

**140th** anniversary issue of your town and parish magazine

*your*

1872 - 2012

# Berkhamsted



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July 2012

50p

## *From the Editor* July 2012



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

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

The weather may still not be what we'd like for summer but in true British spirit it doesn't stop us celebrating. The jubilee weekend may have had us all reaching for the umbrellas but the cloud did break at times for the High Street party and it was a beautiful evening for the celebrations later at Ashlyns School and the many street parties around town. At Ashlyns it was encouraging to see so many people come together from the community, picnic blankets in tow, just relaxing, chatting and enjoying being part of such a lovely town. On the subject of celebrations, the Berkhamsted Games 2012 take place this month on 5<sup>th</sup> July, not forgetting of course the 2012 Olympics, and our own magazine is 140 years old! So, more reasons to keep that union jack bunting flying and carry on regardless of the great British weather.

To celebrate our anniversary we have two articles by Dan Parry: one looking back at Berkhamsted in 1872 and another where he chats to a long-term Berkhamsted resident Joan Pheby, born in 1924, about her memories of the town. We have news from the Hospice of St Francis, Bruce Nixon takes us around his beautiful summer garden and there is a lovely summer recipe using seasonal fruits.

Finally, I hope you enjoy guessing the whereabouts of the local landmarks on the

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front cover. There's a competition on page 31 for the person who guesses the most correct answers and the winner will receive a set lunch for two people at Berkhamsted's newest restaurant Bluebella Roo's. So, have a go and see how well you know your town!

**Helen Dowley, Editor**

# *Your Berkhamsted Leader* by Richard Hackworth



Depending upon your interest in sporting matters you are likely to either be experiencing Olympic overload or enjoying a surfeit of all

things Olympian. I fear I am in the former camp, although I shall be going to some events. The only competitive sport I have played these last few years is croquet and that is not on the Olympic agenda. But, it was once. I missed my opportunity for sporting glory by 112 years because croquet was last contested at the 1900 Paris Olympics. The French excelled (it's a French word after all). The Games were organised to run for over five months from 20<sup>th</sup> May until 28<sup>th</sup> October and, unsurprisingly, relatively few spectators came. There was only one paying spectator for the croquet. Olympic participation was admirably open however, compared with the tightly controlled sporting regime today. The Dutch crew in the 1900 coxed pairs were missing a cox for the final, and enlisted the services of a by-standing French lad at the last moment. They won the gold. The boy was at most 10 years old and he disappeared without trace immediately the race was over. He is the youngest Olympic Gold medal winner ever, and we have no idea who he was. A French cyclist, M. Vasserot, joined in a cycle race. When he was tracked down in 1965 he admitted he had no idea he was in an Olympic race – just saw a bunch of guys out for a ride and joined in.

Croquet is not the only honourable sport

to be dropped after the 1900 Olympics. Live pigeon shooting was last contested in 1900 (the Gold medal went to Belgium; 300 pigeons were shot) as were the Equestrian Long jump, cricket and the obstacle swimming race. However, the Duelling Pistol competition continued until 1906 when it too died out – hardly surprising really. Even more bizarre was the '100m Freestyle for Sailors' last contested at the 1896 Athens Olympics. Entry was restricted to sailors in the Greek Royal Navy, but I suppose it boosted the host nation's medal table. Perhaps the British Olympic Association should have thought of this. Olympic cheese rolling perhaps or Olympic Bog Snorkelling. We could show the world.

Back to croquet. The 2011 Croquet World Championships were held in London and I went to watch. I think I was the only spectator there too, and I didn't have to pay. I was prepared to be interviewed by Sue Barker as a representative spectator, but sadly it wasn't her day. Another missed sporting opportunity. Brilliant croquet though (ever seen a croquet ball hit right across a green, or hit over another ball, and still go through the hoop?).

We all sincerely, passionately even, want the 2012 Olympics to be a total thumping success, wholly entertaining and thrilling for everyone involved. But I shall miss the croquet and all those other sports that don't require muscle rippling athleticism, and I shall wonder quietly to myself what feats of strength or speed I might be able to train my body to do, if only I had a second chance.

JB

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## Around the town

### Oxfam at Home

Charity begins at home, they say, but that is probably not what springs to mind when Oxfam is mentioned. But the charity works wherever there is need and that includes the UK.

Although the programme is small, it is effective. Working through partners such as Fairbridge in Wales, part of the Prince's Trust, which teaches disadvantaged young people lifeskills like cooking and budgeting, and the Tea in the Pot Women's Drop-In Centre in Glasgow, Oxfam has helped over 10,000 people in the UK in the last year.

Charity may begin at home but it cannot begin at all without volunteers and Oxfam is in urgent need of volunteers for both its shops in Berkhamsted, especially at weekends. There are numerous jobs to be done and hours are flexible so please call in for an application form.

### Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who supported Christian Aid Week. £5,767.00 was raised in Berkhamsted and Northchurch, every penny helping some of the world's poorest communities out of poverty.

### Events presented by the Cowper

**Society** at St Peter's Church

Berkhamsted. Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July at

12:30pm: CONCERT – Singing

Workshops Groups' Charity Concert

directed by Yvonne Brenner. Free Entry.

Retiring collection in aid of *Help for Heroes*.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July at 2:00pm: RECITAL

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with a short recital of music by J. S. Bach,

C.P.E. Bach and Haydn in the Lady

Chapel. Entry: £10 (members of the British Clavichord Society £8), Students

£5, under 18s free.

**Sue Hampton, Berkhamsted author** was

runner-up in The People's Book Prize

2011-2012 with her novel TRACES. At

the awards ceremony on May 30th at

Stationers' Hall near St. Paul's Cathedral,

Sue was called up to the podium as one of

the top three in the children's category but

the book with the most votes was a picture

book for pre-school. Sue hopes that as a

result of the competition, in which she had

enormous support from young readers and

schools across the country, more children,

teenagers and adults will enjoy TRACES.

