to their Hospice fund raising.

They also run a FA Cup draw and various raffles.

A warm welcome always awaits you when you go to The George and Dragon in Northchurch. A place to go for lunchtime food, a warm cosy fire on a cold evening or just a place to meet up for drinks with friends.

[http://www.justgiving.com/SamandJacqui?utm\\_id=26](http://www.justgiving.com/SamandJacqui?utm_id=26)



The picture from left to right are:

Shannon - Hospice of St Francis

Peter - Quiz Master

Paul - Landlord, donating a very generous £3000 to the Hospice

Jacqui - Fundraiser

## Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month



This young man is Frankie, an Old Tyme Bull Dog who was born in 2017. Frankie is a lively, bouncy sort of a guy and will need owners willing to carry on with his training and give him an active life. In return they will get lots of enthusiastic affection! He has lived with cats and would probably live with a female dog pending introductions. Frankie is crate-trained and can be left for short periods when settled. He cannot live in Dunstable or Houghton Regis.

If you can offer Frankie or any of our other dogs a forever home, please call in at the kennels or phone us any day between 10 am – 4 pm. 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.

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

**Call 01525 220383 or email: [appledown.kennels@btinternet.com](mailto:appledown.kennels@btinternet.com)**

**Website: [www.appledownrescue.co.uk](http://www.appledownrescue.co.uk) Follow us on Facebook, Twitter &  
Instagram!**

**RASPBERRY** LEAF UPHOLSTERY



07732114894 / 01525220912  
[christina@raspberry-leaf.co.uk](mailto:christina@raspberry-leaf.co.uk)

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### **HALL HIRE**

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Berkhamsted  
HP4 1JA**

**Large room for hire  
Seats up to 50  
Use of kitchen and garden**

**Ideal for classes, groups etc.  
Children's Parties  
(under 12s)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**for further information see:  
[www.berkhamstedquakers.org](http://www.berkhamstedquakers.org)**



## Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)

Christmas seems to come round earlier each year; something I find rather unsettling, particularly as I am a fan of the festive season. It's a time when all sorts of creatures seem to be celebrating this most important of religious festivals. Top of the list must be the robin in all its guises; some figuratively accurate and others not so much! And plants such as holly, mistletoe and ivy have been important religious symbols for thousands of years.

Other wildlife too are significant at this time of year. It may have been 8,000 years or more since reindeer ceased to be part of the fauna of these islands, yet here they are pulling Santa's sledge as though they were part of our native fauna. There are, of course, several farmed herds of reindeer in the UK, animals brought over from the high arctic. We do have our species of deer such as red deer and fallow that we count as being native, but it seems no one has attempted to usurp the reindeer's hold as a motive power for special Christmas deliveries.

The subject of deer and their place in the local wildlife, is not only pertinent during the festive season. We are fortunate to have several large estates like Woburn and Ashridge nearby where substantial herds of several

species of deer thrive. Indeed, Woburn supports a large number of different deer species and the fallow deer at Ashridge are at their very best at the moment; the bucks, resplendent with their palmate antlers, are holding court to the elegant females.

However, there is a deer, whose presence, particularly in our gardens, sometimes goes unnoticed until, that is, the rose bushes show signs of self-pruning. The culprit is a small shy deer from south east Asia, "Reeve's Muntjac". They were introduced at the turn of the century into several estates, particularly Woburn, but have spread out to cover much of the country and, if you have productive fruit trees in the garden, you will be very popular. Overall, these deer are about the size of a medium-sized dog, say a Labrador. Muntjac are never seen in herds like fallow or red deer, they are family creatures so a male and female and perhaps a couple of well-grown young is the most you will see together.

As the nights lengthen, so the chance of seeing one of these attractive creatures increases, often dashing across country lanes and showing up in the car headlights. They are an odd shape in that their hind quarters are more robust and somewhat longer than

their front legs and even on level ground they look as if they are running downhill.

It's best to slow down should you see one cross in front on the road as when one of the family crosses there's a good chance that the rest will follow.

