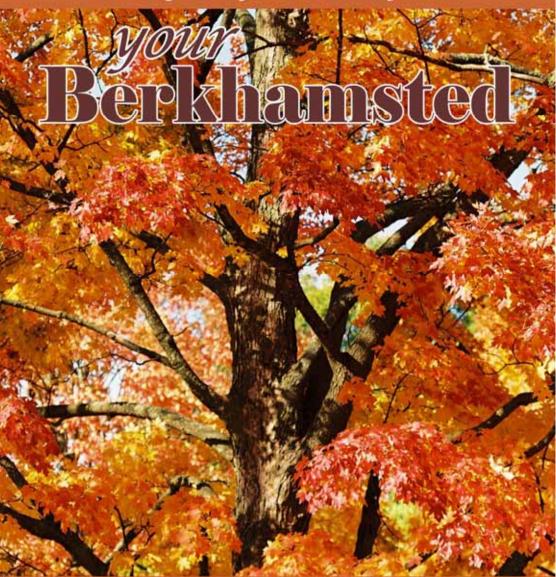
the magazine for town and parish



The Berkhamsted Revolution Local author nominated for book prize The history behind our street names Short story: Best Till Last

October 2011 50p

#### From the Editor October 2011



#### The Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted

#### Welcome to the October issue of *Your Berkhamsted*.

This month history and literature feature as two main themes in *Your Berkhamsted*. Dan Parry and Joanne Lloyd-Davies have both written fascinating articles which tell us more about the history of familiar local landmarks.

Local authors are busy this month. Rowan Coleman is one of eleven best-selling writers who have contributed to a charity audiobook in support of the Helena Kennedy Foundation - there's more about this on page 5 and the back cover of this issue. Sue Hampton's book *Traces* has been nominated for the People's Book Prize, while Bruce Nixon's *A Better World is Possible* will be published later this month. You can read about Sue and Bruce's books in this issue.

Also this month, the local Hospice shop gets a makeover, Jonathan Lee celebrates the restoration of the organ at St Peter's, Julian Dawson looks at Berkhamsted in the news, Crispin Baker brings us the penultimate entry in his monthly beekeeping diary, and Norman Cutting has some advice for school leavers contemplating a career.

We're also pleased to bring you fiction by a local writer in this issue - enjoy Louisa Hopper's short story *Best Till Last* on pages 14 and 15. *Your Berkhamsted* is also always keen to welcome those of you who would like to contribute in some way, so do get in touch.

#### Ian Skillicorn, Editor

#### Photo credits: Front cover: Fall Leaves by Mary R Vogt

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Due to some mysterious gremlins the wrong cover photo was used for last month's issue, resulting in a repeat of the photo from August's cover. Also, Canon Anthony Lathe was unfortunately credited as Cannon Anthony Lathe in his leader column. Apologies for these oversights - normal service has now been resumed!

#### Your Berkhamsted Leader by Fr Luke Geoghegan



As I write a stock broker from the Swiss banking giant UBS has racked up debts in unauthorised financial trading totalling

some 1.5 billion pounds. He joins a select group of individuals, who pushed their banks into major loss and even into bankruptcy.

Earlier this week the Independent Commission on Banking led by Sir John Vickers has recommended that banks put firewalls between their essential services (running current and savings accounts for individuals and companies) and their riskier 'casino' operations of which the £1.5 billion loss incurred by the one individual at UBS is just the latest example. The Government is currently thinking about its response. The banks think it would be too costly for the consumer and suggest that this recommendation might be implemented in 2019 (no, that's not a misprint).

This sudden concern for the consumer is touching. Remarkably, this concern seems to forget the huge costs that each of us as taxpayers incurred in propping the banks up: Northern Rock, RBS and others. Huge costs that we as taxpayers are still paying and will continue to pay for many years.

The UBS trader is the latest example of the fact that the banks have learnt nothing. These are people's livelihoods, their businesses, their pensions and they are being recklessly gambled. The secondary effects are also clear: cuts in the public sector, businesses unable to access capital for investment, foreclosure on homes and businesses. Inadequately regulated

financial trading is the weapon of mass destruction for our time. If people want their money used on the casino circuit of international finance that's fine – but please don't do it with my money or ask me to sweep up the pieces and pay the croupier afterwards.

What does Christian teaching say about this? Well, Christianity has, overall, been good at generating wealth. This can be seen both in the monasteries of the middle ages (Henry VIII closed them down to get his hands on the cash) and more recently 'the protestant work ethic' is attributed to being the foundation of modern capitalism. Actually, this wealth creation is not that surprising. With Christianity in comes hard work, an emphasis on the value of education and deferred gratification, out goes drinking, gambling (bankers please note) sexual promiscuity and other non-productive activities. There has always been a suspicion of making a fast buck through mere financial transaction (think of the condemnation of usury, or money lending, in the Middle Ages) and an emphasis on the value of manufacturing proper goods (think Ouakers and chocolate) and essential services (medicine, teaching).

John Wesley put it like this: Earn all you can, save all you can, give all you can. Our casino bankers remember the first but have forgotten the second and third.

Our MP, David Gauke, is Financial Secretary to the Treasury. You might agree with me or you not. Either way, why not write to him to let him know how important these things are. With any luck, and your persuasion, he might also think 2019 is too long to leave these things. yB





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#### Around the town

#### The latest news from around Berkhamsted

#### Recital presented by the Cowper Society in the Lady Chapel at St Peter's

Friday 7th October at 1pm. RECITAL: The Ridgeway Ensemble - Judith Sheridan voice, Val Ashworth-Pirillo piano, Margaret Richards 'cello. Free Entry: Retiring collection

#### Women Aloud!

Local best-selling author Rowan Coleman is among eleven writers who have donated stories to a charity audiobook called *Women Aloud*. All proceeds from the sale of the audiobook will go to the Helena Kennedy Foundation, an educational charity that supports students from disadvantaged backgrounds. You can find out more and order a copy from www.nationalshortstoryweek.org.uk or by using the contact information on the back page of this month's issue of *Your Berkhamsted*.