See [www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk](http://www.suehamptonauthor.co.uk).

**B Smart Dry Cleaners** of Berkhamsted

held a Diamond Jubilee Celebration raffle

to raise funds for PHAKAMISA, a

registered charity here in the UK which

supports AIDS orphans in South Africa

and is a ministry of the Pinetown

Methodist Church in Kwa-Zulu Natal,

South Africa. The winner was Mr Todd of

Berkhamsted. Many thanks to all B Smart

customers who supported the raffle; a very

generous amount of £151.50 was raised.

£1 will support one child for a whole

month and make a huge difference to his/  
her life.

**Two Oaks Pony Sanctuary** of Darrs

Lane, Northchurch will be celebrating

their first anniversary with an Open Day

on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August from 12 noon –

4pm. Admission 20p. Activities include

tombola, raffle, and auction, along with an

arts and crafts and plant stall. Other events

include an owl display, pony rides, dog

show, pet corner and baby animals plus

refreshments.

For information on lessons, sponsorship

and pony parties please contact: Carol at

Two Oaks Pony Sanctuary, Darrs Lane,

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[littleponies@virginmedia.com](mailto:littleponies@virginmedia.com). yB



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## *Read all about us!*

**Julian Dawson** looks at varied and surprising references to our town in the media

**B**y the time you read this the Jubilee will be but a distant memory and we will be more atune to Olympian endeavours. But the town's festivities to mark 60 years of the second Elizabethan age were marked on various websites including a BBC slideshow which recorded a Jubilee picnic at Berkhamsted Prep School. And if you happened to be in the High Street on the bank holiday Monday you will have seen as part of the street celebrations an extremely tall blonde outside Villagio. This was picked out by the [Dailymail.co.uk](http://Dailymail.co.uk), whose photographer clearly had a very special lens to get both her and some children in the same picture. The Olympics themselves were anticipated in a report from the Hemel Hempstead Gazette which explained how Jonathan Rendall of this parish was amongst the first to experience the running track of the Olympic Stadium.

The town's business community was highlighted by [thisismoney.co.uk](http://thisismoney.co.uk) who explains how people combine a city life with attempts at a rural existence. Nikki Read runs her own shoe company but still manages to rent her own hen. A somewhat bizarre rental service that smacks of fowl play.

*The Bucks Herald* reviewed *The Twits* at Berkhamsted Castle. No, not some childish pranks again, but Illyria's production of Roald Dahl's story which was very well suited to the drizzly murky backdrop in which the open-air performance took place.

This month's celebrity links include Sol Campbell, whose house is mentioned on several websites including [Articlevolcano.net](http://Articlevolcano.net). It spews forth the

opinion that celebrity footballers moving into the neighbourhood has a direct correlation in the rise of property prices. Not sure what came first to be honest. And so for the second time in this piece I shall mention hens...or at least chicken and egg. Several sites also picked up on the Gravel Path twitter campaign, including [forum.drinkdriving.org](http://forum.drinkdriving.org). The campaign is attempting to get the speed limit reduced on this local thoroughfare which apparently has more accidents than most.

The British Film Institute Archive gets regular mentions in the webosphere and once again it is mentioned in the context of the master of suspense, Hitchcock himself. Or in this instance Hitch, which is how he signs a letter held in the Berkhamsted archive that was going on display in a Hitchcock exhibition on the South Bank. Building Design magazine reports on plans for a new house in the town by Featherstone Young Architects. Composed of two wings it is to be bounded by heavy flank walls of local brick. Let's hope it is rather more in keeping with its environment than the development in my line of sight from my front door.

Of course not all that is mentioned about Berkhamsted in the plethora of websites is remotely true. Take this bit of creative writing that appears on the millionreasons livejournal blog - *Out of the window, I can see England: country churches, oilseed fields, Roman ruins in Berkhamsted*.

Clearly a million reasons to be inaccurate and any reader of *Your Berkhamsted's* history features would be eager to put the reader right with a regular subscription.

*yB*

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## ***Back to the outdoors: reconnecting children with nature***

**Helen Dowley**

It feels so typically British to be reflecting upon a weekend (the last in May) of glorious hot sunny weather and yet looking outside my window all I can see are grey clouds and lots and lots of rain. Ironically, that weekend would normally have been the bank holiday but it was a week later for the jubilee this year and, true to form, a bit of a damp affair in most places.

So, back to that brief glimpse of summer.... Desperate to make the most of the sunny weekend, my husband and I decide to have a family day out at Cliveden - a National Trust property just 40 minutes away. Having miraculously arrived before lunchtime (no mean feat with two boys in tow), picnic packed, we sit under a tree to eat. As I begin to soak up the warmth that has been so long coming, memories of summers past are evoked - from fishing in streams as a child, to picnicking in the long summer holidays. All no doubt embellished in my mind to create a perfect idea of what summers used to be like.

As my mind floats through this idyll of bygone years, I'm reminded of the recent initiative by the National Trust to encourage children to experience the more imaginative and practical activities that previous generations enjoyed. Their '50 things to do before you're 11 ¾' comprises things to do outdoors that are easily accessible and have become less common in these days of hi-tech toys and games. Harking back to times when kids camped out in fields, climbed trees, got muddy, paddled in streams and then ate lunch on the grass without a bottle of hand gel in sight. The list also comes at a time

when the *Famous Five* adventures by Enid Blyton celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Another iconic image of childhood days spent in the outdoors just enjoying being children in a more simple and enriched way.