The female in my picture does not have horns, just a couple of bumps on her skull. Her mate sports two spiky

horns, but they don't indicate an aggressive nature; the horns are used as a tool to mark the bark of bushes and small trees. The male rubs scent from a gland on his head to mark his territory. Secretive creatures, only when the male is defending his territory, or if frightened will he make a loud bark, half-way in tone between that of a dog and a fox. A gentle deer, they are very much at home with humanity.



**Picture: Muntjac deer**  
– by Dennis Furnell

## **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)

## Our Clergy



By the time you are reading this article Christmas will have begun in Berkhamsted. The Christmas tree and street lights

will have been illuminated, the shops will be full of Christmas gifts and produce and there will be a general buzz about the town as we draw closer to Christmas Day. Also, St Peter's contribution to the Festival of Light will have taken place with large numbers of people coming into the church to experience the sacred space of the church lit by hundreds of small candles and tea lights. I first experienced this wonderful initiative last year and was so impressed at such a simple idea as lighting the church with candles. The candlelit church offered something additional to the busyness of the Christmas street market and that was stillness and peace, which seems to have spoken to those who visited the church.

Stillness and silence is a rarity in our towns and cities with so much noise around us. In the Christian tradition, and indeed in the practices of other faiths, there is the custom of a retreat, going away to a quiet place to unwind, to be still and silent and to become more aware of the presence

of God and allowing that divine presence to fill your heart and mind. For Christians going on retreat usually means going to a monastery or convent or some special place where stillness is to be found and experienced. One of the most famous Christian retreat practices is a 30 day silent retreat following the spiritual exercises of Ignatius Loyola, a 16<sup>th</sup> century priest, theologian and founder of the Society of Jesus. This particular retreat is not for the fainthearted but those who have experienced it will all agree it is personally and spiritually transformative.

The theme of silence and stillness often appears in many Christmas carols and music generally. The reason for this may be that when Jesus was born, this was the moment in the history of the world when God invisible made himself visible, coming among us in Jesus to share our human life. It is as if the world at that moment stood still, acknowledging the wonderful mystery that was being unfolded. This is what lies behind the act of bowing or genuflecting during the recitation of the Nicene Creed when the words '*was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man*' are said. For a moment there is a pause, reminding us of that divine moment when God came among us.

Many of us will light candles in our homes at Christmas and they add something special to the celebrations. Why not try at some point during Christmas to find a quiet spot at home (if that is at all possible) and sit before a single lit candle. Allow the silent flickering flame to still you, allow the light of the flame to remind you of the one who came among us as the 'light of the world' and invites us to reflect the light of his love in our lives.

Fr David Lawson



**Festival of Light - Inside St Peter's Church**

## 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, 9.30-11:30am. 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 9:30–11:15am. 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 (day off Friday), Team Rector, St Peter's, 879739

Simon Vivian, Assistant Curate. 01442 864199. [curate@greatberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:curate@greatberkhamsted.org.uk)

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



## Advent and Christmas at St Peter's

### **1<sup>st</sup> December 6pm**

Advent Carol Service – a beautiful candlelit service with choir anthems and carols for Advent

### **15<sup>th</sup> December 6pm**

Carols by Candlelight – a traditional style Christmas carol service followed by mulled wine and mince pies

### **24<sup>th</sup> December 4pm and 5.15pm**

Crib Services – traditional crib services for all the family

### **24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm**

Midnight Mass

### **25<sup>th</sup> December 8am**

Said Eucharist

### **25<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am**

Family Eucharist – bring along your favourite toy to show Fr Tim



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).

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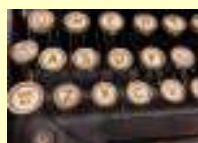
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## Events at All Saints