#### Opening recital and celebration of the newly restored organ of St Peter's Church

Monday 31st October at 8pm. Recital to be given by Timothy Byram-Wigfield (Director of Music, St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle). FREE admission, ALL welcome.

#### A Better World is Possible

Bruce Nixon's book, A Better World is Possible, will be published next month. Baroness Helena Kennedy QC says of the book: "This book will inspire, challenge you and make sense of how the system works. It's your handbook for a bottom up revolution. Read it and play your part." Bruce will be signing copies of the book in Waterstone's on Saturday 19th November followed by a charity event from 7pm to 8.30pm on Thursday 24th

November. Tickets are £1 and are available from Waterstones on the High Street. All proceeds will go to the charity Road Peace. The event is intended to be a lively discussion where everyone can get involved and have their say.

#### POETRY LIVE!

Come along to enjoy an evening of classic and modern poems, hosted by Leslie Tate and members of Berkhamsted's Poetry Reading Group on Saturday November 19th, 7.30, All Saints' Church, Shrublands Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HY. Tickets: £5.00. Profits from sale of tickets and books by Leslie Tate/Sue Hampton will go to Christian Aid. Contact: www.leslietate.com. Leslie Tate and Sue Hampton will also be signing their novels at Berkhamsted Waterstone's on 5th November.

#### **Bridgewater Sinfonia**

Saturday November 19th November at 7.30pm. St Peter's Church.
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Read about news of local author Sue Hampton on page 13

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#### Read all about us!

## **Julian Dawson** takes a look at varied and surprising references to our town on the internet

Part of my day to day work includes news monitoring of sources worldwide of a variety of types. I thought it would be rather intriguing to check out how Berkhamsted is reported by websites. But first I had to allow for what in the information profession we call the 'false drop'. This is where search engines pull back inaccurate results from the search terms. So, we have to allow for occurrences of that upstart in the east of the county. Little Berkhamsted. Famous for very little apart from the birthplace of Brian Johnston (Johnners), and for a ridiculous claim that it was their village rather than our town where William the Conqueror accepted the surrender of the Saxons in 1066. Pevsner tells us that their church is essentially 19th Century. Intriguingly there is also a Berkhamsted Drive in Washington, D.C. This pops up in the regional property pages from time to time. And in only the last few days The Spirit of Berkhamsted has also made an appearance in the Norfolk press. Apparently nothing to do with ghostly goings on. She is a lifeboat. For those in the know it's a D Class based at Happisburgh, and was involved in a callout ironically for a fellow rescue boat at the end of August. Those of you familiar with the RNLI may know of this vessel and what was presumably a local bit of fundraising. Do let us know more about it! Anyway, so much for false Berkhamsteds. So, what does a recent trawl (sorry about that) of news alerts reveal? Apart from sea adventures, what, to use the social media jargon, is trending?

We can expect Graham Greene to pop up on regular basis. No surprises there. But the archives of the British Film Institute (BFI) also crop up on a regular basis, and specifically more recently Alfred Hitchcock. Nine out of ten of the films that he made in the 1920s are being restored by the BFI as part of the Rescue the Hitchcock 9 project. The BFI repository is the largest film archive in Europe, and not a lot of people know that.

And unsurprisingly various sports teams make regular appearances. Particularly Berkhamsted FC, who are having great success since their foundation. Again that could make another future article. By association, Ashridge is often mentioned in the wider press since it is often used in films. Its convenience for London makes is highly suitable for productions, and it brings a nice income for the National Trust, or as an acquaintance once called it, the National Truss. And intriguingly the woodland is included in the UK Harry Potter tour. The tour includes all the locations used for Harry Potter, 20 in all apparently. It includes the Bodleian Library, Christ Church, and New College in Oxford; Borough and Leadenhall Markets in London; and Lacock Abbey. Turns out it is all about attracting custom to nearby hotels. I guess they need all the help they can get in the current climate. So, just the merest glance at the daily news coverage of Berkhamsted can lead to a meander around the varied byways and highways of local knowledge. I'll do my best to bring you any worthwhile snippets in future issues. *y*B

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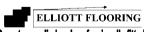
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#### New look for Hospice shop on High Street

Late August saw a new look unveiled for Berkhamsted's Hospice of St Francis charity shop.

"Love to Give" located on the High Street, stocks stylish and affordable clothing and accessories as well as an array of homeware treasures.

The new look shop is targeted at customers who are seeking good quality, fashionable clothes and home accessories at value for money prices and will offer an intimate shopping experience in a stylish environment, staffed by volunteers with excellent customer service skills and product knowledge.

"Love to Give" is a brand new concept being launched by the Hospice of St Francis. It is the first shop of its kind in the area and a first for the hospice which has 6 other traditional charity shops in Berkhamsted and surrounding towns.

Retail Director Jackie Robinson said: "We are thrilled to be rebranding our Berkhamsted shop. Love to Give is a brand new concept tapping into the current trend of shoppers being fed up with throw away fashion. Today's consumer wants something that has longevity of style and she can feel good about wearing. As the retail landscape is becoming ever more competitive we are aiming to stay ahead of the game with this brand new charity shop concept. We look



Inside the new Hospice shop

forward to welcoming everyone to the shop."

