

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

September 2013

Graham Greene Festival 2013

A New School Year

Local History

50p

In this issue...

Welcome to the September edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

By now summer begins to draw to a close and September brings cooler, shorter evenings and a return to a new school system for many of Berkhamsted's children. Rob Halls, Head of Thomas Coram School, explains all on page 8. This month also brings with it a focus on the arts with the annual Graham Greene festival and Herts Open Studios taking place in and around town – you can find out about both in this month's issue. We also reveal the winner of the children's ice cream competition.



Helen Dowley, Editor

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Front cover: Bourne End III, Mitzie Green

Page 3: Berkhamsted High Street drawings kindly supplied by Jenni Cator Art at 88, 88 High Street, Berkhamsted



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

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Berkhamsted in the News



This month we take a break from our regular round-up of news and list some highlights from the year so far. However, do not despair, Julian Dawson will be back next month with his usual array of fascinating snippets from the media.

January

I thought it might prove interesting... to see how Berkhamsted crops up on Jimmy Whales' web phenomenon.

The most obvious manifestation is the town's entry itself, in glorious Technicolor, annotated and sourced extensively with the inevitable nod to famous associations past and present from Duke William of Normandy to the fictional Ed Reardon and describes our oceanic climate, which apparently we enjoy with the rest of the kingdom. It also sets out the different permutations of the town's name, which if some of the addressed envelopes I've seen are anything to go by are still much in evidence! Though in fact the current spelling is relatively recent being adopted in 1937. Earlier spellings included *Berkhampstead*, *Muche Barkhamstede*, *Berkhamsted Magna*, *Great Berkhamsted* and *Berkhamstead*, and the earliest variation being *Beorhoanstadde*. In fact

there have been fifty variations recorded. It is believed that all of the above refer to homestead amongst the hills from the Saxon bergs.

February

Many of you will have been amused, entertained and otherwise driven mad by the Gangnam style phenomenon which went viral last year, originating from a posh Seoul suburb. The *Buckinghamshire Advertiser* reports on a group of "glamorous" housewives who have produced their own version of the dance raising £5,000 for cancer charities. The ladies tongue in cheek version includes such lyrics as "mop, mop, mop, we've got housewife style" and has received well over 100,000 hits on YouTube.

March

The *Hemel Hempstead* gazette reports on the overflowing of the Grand Union canal near Waitrose. At first this was thought to be the result of vandals, but it turned out it was an inept boater who had left the paddles open on one of the locks. Let that be a warning to you. If the residual water at the Canalfields car park was anything to go by, it appeared a minor tsunami had swept through.

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

April

Richard III's links with Berkhamsted continues to exercise the bloggers. The 'meandrichard wordpress' blog tells us more about Richard's mother Cecily Neville. She spent the last years of her life in Berkhamsted Castle, engaged in religious exercises after taking Benedictine vows. In May 1485 she dined with Richard suggesting a remission of taxes for London to get the south of England on side. She also allegedly drew from him the admission that he feared he had sinned in taking the throne. No further news that his body will be brought to our borough, sorry to say.

May

Berkhamsted Castle appears on a war gaming Blog, oawargamesteam.blogspot, which gives an excellent pictorial overview of the site, with photographs showing how Louis Dauphin of France used siege engines, including the formidable trebuchet, against the castle in a siege in 1216 in a dispute following the signing of the Magna Carta. The writer considers the castle should be made part of the Magna Carta Trail. The

trebuchet was probably sited to the east of the castle, and I venture to suggest that this device would have caused considerable more damage than some hungry badgers. Bizarrely, it has been suggested that filling the castle with sand would be the only way of distracting the badgers from their nocturnal ravenous ramblings. Though in my experience that only encourages defecating cats. I know what I would prefer.

June

The blog publictransportexperience attributes the growth of Watford in medieval times to travellers passing through to Berkhamsted Castle. So, it is all our fault.

July

I once more call upon Wikipedia. Berkhamsted railway station has its very own entry, which includes an interesting print of the station in 1838, and a photograph from 1961 to compare and contrast. Apparently the town was one of the centres of construction for the London and Birmingham Railway, which brought overcrowding to the locality *and the rowdy behaviour of the labourers was said to have offended the genteel townsfolk*. Sounds like a normal Friday night to me.

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with

Trevor Allan Davies (STAT)

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Local noticeboard

Herts Open Studios, 7th – 29th Sept

This annual event is a time when Hertfordshire's established, emerging and amateur artists open their doors to the public. Artists show a wide range of work – and visitors can buy if they want to. It's an opportunity to talk to artists in their own creative settings, own a piece of original artwork, or buy that special gift such as jewellery or collectibles. Pick up a leaflet from the library or one of the galleries or art shops or download at www.hvaf.org.uk/Open-Studios/Open-Studios-2013/Brochure

Bike 'n Hike 2013

Saturday 14th Sept, 10am to 6pm. The *Bike 'n Hike* takes place this month to raise money for the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust, who organise this annual event, and for the participating churches. Half of every cyclist's and walker's sponsor money goes to the Trust and half goes to their chosen church. If you still haven't signed up then visit the www.BedsHertsHCT.org.uk or contact Chris Clegg on 01442 875818.