### December

<b>1st</b>	Advent Sunday
10am	Morning Worship David White
4pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing Revd Rachael Hawkins & Tracy Robinson
<b>8th</b>	Second Sunday of Advent
10am	Holy Communion Revd Tim Pilkington
4pm	Messy Church Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group
<b>15th</b>	Third Sunday of Advent
10am	All Age Morning Worship (with Nativity) Revd Rachael Hawkins
4pm	Carol Service Revd Rachael Hawkins
<b>22nd</b>	Fourth Sunday of Advent
10am	Holy Communion Revd Simon Vivian
<b>23rd</b>	
3pm	Blue Christmas Service Revd Rachael Hawkins
<b>24th</b>	Christmas Eve
4pm	Crib Service Revd Rachael Hawkins
<b>25th</b>	Christmas Day
10.30am	All Age Holy Communion Revd Rachael Hawkins
<b>29th</b>	First Sunday of Christmas
10am	Morning Worship David Williamson

### January

<b>5th</b>	The Epiphany
10am	Service (with Holy Communion) Revd Rachael Hawkins
<b>12th</b>	Baptism of Christ (The First Sunday of Epiphany)
10am	Holy Communion Revd John Kirkby
4pm	Messy Church Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group
<b>19th</b>	Second Sunday of Epiphany (Sunday in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity)
10am	Morning Worship Richard Hackworth
<b>26th</b>	Third Sunday of Epiphany
10am	Holy Communion Revd Rachael Hawkins
4pm	Service of Wholeness and Healing Revd Rachael Hawkins, & Tracy Robinson
<b>Every Tuesday</b>	
9am	Morning Prayer
9.30am	Eucharist
<b>Every Friday</b>	
4pm	Evening Prayer

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## Five of our favourite festive film scenes

So dinner has been devoured, and everyone is settled for the evening. All you need now is something seasonal to watch. In the hope of helping, we've handpicked a quintet of quintessential Christmas movie moments, which are guaranteed to deliver the necessary goods.

### ***Miracle On 34th Street (1947) - "You see, Santa is real."***

Few flicks are quite so treasured by audiences. A tale of an old man put on trial for claiming to be Santa Claus, and the little girl who believed in this potential basket-case. To avoid spoiling the plot, let's just say even the most scientific and cynical viewers are bound to have a few doubts in the moments before the closing credits of this classic begin to roll. Like a short, sharp dose of youth to the bloodstream.

### ***It's A Wonderful Life (1946) - "Merry Christmas, George."***

With financial worries hanging heavily on his shoulders, timeless family-man George (James Stewart) witnesses a modern miracle as his friends and acquaintances get together to help save his home, and his holidays. It's probably the most obvious choice we could possibly have made, but when celluloid is this good, who's going to argue?

### ***Gremlins (1984) - "The car won't start."***

Have you ever seen such a seasonal scene? Billy Peltzer (Zach Galligan) sits in his clapped-out VW Beetle, or Bug as they call them stateside, which won't start, the snow is falling heavily outside, Christmas music blasts out on the radio and we've just been treated to a series of establishing shots showing small town America in full-on holiday mode. Enough to make grown men feel fuzzy inside.

### ***A Christmas Story (1983) - "Alternative turkey dinner."***

We watch the build up to December 25th from the eyes of one very excited boy, but whilst the day begins well when it finally arrives, the whole family shed tears before supper, until one final moment of genuine moral propaganda, in which it becomes clear that what you eat, where you are and what presents you get doesn't matter; it's who you're with that really counts.

### ***Home Alone (1991) - "He's not scary after all."***

As if being left alone over Christmas wasn't bad enough, Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) is also terrified of a crazy old man who wears a big coat and shovels snow suspiciously. And who wouldn't be. That is until the guy turns out to be a genuinely lovely pensioner who regrets mistakes he made with his own family. Cue tear-jerking moment in a church where the two finally talk and a choir sings *Silent Night*.

***This article was downloaded from <http://www.freefeatures.com>.***



## News from the Hospice of St Francis



### December 2019

As Christmas approaches,

our thoughts turn to all things festive – a time for celebration and time with family and friends, but also a chance to remember loved ones who are no longer with us.

If you'd like to remember and celebrate someone special this Christmas you can pledge 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.