"The age of the impulse purchase is over. Women are more canny about spending money these days. We are no longer brand addicts - one third have swapped costly fashion labels for budget clothes - one quarter seek out vintage finds in charity shops." Good Housekeeping Survey June 2011

The Hospice of St Francis cares for those who have a life limiting condition, in its purpose built building in Berkhamsted, at home and in its Day Care Therapy Unit. It also supports families. All the services it provides are free of charge but in order to be able to provide this care to the local community, the hospice must raise around £3.6million every year.

The Hospice provides specialist expertise to anyone who needs it but it costs £100k to fund just one bed for a year. Currently only 12 of its 14 beds are open. *y*B

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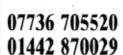
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#### The Berkhamsted Revolution

#### Dan Parry takes us back to a time of revolution in Berkhamsted

In the small hours of a March night in 1866, a secret train chartered by the Governor of the Scilly Isles pulled into Tring station. From it jumped a mob of London labourers, and armed with heavy tools they marched off into the night in the direction of Berkhamsted. They had been given uncompromising instructions to forcefully take the law into their own hands in a violent action that was later to resonate in towns and villages up and down the country. In later months the nation's most senior judges stepped in, and what became known as the Battle of Berkhamsted Common set precedents in law some of which still remain in force to this day.

Today if you go for a stroll towards Kitchener's Field, (beside the cricket pitch and the scene of the annual fireworks display), you'll see up on the hillside in front of you Berkhamsted Common. A footpath will take you up there, and once on the Common you can turn left and freely amble among the gorse and bracken all the way to Ashridge. However, without the action of the London toughs you would have been stopped by high iron railings. Built among the beeches virtually overnight by the ill-advised Lord Brownlow, the fence would have forced you to abandon your walk and miss the chance to cut furze for your oven while your pigs freely snuffled about for food, as according to your ancient rights. For hundreds of years, such rights were essential to impoverished local people who depended on the resources of common land to supplement meagre incomes. When local landowners

shamelessly grabbed great chunks of land during the nineteenth century, Brownlow and his family couldn't resist the opportunity to extend their estate and wealth.

John William Spencer Brownlow Egerton-Cust, 2nd Earl Brownlow, was born in 1842. He suffered from poor health and was frequently packed off to Madeira and elsewhere by his influential mother, Lady Marian Alford, When Lady Marian, an astute player of local politics, first visited Ashridge she believed that "the unenclosed Commons had become the resort of the unfortunate and least respectable members of the community". Recalling a journey to a ball in Berkhamsted, she wrote that "we were guarded by outriders with loaded pistols, for fear of our being attacked and robbed as we passed over the Common". When her son was 18, Lady Marian wrote that he had decided to buy Common land and associated farms from the Duchy of Cornwall, in order to "preserve the beauty of the neighbourhood". Soon after the sale went ahead in 1863, great trenches were dug across several tracks running through the woods to stop local people bringing carts onto the Common. Brownlow subsequently sent an open letter to the people of Berkhamsted confirming his interest in enclosing the entire Common, later conceding he would have to get official consent from the Enclosure Commissioners. Yet without waiting for a decision Brownlow's agent was already buying up small parcels of Common land while simultaneously

### continued from previous page

seeking written approval for the plan from the town's residents.

Some wouldn't sign, notably Augustus Smith, who owned Ashlyns Hall and who for thirty years had been the Lord Proprietor of the Scilly Isles. A forceful administrator, Smith was a tough character who had no financial need to pursue grazing rights on the

Common but was not going to be bullied by Brownlow. The Earl tried to buy him off, but in an exchange of letters the youthful and inexperienced Brownlow admitted to Smith that he would let the Commissioners decide. Lady Marian had other ideas, saying that: "After much deliberation, we resolved to lose no time but at once to enclose a part of the Common". In February 1866, three miles of iron fences, five feet high and with seven horizontal rails, were put up along Ringshall Road and through the trees above what is now Well Farm, between them enclosing 400 acres.

It was too much for Smith. Supported by the Commons Preservation Society, he hired more than 120 labourers from Southwark, gave them "stout tools and implements" and put them on a train to Berkhamsted. Arriving in Tring at 1.30am on March 7th, 1866, the mob was in danger of rampaging out of control until a lawyer's clerk, sent to watch over things, managed to persuade the men to march



Berkhamsted Common

the two miles to the Common, where they smashed the joints of the railings with hammers and chisels and pulled down the fences with crowbars. By 7am, word reached Brownlow's agent William Paxton, but by then it was too late. Local people flocked to the Common to "test the reality of what they saw" – marching across the land and walking off with armfuls of gorse.

Brownlow began legal proceedings against Smith but died in 1867 before the case was resolved. A counter-action by Smith was finally settled by the Master of the Rolls who upheld the residents' rights of freedom on common land, a law that stands today. Which is why next time you're wondering what to do with your pigs on a Sunday afternoon, you should feel free to take them for a stroll up to the Common. (For this article I am indebted to George Whybrow, author of The History of Berkhamsted Common).

yВ

#### All Saints' author nominated for book prize

#### You can vote for **Sue Hampton** to win the People's Book Prize

Sue Hampton, children's author, helps with Pathfinders at All Saints' Church along with her partner, Leslie Tate, poet and adult novelist. They are both exteachers and Sue's twelve novels are for 6 – 16 and beyond, drawing on her faith, her experience of young people and love of words. Three of these books have been praised by Michael Morpurgo, whose powerful storytelling inspired her, and now TRACES, her favourite, has been nominated for The People's Book Prize.