Later on whilst we sit by the lake, recovering from having got lost several times discovering the heart of the maze and with the ideas suggested by the National Trust in my mind, I decide to try and teach my eight year old to blow 'grass whistles'. I'd totally forgotten about this pastime, which my dad taught me over three decades ago, and we both feel immensely satisfied with ourselves as we eventually achieve an amusing 'squeak' between our thumbs. I'm not sure that the raspberry-blowing imitation by his younger brother provides quite the same level of satisfaction to the nearby couple trying to enjoy a peaceful Sunday afternoon, but I decide to embrace his enthusiastic innocence.

As the afternoon drifts on my eldest finds a tree to climb and we all paddle in a shallow bit of the Thames as the boats float by. We dry off our toes and then as we climb the 172 steps back up to the gardens, my eldest turns to me with a huge smile and spontaneously thanks me for a 'brilliant' day. After this heart-warming moment, I realise that the experiences of the day have given him so much more pleasure and fulfilment than many of the things that are in his grasp these days, which can sometimes overshadow the simpler, inexpensive days out that remain so readily available.

*(continues on page 11)*

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*(continued from page 9)*

Whilst we drive home after a fantastic day, I decide that this summer I'll try to tick off a few more items from the National Trust's list. After all, with the many places available in and around our town there are so many opportunities for a great day out.

Many of them don't cost a fortune and some are even free!!

For a list of the '50 things to do before you're 11 ¾' go to

**[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50things](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50things)** or visit any NT property.

## *Mothers' Union*

## *Mothers' Union news*

### **Margaret Burbidge**

**M**agazines fill the shelves in the newsagents and supermarkets; their glossy, bright covers tempting us to turn the pages and buy. The Mothers' Union magazine, *Families First*, is colourful, tempting and with interesting articles not always found in other publications. As its name suggests it is about family life, but it is not to be found in the shops. All aspects get an airing. Looking through recent copies, infertility, parenting, teenagers, relationships, grandparenting and care of the elderly appear on the pages. Teenage pregnancies, coping with depression and coming to terms with homosexuality in the family widen our understanding of family life. Seasonal features, recipes and crafts are there too, and reviews of books for children and adults. MU works through 4 million members in 83 countries and the magazine includes this worldwide perspective, featuring issues affecting members overseas. This is just a taste of what is on the well-designed pages that are easy to read.

*Families First* is rooted in the Christian faith. The Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation committed to Christian care for families, but the magazine is open to a wide variety of opinions about family life. Advice and help are there, but this is no "nanny" magazine. It seeks to encourage,

support and inspire us in our lives as women, parents and grandparents struggling with the complexities of life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*Families First* is not in the shops. It is available by mail order and is published six times a year. It costs £2.50 a copy; that's around the price of a coffee in the High Street cafes! £15 a year and delivered to your door is good value, and 64 pages to browse through with your coffee at home! Members of MU get the magazine at a discount price.

Visit the website, and see more of what is on offer at [www.familiesfirst.com](http://www.familiesfirst.com) and subscribe online or from The Mothers' Union at Mary Sumner House, London, tel: 020 7222 5533.

In April I wrote about the review, "Letting Children be Children" carried out by the MU Chief Executive, Reg Bailey. One aspect uncovered by his research was the difficulty of making complaints about the media and commercial interests that target children. A new website has been set up, [www.parentport.org.uk](http://www.parentport.org.uk) for people to make their views known and directs comments to the appropriate body. It is the voice of those who care about letting children be children. Do use it and spread the word to your family and friends.

yB

## *The Black Ditch, the dungeon and a parachute*

Berkhamsted in 1872, By **Dan Parry**

One hundred and forty years ago this month saw the first edition of the *Berkhamsted Review*, the original incarnation of *Your Berkhamsted*. Since then, what began life as a traditional parish newsletter has inevitably broadened into a local magazine with a reach extending far beyond the St Peter's congregation. But while editorial styles come and go, some things remain reassuringly familiar. Our town may have grown in size over the last 140 years but its shape and intimacy have somehow remained the same. Nevertheless if we were dropped by parachute into Berkhamsted in 1872, what would we find? With the help of Percy Birtchnell's published recollections and research, I took a plunge into the past. Perhaps the most surprising thing we might discover was the depth of grinding poverty that Victorian pride could never entirely sweep under the carpet. The *Berkhamsted Times* tells us that in 1871 Balshaw's, a local charity, provided a pound of bread

and a pint of soup to the poor of the parish. Between three and four hundred families relied on this help, collecting the food every Wednesday and Saturday from the castle grounds. Meanwhile the workhouse at the corner of Kitsbury Road continued to be used from 1832 until 1935. In 1872 the population was twice as large as it had been a hundred years earlier but a shortage of housing led to appalling overcrowding. Building on a large scale did not start until the Pilkington Manor estate, east of Castle Street, was sold in 1852. Later, houses were also built in the Kitsbury area following the sale of farmland in 1868.



Picture of a leather tome from 1878 containing the minutes of church charities, vestry meetings and Annual Parish Church Meetings through the years

The 1870s were a period of major change in our little corner of the world. Some of the utilities we take for granted today were just around the corner. But in 1872 they weren't quite here yet...and without them, elements of daily life were not far short of medieval. Gas and water were piped into the town, and although 1872 marked the birth of the Berkhamsted Union and Rural Sanitary Authority, there had not yet been time to develop a much-needed waterborne sewerage system. Residents made do in the way they always had done. The stench arising from the open sewer known as the Black Ditch had long been a feature of the town, the *Berkhamsted Times* protesting that "the inhabitants in mid-town had for years inhaled the reeking breath of the Castle Street stream".