Jo Maher's husband Brendan died at the Hospice in May 2017 after a long struggle with cancer, and together with their three children, Rory, 16, Kieran, 15, and Tilly, 13, Jo will be dedicating a light in Brendan's memory. Jo, 54, explains, "This year, we'll take part, lighting a candle for Brendan and holding him close in our hearts alongside all the other families who have been touched by the Hospice's incredible care this Christmas. The Hospice has been our crutch and guide throughout. We have never felt alone." If you would like to dedicate a free light in memory of someone special, or make a donation to our Light up a Life Appeal so we can provide a hand in the darkness

to more families like Jo's not just at Christmas but all year round, please visit our [Light Up a Life dedication page](http://stfrancis.org.uk/lual) at [stfrancis.org.uk/lual](http://stfrancis.org.uk/lual)

There are plenty of opportunities in the build up to Christmas to support us or take part in our fun and festive events. Every penny raised will help us to help more people live their precious lives well.

### Christmas Shopping Evening

Browse furniture, decorations and gifts and let our re-loved furniture and furnishings showroom **Returned to Glory** be your inspiration at its Christmas shopping event on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 6-8pm! There'll be bubbles too while you shop! (*Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 1EH*).

### Christmas Cards

Please don't forget to buy your charity Christmas cards from us. Our range of 22 designs includes styles to suit everyone from traditional and religious to contemporary and fun – with prices to suit all pockets. This year, you can buy direct from our website at [stfrancis.org.uk/christmascards](http://stfrancis.org.uk/christmascards) or at any of our shops. 100% of the profits go directly to support our care.

### Christmas Trees!

Our selection of top quality, non-drop Nordmann Firs and Christmas wreaths will be on sale at the Hospice until Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 9am-5pm except on Sunday 1st December when we will be closing at 2pm. A £5 donation

from each tree sold will be made to the Hospice. After Christmas, the Hospice will also be recycling trees in exchange for a donation across selected postcodes in Hemel Hempstead, St Albans and Harpenden. Keep an eye on our website for more details!

### **Wear it Festive, Fri 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Do something small that will make a big difference this Christmas by wearing any festive frock or garment to work or school to show your support for your local Hospice. Donate £1 and get your friends and colleagues involved! From full-on festive frocks to subtle snowman socks, anything goes! [stfrancis.org.uk/wearitfestive](http://stfrancis.org.uk/wearitfestive)

### **Santa Dash – Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December, 10am, Riverside, Hemel Hempstead**

Whether it's your family's favourite tradition or you're a first time festive fundraiser, Santa Dash is the perfect way to kick start your Christmas! Sign up to skip, stroll, sprint or scoot the 2.5-mile fun run through Hemel town centre and Gade-bridge Park. £15 registration for adults and children 16+, £5 children aged 6-15. Under-fives go free! Discounted family tickets available this year too! [stfrancis.org.uk/santadash](http://stfrancis.org.uk/santadash)

### **Carol Concert – Sun 15<sup>th</sup> December, 3-4.30pm, St Albans Cathedral and Abbey**

Join us for a magical afternoon of popular carols, guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit! With special performances from talented local choirs, this Sunday afternoon event is the perfect opportunity to bring loved ones together in the spirit of Christmas. Tickets on sale now at [stfrancis.org.uk/carolconcert](http://stfrancis.org.uk/carolconcert)

### **January 2020**

Planning for 2020 to be the year you do something different?

### **Biggest Loser Challenge – starting January 2020**

Transform yourself and become healthier in 12 weeks, and meet a new group of friends as you embark on a fitness journey! More information available on our website [stfrancis.org.uk/biggestloser](http://stfrancis.org.uk/biggestloser)

### **Strictly Learn Dancing – starting January 2020**

Inspired by Strictly Come Dancing? Grab your dancing shoes for 6 weeks' worth of lessons from professional dance teachers. You can then show off your new skills in the Strictly Learn Dancing Grand Finale! [stfrancis.org.uk/support-us/events/detail/strictly-learn-dancing](http://stfrancis.org.uk/support-us/events/detail/strictly-learn-dancing)

**If you or anyone you know has a diagnosis of cancer or a life-limiting illness and could benefit from our free support, just fill in a short referral form online and we'll be in touch – [stfrancis.org.uk/selfrefer](http://stfrancis.org.uk/selfrefer)**

On behalf of everyone at the Hospice, thank you, our community for your support throughout this our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday year. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2020!