This novel, which is her most poetic, is aimed at readers of 11 upwards, including adults, and pays tribute to her father, who was a poet, an idealist and a conscientious objector. TRACES is set at a donkey sanctuary (researched at Potten End) and while it's a young love story, its themes are the power of the past, damage, healing and forgiveness. Anyone wishing to find out more about this book and the prize can look at www.peoplesbookprize.com children's section (where anyone can vote before Nov 30th) and look at comments on the novel by young and adult readers.

Those interested in learning more about Sue and her other work, which includes humour, mystery, fantasy and historical novels, can do so at www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk . In a speech made in Lincoln Cathedral last year, which can be downloaded on her website, Sue spoke about her belief in today's young readers, who are sometimes sold short – by the latest froth or media spin-off, by language that dumbs down, and by a mistaken assumption that girls are airheads and boys lack emotional intelligence. Like Michael Morpurgo, Sue

challenges young readers to think and feel, and trusts their sensitivity and depth. And when she visits schools she uses her alopecia to illustrate the importance of individuality and celebrating differences.

### Extract from TRACES (more can be read on the prize website):

Perhaps they were always there, the ghosts. Poppy had no way of knowing. Memories, leftovers, fragments. But very few facts, and until her fourteenth summer, not much imagination either. For a long time, like all young children whose lives seemed quite normal, Poppy made a lot of assumptions. The sun would rise next morning. The water in her shower would be too hot or too cold. And everything in her world, regardless of terrible things that went on outside it, would be more or less all right. Because she assumed that world of hers had always been all right, even before she was born into it.

She was ignoring the questions because she'd forgotten she couldn't answer them, in the same way that she forgot to ask why the grass was green and water had no colour at all. But then when she was eight, a question mark that had been hanging invisibly blackened up on paper. Her new topic at school was the Victorians, and her homework was to find out about her family tree. The teacher hoped that someone would be able to trace back as far as the nineteenth century. And that was when the first clue appeared from nowhere. But it was not so much a clue as a fuzzy sort of space where the truth should have been. **B** 

#### Best Till Last by Louisa Hopper

**J**oe sighed. It had not been a good day. On arriving two minutes late at school, he'd managed to trip over a pair of plimsolls that someone careless had left lying on the cloakroom floor. Then, while nursing a bleeding knee, he'd had to suffer the embarrassment of learning that the plimsolls did, in fact, belong to him.

Of course it had to be Adam that noticed the name in the shoes, and it had to be Adam that was made one of the team captains in games. Joe hated games lessons when kids were appointed team captains and allowed to pick their own players for football. Today, he had waited with increasing panic as the captains chose everyone in the school football team, the popular kids, fast runners and even three girls. Finally, Adam had surveyed the remaining few and grudgingly pointed at Joe. Exactly seven minutes later, Joe scored an own goal.

No, the day had not been a triumph, thought Joe as he trudged home. Not even a surprise visit from his grandparents could lift his mood. And when Joe's mum announced, 'It's your favourite tonight, Joe, sausage, mash and gravy,' he found it impossible to manage even the tiniest of smiles.

The adults wisely left him alone with the TV until the meal was ready. But half-way through dinner, Granddad just had to ask the dreaded, 'How's school, Joseph? Still playing football?'

Fighting tears, the whole 'being chosen last' tale came out.

'Best thing that ever happened to me, being chosen last,' said Granddad, winking. 'During World War II, cities were considered dangerous places for children...'

'We're doing evacuees at school,' interrupted Joe. 'City kids were sent to the country so they wouldn't get bombed by the Germans. The country people chose which kid they wanted. Bet I'd have been last then, too.'

'Maybe you would, maybe you wouldn't,' Granddad replied with another wink, this time directed at Grandma.

'Ahh,' said Mum with a knowing smile. Setting down her knife and fork, she leaned back in her chair and began to listen. She motioned for Joe to do the same.

'Anyway,' continued Granddad. 'Being chosen last. Well, there we were, labelled and lined up on the station platform, clutching gas masks and small cases. Some of the children had already been assigned families before we arrived, and these were collected first. My best friend David was amongst them. He had distant relations in the village with whom he could stay. He'd pleaded with them to take me too, but they didn't really have space for David and were only taking him as special favour to his mother.

More people arrived from the village; some on foot, a few in cars. They questioned and prodded us, making their selections. Gradually the line of children grew shorter. Clean, quiet and pretty girls proved popular. And strong lads – they'd most likely be used on farms; with the men away at war the farmer's wives needed all the help they could get. Nobody seemed to want me.'

Joe gave a knowing nod. 'Just like me,' he muttered to no-one in particular.

'Suddenly, a shiny black Rolls Royce pulled up. A liveried chauffeur opened the rear door, and an old man with a walking stick emerged. A hush descended and the large lady with the clipboard hurried over to greet him. I couldn't hear what they were saying, but every so often she would consult her list, point at different children and either nod or shake her head. Finally, with a dismissive wave of his hand, the man ended their conversation and made straight for me!

"Need someone to amuse my granddaughter," he announced, and asked if I could read

"Yes, sir," I mumbled, staring down at my scuffed brown leather shoes. "I love reading."

"Splendid!" the man replied, and before I knew it, the chauffeur was loading my tatty case into the Rolls.'

'And he's been amusing me ever since!' Grandma laughed.

Joe gasped. 'That's how you met?'

'Yes, that's how we met,' Grandma replied. She went over to Granddad and

hugged him. 'Lucky me! They saved the best till last.'

Joe examined his plate, where only the sausages remained. His favourite. Best till last. Joe smiled.