As basic as life was, there was at least work. Generations of women and girls worked from home, plaiting straw for Bedfordshire hat-makers, while many men worked for the town's coach-builders, brush-makers or timber-yards. Cooper's sheep-dip factory was a major employer, meanwhile other men worked in the watercress and brewery industries. They drank in the dozens of pubs that existed across the town, seven in Castle Street alone, and took their families to the fetes, cricket matches and archery meetings regularly staged at the castle, where sheep grazed on the banks of the inner moat. Cattle were brought into Berkhamsted to be sold at market on alternate Wednesdays, the animals being penned in an area of 'closes' (now Three Close Lane) while their drovers drank in the nearby Goat pub. There was a straw-plait market on Thursdays and a more general market on Saturdays. Sundays were reserved purely for rest, and worship. The Reverend John Cobb took up his post at St

Peter's just after improvements were made to the church in 1871, when the building was refaced with flint by William Butterfield. He raised both the floor and roof of the chancel, re-floored the whole church and replaced the old pews with oak benches. Butterfield also extended the aisles by knocking down the walls of two rooms at the west end, one of which had served as the parish fire station.

The old police station – which stood on the site of the current building (itself now disused) looked from the outside like a comfortable double-fronted house. Inside however it concealed a horror described by a committee of justices in 1789, as "a dungeon, a most dreadful hole, without air, without any light, nine steps down and the brick bottom perished." Over the road, the Bourne School was still operating in its own right, though its pupils were to be transferred to the National School, beside the Court House, three years later. Boys wore a kersey coat, woollen waistcoat and leather breeches while girls wore a grey woollen gown and an apron. Attending school was not compulsory. In 1875, 453 children attended the National School and 292 the Board school, leading Reverend Cobb to complain about the practice of sending children for half a day only. Like today, 1872 was a period of transition in terms of the size and number of schools. In fact many of the foundations of modern Berkhamsted were laid down at the time. But after travelling back in time I can't help thinking that as progressive as some of these developments were – it's nice that today we've had a bit of time to let them get up and running. Indeed sometimes the best thing about travelling is the coming home again.



# Cricket

**Matt Dawson** continues his summer sport theme with a focus on cricket

The cricket season is now in full flow and for this article I will talk about cricket in the local area.

I myself play for Northchurch Cricket Club and I am in my second season of playing for them after quitting cricket a few years back. However I have numerous friends who play for Berkhamsted CC, a club with a proud 125 year history.

The club is based within one of the best sceneries in the town and play at the Kitcheners field near the Castle and train station and have developed a lot in terms of facilities over the past few years. They have a large pavilion/bar which has been refurbished and an area with decking on from which you can watch the cricket.

Three years ago the club installed a 'state-of-the-art' electronic scoreboard onto the pavilion and more recently had four ECB standard astro-turf nets put in place next to the pavilion to improve the training facilities.

Berkhamsted CC has several adult XI's. They also have over 250 colts spanning from U9s to U17s and 30 girls playing cricket over the summer for Berkhamsted. Not only do they just provide their services to the people only involved in the club but they do quite a bit of work in the local community as well. They operate through a schools outreach programme, along with the 'Chance to Shine' project to ensure children can learn and play cricket whilst also encouraged to join a club. In early July, Berkhamsted CC usually hosts a cricket festival where all the local schools participate.

Another cricket club within the local area is Northchurch. They, along with Berkhamsted, also have a great history



Matt in the Lord's Pavilion

which spans many years. Northchurch have four adult XI's whilst also having teams at colt level which range from U9s to U17s - which is the age group I play in.

Not only do I play cricket but I've been going to watch cricket matches for as long as I can remember. My Dad and I have been going to Lord's cricket ground to watch Middlesex play since I was very young and more recently to see England play in the test matches. I also have quite a big connection with Middlesex as I help to run their official club mascot page on Facebook. As a result I was lucky enough to have a tour around the ground and spend the day in the pavilion.

*yB*

## *Popular money course*

Course to run again as people say they need tactics to cope with economic downturn

**B**erkhamsted residents are being given another chance to get their finances in order with a popular free course being run by our local churches.

Members of the Association of Berkhamsted Churches (ABC), who have been trained by UK charity Christians Against Poverty, are again running the three sessions aimed at helping the local community to best handle the current economic downturn.

Money coach Nick Davis, who will be leading the sessions called CAP Money, said: "If you know how to save and budget effectively, it can have a hugely positive impact on the whole family. With households feeling the squeeze on their disposable income, we've all got to get a bit more savvy about our money to get through these tough times." ABC is one of more than a thousand churches of different Christian traditions across the UK who are regularly offering the course, as they work together to positively impact the communities around them. CAP Money has been found to be useful for newly retired people, soon-to-be students, mums dealing with mounting bills, families saving for a wedding and everyone in between. He added: "We hope that we can help people, quietly and confidentially, take the guess work out of their situation so they can plan for the future, sort out any problems early and come through unscathed."

The next course takes place in the Make Believe Cafe (behind Tesco), starting at 7.30pm on Monday 10 September. To find out more about CAP Money or to book your place visit [www.capmoney.org](http://www.capmoney.org) or

telephone Mike Wallis, Lead Coach on 07891 760244 or 01442 865521.

### **About Christians Against Poverty**

Christians Against Poverty is a home-grown debt counselling charity **which is determined to reduce** poverty in the UK caused by debt.

### **What is CAP Money?**

CAP Money is three hours spread over three weeks to debt-proof people's finances. It gives people tools to ensure they get their bills paid as a priority, save for the future and know what their disposable income actually is. See [www.capmoney.org](http://www.capmoney.org).

### **Debt Help**

CAP partners its financial expertise with the care of the local church to offer free debt help and a solution to people through 190 debt help centres. The fast-growing charity intends to have a debt-counselling CAP centre in 500 towns and cities across the UK by 2015. For more about CAP see [www.capuk.org](http://www.capuk.org).

For further information contact CAP's National PR Manager Marianne Clough [marianneclough@capuk.org](mailto:marianneclough@capuk.org) or telephone 01274 761924.