Follow us on Facebook

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## Double your money and ‘Read in Peace’

*Friends of  
St Peter's*  
GREAT BERKHAMSTED



LOTTERY FUNDED

Amid all of the chaos and confusion in the run up to Christmas and the General Election it can help to take a moment to think about summer days and activities outdoors ahead.

With this in mind the Friends of St Peter's are launching an appeal to put a new seat into Rectory Lane Cemetery. In each visitor survey conducted since the project began over five years ago people have asked for better seating. In 2016 the '*Seat to Remember*' competition produced wonderful designs from all over the world and here is one that is being adapted to give not only somewhere to sit but a special place for reading.

The seat will encircle a Liquidambar tree and contain a secret built-in bookshelf! The species was introduced into Europe in 1681 by John Banister, the missionary collector

sent out by Bishop Compton, who planted it at Fulham Palace in London.

During summer the flowers are an attractive chartreuse green and in autumn the leaves turn into all of the varied hues we associate with Maple-trees, providing an interesting contrast to the dark green of the Yew trees nearby. Goldfinches, squirrels, and other wildlife will be able to enjoy the seeds of the tree.

Sited in the corner of the Cemetery closest to the Rex cinema, it will provide an oasis of calm easily accessible from the High Street. Books will be provided so we hope everyone will enjoy this chance to "Read in Peace".

Kate Campbell, Community Engagement Officer said, "It isn't often that you get the chance to double your money without any catch! So please let's take a few minutes **NOW** to help build something of beauty and value for future generations".



To help us make this happen, the Friends of St Peter's have partnered with the BIG GIVE Christmas campaign. Donate online at:

<https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a051r00001QMKEAAAS>

Every donation made during their Christmas Challenge week (**3-10 December**) will be DOUBLED in value, thanks to The Big Give's match funding programme.



## Easy Fruit Cake



With Christmas not far away many of us will be thinking of fruit cake. This is a very easy version with few ingredients but a great result.

*Serves 12*

## Ingredients

1kg dried mixed fruit

250g self-raising flour

1 heaped tsp mixed spice

500ml pure orange juice

## Method

Place fruit and orange juice into a large bowl. Stir well, cover and leave to soak overnight in the fridge. Next day, preheat oven to 150C / Gas 2. Line a loaf tin with baking parchment. Add the 250g of self-raising flour and mixed spice to the soaked fruit. Stir thoroughly by hand or with a cake mixer. Tip the cake mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 2 hours. If the cake looks like it's browning too fast, cover with foil or brown paper and continue to cook until it is springy to the touch. Cool completely and keep in a tin for up to two weeks.

*This article was downloaded from <http://www.freefeatures.com>.*

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I am a full member of the Association Of Reflexologists (AOR) and the International Federation Of professional Aromatherapists (IFPA).



### Help needed...can you put a smile on Mariam's face?

Can you make room for an international student to experience true British Festive hospitality?

Hosting an international student will bring a whole new dimension to your Christmas, with a chance to learn about another country's traditions and enjoy the connection and friendship that such sharing brings.

**HOST UK** arranges for international students to enjoy brief visits-one day, a weekend or, over the festive period, a three-day visit, with UK hosts.

We warmly welcome new volunteer hosts to join us.





## Circular from Great Gaddesden to Little Gaddesden

### Introduction to Walk 2795

**Region** - Chilterns

**County/Area** - Hertfordshire

**Author** - Donald Morton

**Length** - 7.5 miles / 12.2 km

**Ascent** - 770 feet / 233 metres

**Grade** - easy/mod

This Hertfordshire walk starts from a dirt layby on the A4146 (Grid ref TL030116), the Hemel Hempstead to Leighton Buzzard Road. The layby is opposite 4 blocks of houses on the right hand side of the road coming from Hemel Hempstead just after passing the turning signed to Great Gaddesden and with a large Wyvale Garden Centre notice. Coming from Leighton Buzzard after passing the crossroads with lanes going off to Little Gaddesden and Studham look out for Bradden Lane on the left: the houses are soon after on the left with the layby opposite.