#### About the author

Louisa Hopper moved to Berkhamsted 13 years ago and lives with her husband and three children. A Business and Systems Analyst by profession, Louisa took a long career break while her children were young, and has recently returned to work in a part-time admin role at a Berkhamsted school. Louisa loves to read with her children and create new stories for them to enjoy. Inspiration for this story came when her sons were learning about evacuees at school and her father-in-law shared his experiences as an evacuee.

уВ

#### Features

We are always interested in discussing ideas for features about Berkhamsted life. These could be about the town's history, interesting modern day developments or local people of note (past or present).

#### Fiction

Are you a budding writer of fiction or poetry? We want to showcase local writing and are looking for poems of up to 200 words and short stories between 500 and 1000 words.

Please email the editor for more details at editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk.

#### Children's Society: Loose Change

Loose change is such a nuisance. It wears holes in your pocket or fills your purse. It takes time to sort through in a shop and involves difficult arithmetic. If you drop some change on the floor you can't possibly stoop to pick it up because people will think you need it. Paying with a £10 note just leaves you with even more loose change. It's so much easier to pay by credit card.

This research by Barclaycard shows the new attitudes of our affluent society. So much for "Look after the pennies and the pounds will look after themselves". But

The Children's Society has a solution to all this loose-change littering and land-fill and will turn your pennies

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often, usually or
always throw their
loose change
away"

into pounds for you. Take one of our collecting boxes, throw your loose change in it every day and, when it's full, text or email for it to be emptied. What could be easier or more convenient?

The Children's Society helps children who run away from home, are in trouble with the law or who are disabled or acting as young carers. Look at the website, <a href="https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk">www.childrenssociety.org.uk</a>

The Berkhamsted Children's Society Committee was recently given a small bucket of loose change. It had stood in a hallway and whenever the owner came home he threw his unwanted loose change in it. It contained £128 which could be used to provide twelve homeless children on the street with basic provisions including warm clothing and toiletries or six victims of sexual abuse with counselling sessions.

If you want somewhere useful to throw your loose change, text or email to request a box now.

Text on 07814 415800 or email: kathleenlally21@gmail.com *y*B

#### website

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

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#### Mothers' Union UK work

#### By Margaret Burbidge

The Mothers' Union not only cares for families overseas; it provides support here too. One way is through Child Contact Centres. These are neutral places where children of separated parents can spend time with their non-resident parent or sometimes with other family members. In what can be stressful circumstances, children are helped to maintain their relationship with the parent they do not live with. Also parents may find that relationships between them have become difficult, and trust and respect can be rebuilt.

There are around 350 Contact Centres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and 9 of them are in Hertfordshire. They are run by independent organisations, including The Mothers' Union, and staffed by volunteers, some being MU members.

In St Albans diocese MU has involvement with 3 centres. It set up one in Cheshunt in the mid 1990s and although it does not run it, MU members volunteer there. Tring Contact Centre, is run by Churches Together, but was set up by MU 10 years ago, and a large proportion of its



volunteers are MU members. Three years ago the MU branch at St Albans Abbey set up and still runs a centre in the city. The centres are open once or twice a month for 2 hours and there is a constant need for places. At St Albans, their first client was a 3 year old boy. As he saw his father for the first time in months, and rushed into his arms, the volunteers realised just how valuable the service is that they provide.

Mothers' Union continues to work in practical ways to ensure as stable a home life as possible for families. This is surely what Christian care is all about.

**у**В

For more details of Child Contact Centres visit the National Association website:

www.nacc.org.uk

#### PATHFINDERS AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB NEEDS YOU

Pathfinders After-School Club is run by Rev'd Penny Nash in the Court House on a Tuesday, during term-time. They have around about 10 middle-school children attending, and very much need other adult volunteers to help. The club cannot continue without more adult helpers.

Whether you can help every Tuesday, or just commit to helping now and then, please contact Penny on 01442 865217

Regular C	hurch A	Activities
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3rd Mon	Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534
Tue	Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10-11:30am. All Saints Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981
Tue	St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15-6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 875674 or Jean Wild 866859
1st Tue	Tuesday Club, 7:45pm A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Barbara McKenna 871159
3rd Tue	Mothers' Union, meet in members' houses at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Lally, 863526
4th Tue	Mothers' Union Prayer Group, 2:30pm. 17 Shaftesbury Court. Tell us if anyone needs your prayers. Contact Jenny Wells 870981
Wed	Julian Meeting, meets about twice a month. 11:30am. All welcome. At Jenny Wells, 57 Meadow Rd, 870981 or at Ruth Treves Brown, 1 Montague Rd, 863268
Thu	Home Group, 8pm on 2nd and 4th Thurs.
Thu	Bellringing, 8pm, St Peters. Contact Helen Ruberry, 890949
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 875674 or Jean Wild 866859
3rd Sat	ABC Prayer Breakfast, 8am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.