Find us on Twitter and Facebook @CAPuk @CAPmoneyuk.

yB

# The Hospice of St Francis

The Hospice of St Francis cares for people from Dacorum, St Albans, Harpenden, Markyate, Chesham, Amersham and the surrounding villages. It is the only inpatient unit with special facilities that allow patients to be cared for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It also helps patients who are seriously ill at home and in day hospice but needs to raise more than £3.7 million every year. See [www.stfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk) for general information or please contact Claire de Silva on tel. 01442 869555 or email [claire.desilva@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:claire.desilva@stfrancis.org.uk).

This summer there are a number of great events taking place across the area in support of the Hospice of St Francis from browsing beautiful gardens or watching the children compete in our very own Berkhamsted Games. There's something for everyone and it's all to help a worthwhile local cause too.

## **Ashridge Garden Party, Sunday 15 July, Ashridge House**

If a leisurely afternoon stroll is your thing then why not pencil in July 15th at Ashridge House in the beautiful Ashridge Estate for the annual garden party for the

hospice between 2pm-5pm. It's an opportunity to browse in the gardens which are rarely opened to the public. The Garden Party is a great day out for all the family and raises much needed funds for the Hospice of St Francis. This year the event is being sponsored by Kidzone in Berkhamsted and will include a circus skills workshop by Alight Fingers, Punch & Judy show, face painting and many other kiddie friendly entertainments! Refreshments are being provided by the ever popular Pimms Bar and local company Jolly Huckster's Bar will be selling locally brewed beer. And something that will bring a smile to everyone's faces - Berkhamsted's very own Scoops ice cream parlour will be selling a selection of their delicious Italian ice creams.

For some retail therapy, there will be a large range of stalls selling gifts and goodies, jewellery and much more. The Jolly Jazzers jazz band will add to the party atmosphere throughout the afternoon. Volunteers are still needed to come along and help on the day so if you fancy a free ticket, let our fundraising team know!

Tickets can be purchased in advance at £4 per adult from any of the Hospice of St Francis shops or from the Hospice main reception located off Shooters Way. Entrance on the day is £5 per adult. Children under 16 are free.

If you would like any more information about the Garden Party please email [fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk) or call 01442 869555.

For directions to and information about Ashridge House visit <http://www.ashridge.org.uk>. yB



2011 Ashridge Garden Party

## Unique gifts from the heart!

Newlyweds Anne and Simon Heath, from Berkhamsted helped a charity shop create a wedding list service with a difference for their nuptials earlier this year.

The couple, who married in April, made the gesture as a thank you to the Hospice of St Francis for caring for the bride's late mother and uncle who passed away from cancer. The pair always loved to shop in Number Twenty, Lower Kings Road, a unique and beautifully stocked designer homeware and gift shop where all profits are returned to the hospice.

They hoped that their special list would encourage their friends to purchase their wedding gifts there, raising vital funds for the charity and also raising awareness of the work done by the hospice to care for people who are very seriously ill in the local community.

Simon explained: "Anne lost her mum many years ago and her uncle a couple of months ago and the hospice helped us during those difficult times. We came along to the Light up a Life service which the hospice holds every year and knew we wanted to do something to help.

"We have always loved Number Twenty – it's such a unique charitable concept – it's even better than shopping at a fully-fledged retailer for its special attention to detail. Its amazing stock of fabulous homeware and gifts is an exceptional rarity on the high street.



Newlyweds Anne and Simon Heath

"So we actually came up with the idea ourselves and decided to approach Sarah Coles, the manager and discussed our requirements, what we wanted to do and create and she just went well beyond any standard gift list service. She popped lists in the post to our guests and as for the wrapping, well, she did the most incredible wrapping service beyond anything we had seen! We turned up at the shop and the presents were beautifully displayed on a table. We were astounded.

"We were as excited as they were. Sarah and her colleague Nicola Harvey created a beautiful list with lovely descriptions. Lots of thought went into it. The service was exceptional and has been much talked about at our wedding!

It's unique, local and from the heart and was the perfect choice for our wedding celebrations."

If you would like information about Number Twenty's wedding list service please contact Nicola Harvey on 01442 878939.

*yB*

## *Regular Church Activities*

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 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859
1st Tue	Tuesday Club, 7:30pm 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	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 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859
3rd Sat	ABC Prayer Breakfast, 8am for breakfast & prayers. Various local churches.
1st Sun	Sundays Together Lunch 12.30pm Court House. For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Liz Jackson 864382

<b>Services</b>	<b>All Saints' July</b>
	July 1 <sup>st</sup> - 10am: Fourth Sunday after Trinity, Morning Worship, Brian Parsons and Penny O'Neill
	July 8 <sup>th</sup> - 10am: Fifth Sunday after Trinity, Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby
	July 15 <sup>th</sup> - 10am: Sixth Sunday after Trinity, Action for Children, Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins
	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 10am: Seventh Sunday after Trinity, Holy Communion, Revd Valerie Rockall and Rob Wakely
	July 29 <sup>th</sup> - 8am: Eighth Sunday after Trinity, Holy Communion, Revd Wilf Bahadur
	10am: Morning Worship with Holy Baptism, Revd Rachael Hawkins 4pm: Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Tracy Robinson, and Audrey Cox



## St Peter's

### Regular Sunday services

8:00am Eucharist

9:30am Sung Eucharist with crèche, Sunday school and Pathfinders

6:00pm Evensong

6:00pm Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June 6:00pm Choral Evensong Corpus Christi

### Regular weekday services

Morning Prayer: Monday – Friday 7:30am, Saturday 9:30am

Eucharist: Monday 6:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road;

Wednesday 8:00am; Thursday 12:30pm; Saturday 10:00am

Evening Prayer: Monday 5:45pm, Tuesday – Thursday, Saturday 5:00pm

### July Diary

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> July-12.30pm-Yvonne Brener: Singing workshop in St Peter's, finishing with concert at 12.30pm in aid of Help for Heroes.