Start the walk through the kissing gate at the Hemel Hempstead end of the layby, signed Hertfordshire Way. Go across the field and over a long wooden bridge over the river Gade and a patch of swampy ground. Once over the bridge bear left and emerge through another kissing gate by a childrens' play area. This is Great Gaddesden: it is the parish which is bigger in area; as a village it is much smaller than Little Gaddesden which was a "company town" for the Ashridge estate. Turn left along the road, pass the school, ignore a road on the right and come to a T junction. Turn right and go up the lane past some typical redbrick and timber houses. Pass the lane to the right signed to St Margarets and continue along this quiet lane for about 1km, up over Piper's Hill and down into the pretty little village of Nettleden. You come out in front of the church and turn right along the road for a few yards before turning left up a road marked unsuitable for motor vehicles.

The road soon becomes a track, ascending in a walled ravine under a bridge to emerge at the top of the hill, and then descending to the hamlet of Frithsden. You emerge into Frithsden itself by the Alford Arms. Cross the road and go up the slightly stepped track through woods. Continue on this track until you come out onto a drive to the left of a large house. Cross the drive, go through a barrier and continue along an enclosed path between gardens. At the end go through another barrier, at crossing paths turn right and then right again to emerge - with a green on the right and a hole on the left - at the golf course which originated on Berkhamsted Common in the 1880s.

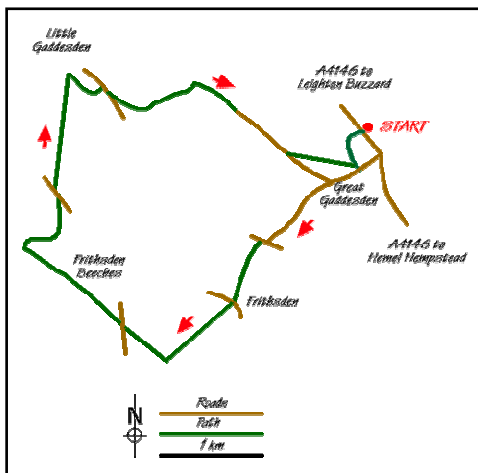
Take the path between tee and hole and then, with due consideration to the golfers, skirt the right hand side of the course along the backs of gardens. This is the route of the Hertfordshire Way. It soon plunges into a narrow strip of woodland between the fairway and the gardens. It is actually a bridle way so, although it maybe muddy, it is easy to follow out to a road (Grid ref TL005096). Cross the road and continue diagonally right across the fairway - watch out to the left before crossing - towards a line of trees: hoof marks in the grass define the line. At the far side continue through the trees with the golf course now on both sides. The path through the trees ends with hole 6 on the right and tee 7 on the left. Follow the bridle path straight on - muddy in winter but possible to find parallel tracks. The muddiest part terminates at a finger post at crossing bridle paths. Again go straight on through gorse bushes and down a broad grass avenue between woods. On the right are Frithsden Beeches - ancient woodland with National Trust signs warning of the danger from falling branches: it is not unusual to see deer hereabouts.

The grass avenue ends with Brickkiln Cottage on the left. You now leave the Hertfordshire Way to turn right down a gravel drive with Frithsden Beeches on the right and a wide open grassy space on left. Follow the drive down to the road. Turn left along the road and in about 100yards or so pass "Charnis" and then turn right up a footpath and permissive bridle path - Gaddesden 1 mile. Where the ways fork, keep left past "Rodinghead" and continue down an enclosed footpath with wide expansive views to the right. At the end go through a kissing gate and straight on over a wide field to a gate in a fence. Through this and you are at the end of Golden Valley. Cross to the other side and to the left of a water treatment plant find a broad gravel track. Follow this up behind the plant and as it swings left to come out a road (Grid ref TL001122). This is the outskirts of Great Gaddesden; the main part of the village stretches as a strip along the road to the left for about 2 miles. Cross the road to the pavement and turn right. Go past Ashridge Cottages 1929 and opposite Cromer Close turn left down a footpath, signed to Nettleleden. You have now rejoined the Hertfordshire Way which will take you back to the start. Go right diagonally across the field and through a gate, at the top of a valley, into an enormous field under cultivation. The footpath is apparently not restored after ploughing or planting and there are no waymarks. However, other walkers will probably have come this way to show the route which goes straight on descending down the valley bottom. Look out for an isolated clump of trees up to the left. When you come level with it this is where you leave the path which goes on to Nettleleden (Grid ref TL007118). Turn left at right angles to your previous direction to go up hill to pass to the left of the trees. There may be a small pile of stones to mark the junction of the two paths but there is no waymark. Again other walkers will probably have pioneered the trail. But if you cannot discern one, once you have passed the