8:00am Eucharist 2nd 10:00am Harvest Festival—All 9:30am Sung Eucharist & Sunday School 9th 8:00am Holy Communion 6:00pm Evensong 10:00am Morning Worship Look at St Peter's website for Choral Evensong 16th 10:00am Holy Communion 4:00pm Memorial Service for the Bereaved 23rd 10:00am Morning Worship 30th 10:00am Holy Communion 4:00pm Memorial Service for the Bereaved 10:00am Holy Communion 4:00pm Morning Worship 10:00am Holy Communion	St Peter's	All Saints—October		
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23rd 10:00am Morning Worship 30th 10:00am Holy Communion	Look at St Peter's website for Choral		4:00pm Memorial Service for	
First Sunday in month Family Service at 30th 10:00am Holy Communion	Evensong		the Bereaved	
First Sunday in month Family Service at		23rd	10:00am Morning Worship	
		30th	10:00am Holy Communion	

# October Parish DiarySun 2nd9:30amHarvest Festival and presentation to Petertide charities (St<br/>Peter's)Fri 7th1:00pmCowper Society presents Lunchtime Recital: RidgewayTue 18th7:30pmPCC Meeting in Court HouseMon 31st8.00pmOpening Recital and Celebration of the newly restored organ of<br/>St Peter's

#### Parish Diary information can be found at www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

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6th August Bryan Peter Chatt and Gemma Louise Henry (St Peter's)

#### **Baptisms**

# Registers

17 July Daniel Lerpiniere (All Saints)

21 August Oscar Elliot Rees-Matthews; Matthew James Exell; Primrose

Cecilia Palmer; Benedict William John Hanbridge; Esme Charlotte

Eliza Hanbridge (St Peter's)

28th August Emma Frances Ann Harris; Elizabeth Charlotte Barham; Jasmine

Beatrice Dunnet (St Peter's)

#### **Key Church Contacts**

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong and Kate Perera, Court House, 878227. Fr Michael Bowie, 864194 (day off Fri). Team Rector, St Peter's.

The Revd Rachael Hawkins, All Saints.

#### Further information available from our church websites:

http://stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk and at http://allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk

#### Pipe dreams: success and thanks!

**Jonathan Lee** celebrates and gives thanks for the restoration of the organ at St Peter's

It was over four years ago that a small group of people met with a purpose: restoring the increasingly unreliable organ in St Peters Church. This fine church in the centre of Berkhamsted with St Peter the rock – as its patron, is home to such a vibrant spiritual and musical life, and bears witness to the waypoints and bookends of so many Berkhamsted residents. In 2007, it was clear that urgent attention was required on the organ – the Berkhamsted Organ – and the 'be an organ donor' appeal was launched to a great, but sadly non-organic, fanfare; the appeal was to raise the £40,000 that would allow restoration and rebuilding of the Peter Collins organ, so that once again it might support events, bring liturgical drama, and give pleasure to the community and town it serves. To all of Berkhamsted and its friends, a thank you for the very generous support: within seven months the money was raised through donations and grants, and the

organ was dismantled in the summer of 2008.

Observant readers will have noticed the discrepancy in years between the work beginning and the project ending: it was only due to take months. Initially the delay was due to the organ builder, Vincent Woodstock, being taken ill for the best part of fourteen months, but once work resumed in earnest we discovered a whole set of new issues to fix. One of the instrument's major strengths is that, for its size, it is remarkably compact; this also meant that the new problems had been invisible in the planning and initial rebuilding, and were only discovered when parts of the instrument were removed in 2009. So, in addition to the original schedule of work, the project required new sets of keyboards (which were built by Laukhuff in Germany) to replace the original keyboards that had an unrectifiable pivot problem, a complete refurbishment of a very old and worn out

> set of bellows in the breakdown reservoir, major work on the windchests, substantial extra work on the pedal organ wind system that had all but collapsed, and replacement of a transformer unit that was emitting something of a variable voltage.

By June 2010, the Great Organ was working once again, and gradually through the autumn, the Swell Organ was returned



to use. Sadly, the wind system in the Pedal Organ needed too much work for it to be just added into Vincent's schedule. and a new contract was needed to get the pedals working. The original contract (£40,000) was completed, signed off and paid by the middle of December 2010, and the contract to rebuild the pedal wind system was then completed by Easter 2011. Since that point, a gradual process of fine adjustment and tuning has been undertaken, and as I write, the restored instrument is all but complete it has been a joy to hear the pipes sounding again. The work has uncovered some very beautiful flute tones as well as a full organ tone with much more body than previously – this means a substantially more effective hymn accompaniment with the joyfully full church at major festivals. In addition, the

stability of wind, alongside the new keyboards and mechanical system, seems to have corrected the old tuning difficulties between the divisions, and has made for a much more musical playing experience.

This successful, if delayed, rebuild comes at a cost. All in all, the overspend due to essential new parts of the schedule (such as reconstruction of the Pedal Organ, and the acquisition of new keyboards) has meant that the fund is still short of £7.890. My purpose in writing, however, is not about fundraising – the appeal was met by your generosity and the generosity of trusts and funds – this is an update and a grateful thanks. Our shortfall is mercifully little and should be covered by income



from future events and recitals.

All that remains is to reiterate a great 'THANK YOU' to everyone who has contributed so generously to the project. This rebuilt organ was made possible by the generosity of the community of St Peter's, the people of Berkhamsted and our friends, and is offered by them to the glory of God and for the joy and inspiration of all who come to hear and see it. Please come and join us for a free celebration on 31st October, listen to the music provided by one of England's finest recitalists, and share in wine and joy, and the community that this instrument serves. If you are unable to make it, do come to one or more of the recitals that will be advertised shortly. yB

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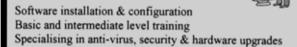
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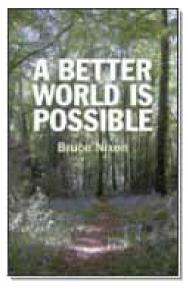
#### A Better World Is Possible

#### Bruce Nixon tells us why he wrote his new book, published this month

We are in a situation we have never been in before – an environmental crisis that threatens our very existence. Essentially, it results from our failure to live in harmony with the earth on which all life depends and each other. With another global economic crisis now unfolding, it is frightening.

It is a time of breakdown but the good news is that breakdowns lead to breakthroughs. We have survived thorough history by learning and adapting. Human beings are enormously creative. We are capable of rapid transformation, as World War 2 showed.