Fri 20 July – 10am: Victoria School Leavers' Service in St Peter's; 12 noon: Thomas Coram End of Term Service.

Sat 22 July -12 noon: Parish picnic Thomas Coram School.

Sat 28 July – 2pm: Cowper Society presents: Terence Charlton *clavichord* and Norbert Mein *tenor*. An hour of music.

### Baptisms

20<sup>th</sup> May: Isaac James Blaxland Barham, Jessica Rose Senior and William John Henry Bond (St Peter's)

27<sup>th</sup> May: Ellena Elizabeth Gibilaro and Theodore Conrad Gibilaro (St Peter's)

### Your Berkhamsted Team

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## 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:

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

# The edible, fruitful and beautiful garden in summer

Bruce Nixon



A garden provides healing and joy. Blessed with trees round our garden, we enjoy the song of birds as we wake and at dusk. We hear the laughter of neighbours playing with

their children. Gardening is an expression of creativity. It can also be a meditation, working with rather than against nature, close to nature of which we forget we are a part. Mindfulness comes with being and doing, not getting things done. Wellbeing comes from using our bodies, our legs, arms, getting our hands dirty and sweating, like our ancestors, instead of using noisy, polluting machines that hasten climate change and use up the ancient, precious oil laid down millions of years ago. In 50 years I have had only two lawn mowers: both human powered Husqvarna mowers with sixteen inch blades. Mowing this way helps keep me fit and sane.

I love early summer. Spring is a time of the re-awakening of life. Summer is a time of profusion when all the previous work of envisioning, re-arranging, pruning, splitting up, planting, sowing seeds and caring for the soil bears fruit. I grow old shrub and climbing roses with clematis twining through them, tree and herbaceous peonies and bearded irises. An old rose climbs into a fruit tree, another into a yew. In my view the best roses are the very old varieties like 13<sup>th</sup> century

*Ispahan*, also known as *Pompon des Princes*, 18<sup>th</sup> century *Charles de Mills*, and Victorian Moss and Bourbon roses including bi-colours. Fragrance, especially in the evening, is provided by *Nicotiana Affinis*, *Philadelphus Belle Etoile*, False Solomon's Seal and Jasmine. Fragrant old pinks such as Victorian *Mrs Sinkins* grow beside the front path.

I have a passion for growing Garden Organic Heritage squash and climbing French beans with their extraordinary names like *Inca*, *Blue Coco* and *Cherokee Trail of Tears*. My indulgent wife allows me to start these seeds on the sitting room floor in front of the French windows.

The art is to provide interest and beauty for the eye throughout the year. Hot midsummer is a challenge in this respect. It means providing a succession of flowers that will keep flowering if dead headed, many of which will be shades of yellow and orange. It also means having foliage of striking and contrasting colours, heights and shapes – a sculptural and architectural garden. The first garden I made was in tropical Jamaica. That influences me to create a dramatic garden with tall plants like giant inulas, cardoons, angelica and wild grey leaved

*verbascum*, loved by bees. It helps to divide a garden into rooms and hot and shady parts.

At weekends I hover round our Country





Market and plant stalls at farmers' markets looking for something new. My sources of plants are Philip Smith's Sunnyside Nursery near Northchurch,

Little Heath Farm Nursery and Chessmount Nursery in Chesham. In my previous article, I mentioned ecological or Permaculture principles. I follow the cycle of nature. However, I am not an eco-angel especially where slugs are concerned. I plant close. So weeds don't have a chance. In my vegetable patch, I practice companion planting to discourage disease and hostile insects. I use no herbicides, moss killer or chemical fertilisers. Leaving the mowings on the lawn, it fertilises itself. Not cutting it close, especially in hot dry weather, keeps it healthy. Then moss and most weeds have less scope. In any case weeds so-called are really the wild flowers on which we depend. We hardly ever use our green wheelie bin. Instead, vegetable waste, cardboard and tissue go onto the compost heap. The drought has transformed my attitude to water. We now have buckets outside our front and back doors into which we throw the washing up water for thirsty plants. I have yet to devise a water harvesting system.

I make my garden friendly to bees, other pollinating insects, and I provide untidy places for the likes of helpful frogs who like slugs. I grow bee friendly flowers

like wild cornflowers and single flowered, not double, hollyhocks which bees can easily get into. Bees adore Pulmonaria which flowers early and keeps flowering if dead-headed. Bees are a threatened species. The reasons are complex, but our use of pesticides containing Neonicotinoids is probably a major cause: [www.soilassociation.org/wildlife/bees/householdpesticides](http://www.soilassociation.org/wildlife/bees/householdpesticides). Without pollinating insects we'll starve, so supporting them is vital.

Humans commit ecocide and collective suicide as we carelessly destroy nature and the resources of our finite planet. There is an alternative: the pursuit of wellbeing for all instead of greed and growth.

Bruce Nixon is a writer, speaker, a member of Transition Town Berkhamsted and author of *A Better World is Possible* <http://www.bruce-nixon.com/betterworld.html>. yB



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## *Memories of a lifetime in Berkhamsted*

**Dan Parry** talks to long-term resident Joan Pheby as she reflects on her memories of the town

According to L.P. Hartley the past is a foreign country. Being harder to reach than most foreign countries, the past is not an easy place to visit. But in chatting to long-term resident Joan Pheby I came across a bustling Berkhamsted I knew both well and not at all. Born in the town in 1924, Joan is moving to Northamptonshire, but before she left the only place she calls home she was keen to take me on a trip back in time. She wanted to conjure up images of the cinema, (but not the Rex), some of the biggest events in the annual calendar, (as advertised by the town crier), the forgotten mansions, the acres of fields now built on and a lost way of life.