trees, bear diagonally right aiming for the tallest trees to the right of a white house. When you arrive, you will discover that they surround a small pond: skirt this to come out at track.

Turn right and go along this track for about 1km. On the right you will come to buildings behind a wall including what look like accommodation huts. They possibly are, for this is Amavarati Buddhist Temple which offers contemplative retreats. Opposite to these take a footpath to the left signed Great Gaddesden. An enclosed path round the edge of the field exits through a kissing gate into a field. Cross this past a clump of trees on the left, go through a gate and hedge gap and straight on to the opposite corner of the field (at the corner of the grounds of the 12th century church). Turn left past garages, then right through a small estate to arrive back at the kissing gate by the children's play area. From here back over the water meadows to the start.

Ordnance Survey Grid Ref TL030116  
Latitude 51.793578 Longitude -0.507915



[www.walkingbritain.co.uk/walk-2795](http://www.walkingbritain.co.uk/walk-2795)

## Recycling your (real) Xmas tree

What do you do with your Christmas tree after the festivities have finished? For those who choose a synthetic tree, it will be back in the box until next year. But for many others who have bought a farm-grown tree, it's a tricky decision - a choice of leaving the tree outside or squeezing it into a green wheelie bin, which Dacorum Council will only collect in March.

To encourage tree recycling, Dacorum's waste services team are again setting up a shredding machine, in Water Lane Car Park, Berkhamsted for one day only: Sunday 5th January 2020. The pine trees are chipped, and these natural chip-pings are then used to keep council flower beds weed-free across the borough. Helping local citizens to recycle their Christmas trees are the various Scout Groups from round Berkhamsted and Northchurch, co-ordinated by the 1st Berkhamsted Scout Group. 1st Berkhamsted Group has organised a tree-collection service for over 10 years, where Christmas trees are picked up from people's houses and taken to the shredding site.

"The shredding day is popular, and there is often a queue to drop off a tree", says Paul Chambers, 1st Berkhamsted Scout Leader. "We save people time by taking their tree for them in our large vans, which cuts the number of individual car trips to the shredder. It's better for the environment, and you don't have to spend ages clearing pine needles from the back of your car!"

Since launching the service in 2009, the local Scouts have helped to transport more than 6,000 Christmas trees for shredding. The charity suggests a minimum voluntary contribution of £4 per tree collected. The collection service involves over 80 volunteers and includes Scouts of all ages. It has sponsorship from local organisations including Bill's restaurant, S Dell & Sons Removals, and Berkhamsted School.

The funds raised go towards equipment and activities for the children, maintenance of the Scout Huts, and financial support for trips and expeditions for the various local Scout groups.

'It is a significant group effort with many volunteers and local businesses providing support, but we are proud of the community service we provide', says Geoff Halls, 1st Berkhamsted Group Scout Leader.

The tree collection service is available for addresses in the Berkhamsted town and Northchurch areas.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> December, tree collections can be booked and paid for in advance at [www.1stberkhamsted.org.uk/trees](http://www.1stberkhamsted.org.uk/trees). The deadline for online bookings is mid-night, 3rd January. Alternatively, between 9-3pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January, customers can buy a pre-paid collection tag (cash or card accepted) at the Scout Christmas tree stall on Berkhamsted High Street.