We know what needs to be done. We need total system change. A vision of a better way of life will inspire and bring hope to everyone. We need a Great Transition (as proposed by the New Economics Foundation). We need to find a new Prosperity - without growth (as explored by Tim Jackson in his book of that title). Such a transition offers massive work opportunities, a better balance of work and leisure and better health for all. It can be achieved through fairer. sustainable taxation; tackling corporate tax evasion; principled foreign policies; investment in conflict resolution to save lives and release the vast sums spent on war; providing funds for green investment; and shifting subsidies from industries that accelerate climate change and harm lives to those that are sustainable. Comprehensive monetary reform is needed giving reserve banks the sole right to issue money. A citizen's



income, partly funded by land value taxation, can reduce the humiliation and cost of administering complex benefits.

The means are available. Sun, wind and wave can meet our power needs without harming people or planet. We can feed ourselves if we waste less and work with nature. All over the world, these things are being done and there are good models for better businesses and government at every level from local to global.

We need to believe that fundamental change is possible. We need to put the wellbeing of all, all forms of life, before individual affluence. It will mean a change of lifestyles, giving up some things, choosing instead what truly matters. Apart from saving our lives and those of future generations, this will lead to far greater happiness.

(continued on page 25)



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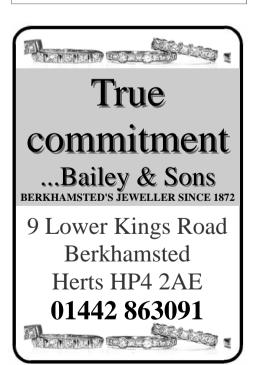
#### Local groups

Bringing news from local groups to our readers is an important function of Your Berkhamsted. If you belong to a local group please let us know about your latest news and events. Please consider sending us an article about what your group does. Articles should be 500 to 900 words in length.

#### Arts and culture

Would you like to write a review of an arts event taking place in or nearby to Berkhamsted? Let us know!

Please email the editor for more details at editor@vourberkhamsted.org.uk.



#### (continued from page 23)

The big question is: will we act in time? Some estimates are that we may have only five years before climate change becomes out of control and irreversible.

Individual actions can bring about much of the change but government action is needed to enable it. Governments need to learn from the past and regulate to control excessive power and financial markets. Part of the trouble is that political and corporate leaders appear wedded to ideologies that have not worked and they don't see that whole system change is needed. Continuous growth defies common sense when we're already consuming 30% more than the earth can provide and population is set to rise from 6.7bn to 9bn by the end of the century.

All of us need to accept personal responsibility. People power is needed. The brave people in North Africa and the Middle East are showing us the way. We need to inform ourselves, lead, collaborate, lobby, educate politicians and demand they do what's needed.

So that is why I have written A Better World is Possible. It is a handbook for Everyman, people who want to get engaged and not be bystanders. My approach is to give hope and encourage people to empower themselves. I say we need whole system change. The first step is to make sense of the system. The first part of the book sets out to do just that. The second part sets out a practical vision of a better world; describes the best proposals and the many existing models that are transforming the situation for the

better. I suggest the actions people can take in their own lives, how they can influence their communities and workplaces, equally important, what they can do as activists to influence politicians and demand that governments do what is needed. I list key campaigns to support.

A Better World is Possible – what needs to be done and how we can make it happen is your handbook. Available as a free PDF http://www.brucenixon.com/betterworld.html Paperback and E-Book will be published by O-Books on 28th October ISBN 978-1-84694-514-4. Bruce is a veteran change agent, writer and speaker. JB

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#### What's in a name?

**Joanne Lloyd-Evans** looks at the history behind some of our town's street names

In a town with a history as long as Berkhamsted's, street names can reveal interesting facts about our history and provide reminders of prominent local people who may otherwise have been forgotten. There are some very quirky and interesting derivations for local street names so why not see if your street is here

Bridgewater Road: The earldom of Bridgewater was first created in 1538 for Henry Daubeny in the reign of King Henry VIII. Daubeny had no children, and upon his death, the earldom of Bridgewater became extinct. It was created again in 1617 for John Egerton, who was Lord Chancellor for Queen Elizabeth I and who became the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Bridgewater of its second creation. He bought the Ashridge estate, and it remained part of the Bridgewater estate until after World War I.

**Brownlow Road:** The Brownlows inherited the earldom of Bridgewater after the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl died childless. In 1866, Lord Brownlow (who lived in Ashridge House) attempted to enclose Berkhamsted Common with 5 feet high steel fences and claim it as part of his estate. As compensation for this, he offered the

provision of a large recreation ground in town, and many in the town were happy with this. However, some were not, and Augustus Smith, an MP who lived in Ashlyns Hall, recruited an army of 120 men from London's East End to remove the fences under cover of night. The men were brought to Berkhamsted by a specially chartered train from Euston and uprooted the railings between about 2am and 6am on a moonlit March night. They managed to get away before being detected by Brownlow's men.

**Castle Street:** before the railway line and the canal were built, Castle Street led directly to the principal gate to the Castle.

Coram Close: named after Thomas Coram, who was a philanthropic sea captain who established a Foundling Hospital (or orphanage) in London in 1741. In the 1920s, it was decided that the Hospital should be relocated to the countryside – perhaps for the healthier country air, perhaps to realise the value of the London site, which was sold to developers in 1926 for £2m. After being housed temporarily in Surrey, the children were moved into the new purpose built Hospital in Berkhamsted in 1935. This building is now Ashlyns School.