The youngest of seven, Joan's brothers and sisters were born in a cottage on the Berkhamsted Place estate. An Elizabethan mansion later visited by Charles I, the main house was built from stone taken from the castle by Sir Edward Carey, keeper of the crown jewels. Relics of its tumbledown garden walls still stand in the patch of woodland behind Gaveston Drive. Joan's father, who looked after the estate's horses, later took the family to Ellesmere Road where Joan was born. She went to Victoria School where she had nice teachers and was quite happy despite the compulsory leap into the unheated Berkhamsted Open Air Swimming Pool each year on May 1<sup>st</sup>. There were scripture and arithmetic lessons, after which the children had to run around Butts Meadow in all weathers, and there were nature study walks when Joan used to see

bullfinches and red squirrels.

As we talked in St Peter's, where she was christened, confirmed and married ("not all at once") Joan pointed out the pews where she used to sit as a child, a time when she was transfixed by the stained glass windows, and got told off for talking. Though little has changed in the church, many other things have come and gone. Joan remembers Mr Elliot the town-crier, complete with tricorn and bell, advertising the annual fetes that took place in the gardens of the town's finest houses. The castle fete was a particular favourite, with the St Peter's and Excelsior brass bands entertaining the crowd. The moat was clear of rushes and a pond occupied the spot where today there's a mini roundabout at the end of Bridgewater Road.

Walking home, the children would pass the town's other Elizabethan mansion, the fading Egerton House which stood on the High Street. Overgrown with ivy, dusty, empty and uninhabited, the days when J.M. Barrie used to visit his muses there had long since vanished. The Llewelyn Davies boys, who had briefly lived in the house in the Edwardian period, played games in the garden that inspired the adventures of Peter Pan.

Later, Joan worked at Corby, Palmer and Stewart, a Victorian clothing factory on the site now occupied by Waitrose, where she made women's and children's clothes.

*(continues on page 25)*



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*(continued from page 23)*

During the war she made uniforms and even worked on the lightning conductors for mosquito aircraft. But it was the dances at St Peter's Hall that meant the most to her during this period. There she met Frank. A soldier with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, Frank was from the East End and to him Berkhamsted was a world away from anything he had known before. Together they would watch films at the Court Cinema that once stood on the site now occupied by Tesco. It doubled as a theatre and the Berkhamsted Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society put on many shows there though its days as a cinema were eclipsed by the Rex which for Joan was "super-duper", ("it was all modern, the carpets were so beautiful and the seats were more comfortable").

At a time when hundreds of men were training in the woods of Ashridge, Frank was preparing for a secret role that he never revealed to Joan throughout their later life together. As a member of the elite 3<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Regiment Frank was involved in decoding messages as the Allies swept into occupied Europe. Marrying after the war, together they witnessed the town changing around them. At one time, mums and children would pass through the tunnels beneath the railway line (one of which still remains open) on their way to 'The

Park', the ancient hunting ground that stretched from the castle it once served through to Billet Lane and beyond. By the mid-1950s developers had incurred the wrath of local people by building Bridgewater Road and its side streets.

As we stepped out of the Church we found that the 21<sup>st</sup> century was still going strong and that the past had slipped quietly away. There used to be a local accent, Joan told me, ("not as rural as Chesham's") but like so much else modern times have done away with it. It's progress, Joan accepts philosophically. I suggest to her that the move to Northamptonshire will not be easy – "I'll be with my family" she tells me...which, I imagine is for Joan what the past was really about all along. *yB*



The Court Theatre, Berkhamsted, opened in 1917, now occupied by Tesco.

Photo courtesy of The Dacorum Heritage Trust. The Dacorum Heritage Trust is the accredited museum for the whole Dacorum area. Find them at [facebook.com/dacorumheritagetrust](https://www.facebook.com/dacorumheritagetrust).



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## ***Finding a home for man's (and woman's) best friend***

**Sara Muncke**, Rescue Centre Manager, tells us about the work of the Chilterns Dog Rescue Society

**Could you or someone you know give a home to either of these lovely dogs?**

microchipped and neutered and has no known health issues.



### **Guinness**

Guinness is a very handsome black Labrador cross dog who came into the Rescue Centre when his former owner became unwell and no longer able to care for him. He

is an affectionate dog who loves to walk and is sociable with other dogs. Guinness is inoculated, microchipped and neutered and has no known health issues.

Established in 1963, Chilterns Dog Rescue Society (CDRS) offers accommodation and care for unwanted and homeless dogs until permanent homes can be found for them. The Society has recently entered a new and exciting era. In 2010 the Rescue Centre moved to a large, permanent site in Chivery, between the entrance and exit to Wendover Woods. This location offers a lovely secluded spot which provides the opportunity to create purpose-built facilities for our rescue dogs.

This move is the successful completion of a long held ambition and is thanks to the hard work of many people over many years. The timing could not have been better as the demand for help for local dogs, as well as those from further afield, is greater now than ever before. CDRS can give a safe haven to dogs with nowhere else to turn and make sure they go to new and often happier homes where their particular needs will be met.

To date, over 18,000 dogs have been successfully rescued and rehomed, and the charity continues to support approximately 400 dogs of all ages, sizes, breeds and backgrounds each year. CDRS pays a lot of attention to placing the right dog in the right home. Accredited dog



### **Chester**

Chester is a 3 year old brindle Lurcher dog, he was rescued from a dog pound in Wales. Chester has a gentle temperament and loves the company of

other dogs. Chester is a real favourite with our dog walkers because he walks so well on the lead but, like many dogs of his type, he would be best suited to an owner without cats and with a well fenced garden. He is also inoculated,

*(continues on page 30)*

# No bake cherry cheesecake

Joanne Lloyd Evans



## Ingredients

160g digestive biscuits  
70g melted butter  
350g cream cheese  
50g icing sugar  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
250ml double cream  
300g cherries, plus extra for garnishing if desired  
60ml port (or other liqueur or spirit of your choice – alternatively, just use water)

100g preserving sugar  
2g pectin

July is the height of the brief cherry season. The vast majority of cherries sold in Britain are imported, but you may be able to find some English cherries if you're lucky. Cherry trees once covered tens of thousands of acres across Britain, but over the past 50 years around 90% of its orchards have been lost. Cherry-growing fell out of favour during the two World Wars when many orchards were replaced by other crops.