Xmas Tree Collector - Isla Macnab



Nick Armstrong and Tree

## Make your own Christmas Wreath

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 10am & 1pm



- Venue: Sunnyside Rural Trust, Hemel Food Garden, Two Waters Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 9BY
- Price per person: **£35.00**
- Morning workshop **10am-12pm**  
Afternoon workshop **1pm-3pm**
- To book, please contact 01442 863364 or email [publicity@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk](mailto:publicity@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk)



We will provide all materials plus mince pies and mulled wine!

**Sunnyside**  
RURAL TRUST

## Berkhamsted Racing Driver Victorious at Donington Park

Matt Pollard from Berkhamsted ended a successful motorsport season with a class winning performance in October's [BRSCC ClubSport Trophy](#) at Donington Park. In the 45-minute ClubSport Enduro race, competing in his MX-5 against a multi-class field ranging from Porsche to Mazda, Matt built a commanding lead to win his class by 39 seconds in challenging and wet conditions.

It ended a second successful season for Matt. In 2018, his debut season in the BRSCC Mazda MX-5 Championship, Matt received the "Rookie of the Year" award. In 2019, competing in eight championship meetings at Brands Hatch, Pembrey, Cadwell Park, Anglesey, Snetterton, Oulton Park, Donington and Silverstone Matt achieved 8<sup>th</sup> position in the championship out of 60 plus drivers. Throughout the season, Matt has been sponsored by [Car Magic](#), the Chesham based car body repair specialist, who have done an outstanding job carrying out his "non-fault accident repairs", and supported by the excellent team at [AB Motorsport](#).

### About Matt Pollard

- See web site: <http://mattpollardracing.com/>
- Find out about Matt: <http://mattpollardracing.com/about-me>
- Visit his race blog: <http://mattpollardracing.com/racing-blog>





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CHILTERN CHAMBER CHOIR

# Monteverdi Vespers of 1610

Monday 23 December

7.30 pm

St. Peter's Church  
Berkhamsted

With the Bridgewater Sinfonietta  
Leader - Philip Aird  
and the Choristers of St. Peter's

with

Kathryn Jenkin *soprano*

Jeanette Ager *mezzo-soprano*

Phillip Conway-Brown *tenor*

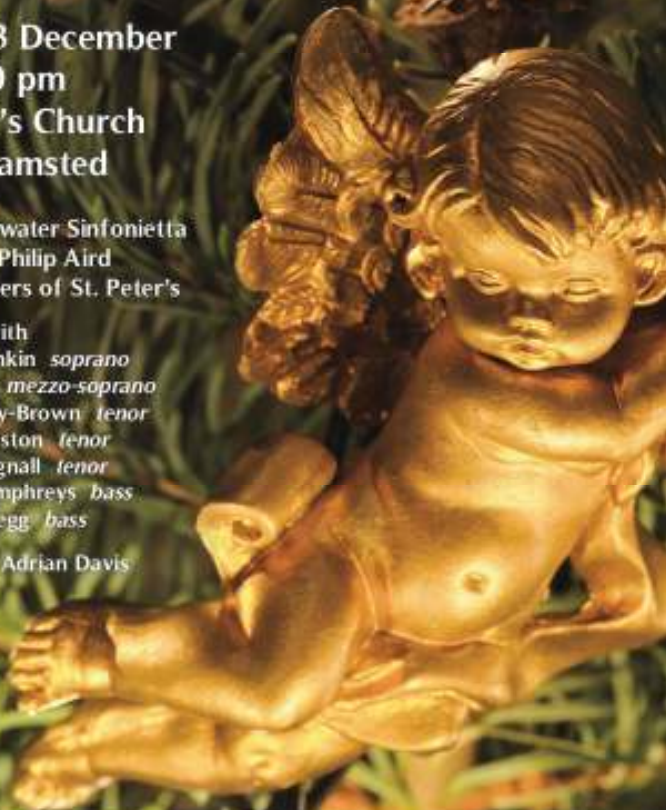
James Preston *tenor*

Harry Bagnall *tenor*

Thomas Humphreys *bass*

Piran Legg *bass*

Directed by Adrian Davis



**Tickets: £15, U18s free.** Available from choir members, Brown and Merry Estate Agents (next to St. Peter's) and online at [chilternchamberchoir.com](http://chilternchamberchoir.com)

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