(continues on page 28)



#### continued from previous page

Cowper Road: named after the poet, William Cowper, who was born in the old Rectory in 1731 and whose father was rector of St Peter's. Cowper wrote many popular poems and hymns and provided the English language with some idioms that are still well-used today, including "God moves in a mysterious way" and "Variety's the very spice of life".

Cross Oak Road: Some say the name comes from a local called Robert de Cruce who lived in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Others say it derives its name from an oak tree that was supposed to have curative powers. There was an ancient oak tree at the top of the road and sufferers of baldness were advised to bore a hole in its trunk, then peg a lock of hair into the hole, and spring away quickly, leaving the hair behind

Curtis Way: Named after Captain Constable Curtis, who lived in The Hall, which was a large house located around the area where Hall Park is now. There is an inscription in St Peter's church dedicated by Constable Curtis to his predecessor, Thomas Curtis, who died in 1884.

**Doctors Common Road:** an interesting sounding street name, but fairly simply, it is a reminder of Doctors Common, which extended from Cross Oak Road to Doctors Common Road.

**Next month:** in part two of this feature Joanne looks at names from Egerton Road to Shootersway. *y*B



#### The local beekeeper

#### Crispin Baker continues his monthly beekeeping diary

October, and at the start of this month we carry out our final colony inspection with two things to look for: have the bees got enough food for the winter and have they got a laying queen. No queen and the colony is effectively dead as come next spring, the winter bees will soon die out leaving an empty hive with no replacements.

I was once asked what was the difference between winter bees and summer bees, and it's a good question, so here goes with some bee biology. As with all insects there are 4 stages of development; egg, larva, pupa and imago or in our

case a bee. Egg to worker bee takes 21 days (egg to gueen bee takes 16 days) and once hatched the bee spends about 3 weeks inside on hive duties (refer to the May article) before graduating to a life of gathering nectar and pollen etc. Now here's the difference: summer bees live about 6 weeks, engaged in a frantic scramble to gather winter stores after which they die, they've burnt themselves out working first as a busy house bee, then frenetic forager, but it doesn't matter as a healthy colony during the summer has lots of replacements. Winter bees however, can live up to about 6 months, they don't have the same work load as summer bees, and are not being replaced

as there is little to no breeding during the winter.

Their task during winter is to keep the queen and a small patch of brood warm at 35°C by consuming stores and doing light house work – sounds idyllic! This illustrates how important it is to start the winter with healthy bees as they have to

live a long time, and any underlying disease problem has time to manifest itself into something that could threaten the colonies very existence, resulting in what we call "winter losses".



Finally, before the onset of winter we protect the entrance of the hives against a little furry intruder looking for somewhere warm with a ready supply of yummy food to while away the winter months. Mice! They can squeeze inside a hive over winter and cause havoc with the wax frames with apparent impunity from the bees. So we fit a mouse guard over the entrance to keep the little blighters out!

That's all folks, next time we'll hear about bee health and diseases. Bee Happy!

Bee friendly plants for this time of year: Ivy, Michaelmas daisies, knapweeds. *y*B

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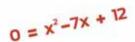
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#### The last word by Norman Cutting

Now the exam results are in, many young people are considering what to do next.

One area that could be considered is politics, as you cannot be worse than the current elected representatives are with a handful of exceptions. Everyone 'does' politics, but does the 'system' actually provide the governance we expect? It really isn't rocket science to organise a town, a borough, a county or even a country. The process is the same. The difference is just in the scale of things. Strangely, if you think about it, all politicians want the same end result, it's just the methodology that will change depending on the political grouping you are considering.

To get into politics, it helps to have an interest in trying to change things around you as few politicians will admit that everything is 'just right', even if they made the decisions for the past quarter century. You either need to know someone or have the ability to agree without question and before you know it, you will be selected to stand as a candidate. Speak nicely and you will get a safe seat, although it might be better to be allocated one that you need to fight for if you want to make career in politics.

The ability to believe in everything you

say and to say it with conviction will ensure your rise through the ranks will be rapid - whether it's true or not does not matter as truth and honesty are not considered high on the list.

Becoming an 'advisor' is more difficult but much more rewarding. You can influence policy and really make a difference without anyone actually knowing what is going on, but stand back and say 'I did that' as it does not matter if it was the right thing to do, you achieved something without the hassle of getting elected or indeed anyone realising just how much good (evil) you have inflicted.

I hope this short article will give you all something to think about and over the next 4 years come to realise that the saying 'I can do better than that' is true and get involved.

So, if you want a career for the long term, then politics has to be high on your list - and get in early due to the long term nature of the job, which also has a short term view on things. *y*B

The last word is available for readers to send in approx. 500 words on a topic of their choice, and one that may stimulate debate in further issues. All opinions are

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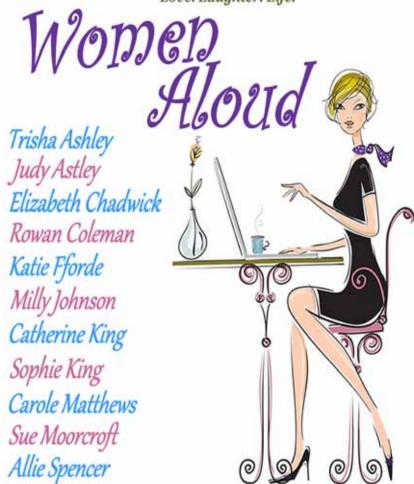
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Editor's note: We know that the lead up to Christmas is a very busy time and this can mean that contributions towards content to the magazine can be thin on the ground in December for January's issue! If you have an article that would fit in the January 2012 issue please feel free to send it to us now.

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