Cherries were brought to England by the Romans in the 1st century AD. It is said you can trace old Roman roads by the wild cherry trees that grew up from the stones spat out by legions as they marched across the country.

This cherry cheesecake is a delicious dinner party dessert that is very easy and can be made well in advance. The cherry element is almost like a chunky cherry jam that uses preserving sugar and pectin – both of these ingredients can be found with the normal sugar in Waitrose.

1. Crush the biscuits to crumbs, either by using a food processor, or by placing the biscuits in a bag and using a rolling pin. Mix in the melted butter.
2. Press the biscuit mixture into a greased 20cm loose bottomed or springform tin and refrigerate until the filling is ready.
3. Beat together the cream cheese, icing sugar, vanilla extract and lemon juice with a fork or electric beaters until smooth.
4. In a separate bowl, whip the double cream until it forms soft peaks, but don't let it get too stiff.
5. Gently fold the cream into the cream cheese mixture and then spoon it on top of the biscuit mixture. Smooth it flat with a spatula or the back of a spoon and refrigerate for a few hours or overnight.



6. Now make the cherry conserve by halving and pitting the cherries and placing them in a saucepan. Add the port, sugar and pectin and bring to the boil. Cook at a gentle simmer for about 15 minutes, then allow it to cool, and store in the fridge until needed.
7. When you are ready to serve the cheesecake, remove it from its tin and spoon over the cherry conserve. It's now ready to slice and serve! Add some fresh cherries as a garnish if you wish. yB

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*(continued from page 27)*

trainers and behaviourists work closely with potential adopters and individual dogs as required to ensure a happy, long term partnership is achieved for every dog. Behavioural training is also offered to owners who have concerns about their own dogs to help resolve any problems and avert the need for rehoming to take place.

A dedicated team of staff and volunteers not only provide care for the dogs but also work tirelessly to raise much needed funds so that as many dogs as possible can be helped. Help from individuals, families, clubs and groups is vital to our success, so please get in touch if you would like to know more or perhaps offer a home to a CDRS dog.

The Rescue Centre is open six days a week from 10.30am to 2pm, closed on Wednesdays.

Chilterns Dog Rescue Society  
Bromley Heights  
St Leonards Road  
Chivery, Nr Tring  
Herts  
HP23 6LD  
Registered Charity No 257557

Tel: 01296 623885, Email:  
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**Saturday  
15th  
September  
2012**

**11am-10pm  
Berkhamsted  
Sports Club  
HP4 1HE**

*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. Your Berkhamsted has no affiliation with the Save Your Berkhamsted campaign.*

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**Saturday 8 September  
2012 - 10am to 6pm**

# *The Last Word—BerkoFest 2012*

*September 15th 11am—10pm, Berkhamsted Sports Club, Kitcheners Field, HP4 1HE*

New to the Berkhamsted Calendar of annual events, BerkoFest 2012 is designed to bring a genuine mix of quality music and comedy to people in and around the Berkhamsted area. To be set in the stunning eight acre location of Berkhamsted Sports Club, BerkoFest will provide an array of entertainment for all, with four stages encompassing high profile acts on main stage, a talented acoustic stage set up, an original comedy show, and an improvised ‘Open Mic’ stage performance, along with a whole host of other attractions!

BerkoFest is driven by a team of volunteers with a passion to bring together natural talented musicians, for the enjoyment of everyone, whilst being able to contribute monies to local organisations such as Berkhamsted Sports Club and Swan Youth Centre, amongst others.

There is a fantastic full line-up of confirmed acts including Rowland Rivron as main stage compare, Seth Lakeman, Showaddywaddy, Glenn Tilbrook, The Crookes, rated highly amongst teenagers and students, Mitch Benn, and local musicians Shane Lamont, Tom Billington and Henry Parker. The full running order is available at [www.berkofest.com](http://www.berkofest.com).

With families primarily in mind, BerkoFest has arranged an interesting mix of children’s entertainment, such as Panic Circus, a family-friendly, traditional, (non animal) circus. For a relaxing time out for parents, there is a team of professional therapists who specialise in luxury

treatments to allow for some mellow space away from the hubbub of activity going on elsewhere!

The Local Fayre will cater for a selection of tastes, with good quality food choices for everyone. All drinks must be purchased at the event and there will be a “fully licensed bar” serviced by Berkhamsted Sports Club, with local ales, cocktails, soft and hot drink options. BerkoFest is set to be a special day and evening for the whole community to enjoy!

Ticket purchase and more information available at: [www.berkofest.com](http://www.berkofest.com).

## **Competition!**

Can you guess the locations of the Berkhamsted landmarks on the front cover?

We are delighted to offer the chance to win a set two-course lunch for two people (excluding drinks) at Berkhamsted’s newest restaurant Bluebella Roo’s.

Describing itself as “fine dining without the fuss”, Bluebella Roo’s serves modern British cuisine in an intimate setting and is situated on Prince Edward Street.

To enter the competition, please send your answers either by email to:

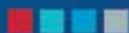
**editor@yourberkhamsted.com** or in an envelope to the Parish Office, labelled as “Your Berkhamsted 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Competition” by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012. Please remember to include your name, address, tel. no. and email. Good Luck! **yB**

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