Oxfam and Graham Greene

The dates for the Graham Greene Festival (September 26th – 29th) will be in many diaries by now and the Oxfam Bookshop is planning a special display of titles by the famous local author to mark the occasion. But when the dates for next year's Festival are announced, will you have a diary to put it in? Both Oxfam shops in the town have an excellent selection of diaries and calendars on offer. And of course if there are gaps in your diary, why not fill them by volunteering for Oxfam?

The Oxfam Autumn Children's Wear Event on Friday 6th September from 9am – 11.30am in the Civic Centre will offer maternity wear for the first time so mums-to-be can find clothes for themselves as well as the new arrival.

CAP Money Management Courses

During the last year Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Berkhamsted has run 4 very successful courses. The next course is fixed for 12th September at 7.30pm and continues on 19th September and 3rd October in the Make Believe Cafe (behind Tesco). To find out more or to book your place tel. Mike Wallis on 07891 760244 or 01442 865521 or visit www.capmoney.org.

Bespoke 2013 - A Day for the Modern Gent

will take place at the splendid Ashridge Estate, on Sunday, September 22nd from 1pm - 9pm. The day celebrates masculine pursuits and interests such as a quintessentially British cricket match, outdoor cinema, talks from inspiration thinkers and gourmet food and ales, plus many more, while providing family entertainment. A charitable event run by a local community organisation, the day raises money for Orchid Men's Cancer Trust. It will also raise funds for Ashridge House to support its efforts to preserve the historical beauty of its grounds for future generations. Tickets are available online at www.bespoke2013.com and in local stores, £15 per person, £10 per child, £35 per family (2 adults, 2 children 5-14). Also see www.facebook.com/pages/Bespoke-A-day-for-the-Modern-Gent/170518119766030 and <https://twitter.com/Bespoke2013>.

School Bell Rings

Headteacher of The Thomas Coram Church of England School, Rob Halls, explains the changes to the education system in the town

After several decades of a three-tier system of first, middle and upper schools, Berkhamsted state-maintained schools are changing to a two-tier system of primary & secondary schools from the start of the new school year this September. Within this change to the system used in most of the country, we will also have the option of Infant & Junior schools.

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors from all the schools, including the one existing primary school, St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School, have been working closely together for over two years, ever since it became clear that the rising numbers of children in the town necessitated a radical solution to the lack of space in our schools.

Hertfordshire Local Authority consulted (February to April 2012) on two strategic options to provide at least an additional 60 reception places (2 forms of entry), on an ongoing basis from September 2013. The options were:

- A. To change from the current less Common 'three tier' system of first, middle and upper schools to a 'two tier' system, by reorganising the current schools into a mix of infant, junior, primary and secondary schools.
- B. To maintain the existing 'three-tier' system, providing additional first school places by extending the age range and building additional accommodation at Bridgewater Middle School.

The consultation on Option A was on behalf of all governing bodies of the schools detailed in the proposal for this option and Hertfordshire County Council. It was developed at the request of and in partnership with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all the schools in the town. It is their opinion that the circumstances present an opportunity to consider a more fundamental change in the education system in the town.

Following the consultation, which was overwhelming in favour of the *move from three-tier to two-tier from September 2013* was agreed by *Hertfordshire County Council's Cabinet at their meeting on Monday 24 September 2012.*

The transition to the new system will take place over two school years. The first group of schools will change their age-ranges from September 2013 as follows:

- Ashlyns School will become a Secondary School taking pupils from age 11-19 (currently age 13-19).
- The Thomas Coram CE Middle School will become a Junior School taking pupils from 7-11 (currently age 9-13).
- Bridgewater Middle School will become a Primary School and Nursery, taking children from 3-11 (currently 9-13).
- Victoria First CE School will become an Infant School and Nursery taking children from 3-7 (currently 3-9).
- Swing Gate First School will become an Infant School and Nursery taking children from 3-7 (currently 3-9).

The second group of schools to change will have new age ranges from September 2014 as follows:

- St Mary's CE First School will become a Primary School and Nursery taking pupils from 3-11 (currently 3-9).
- Westfield First School will become a Primary School and Nursery taking pupils from 3-11 (currently 3-9).
- Greenway First School and Nursery will become a Primary School and Nursery taking pupils from 3-11 (currently 3-9).
- Potten End CE First School will become a Primary School and Nursery taking pupils from 3-11 (currently 3-9).

This creates additional places across the schools in the town for the rising numbers of young children whilst also ensuring the financial viability of all the schools within the town over the long term.

Since the final decision to process, it has been 'full steam ahead' – particularly for those schools undergoing significant changes in September 2013: a huge amount of work has been going on behind the scenes at all the schools to prepare for the changes:

- Strategic meetings: Berkhamsted Headteachers have been meeting for a whole day once a month to ensure we are all working together and planning strategically for the whole town. Various officers and advisors from Hertfordshire County Council have attended these meetings to offer their expertise on issues such as Planning, HR, Finance, Admissions, Training etc.
- Human Resources: a huge time-consuming task has been re-allocating all staff across schools as age ranges change, to ensure the "best fit" in terms

of skills and experience. This is now complete and has worked very successfully with very positive outcomes.

- Recruitment: several schools have also undertaken recruitment of new staff reflecting the increasing numbers of children across the town. This is in addition to the "normal" movement of staff, which is highest during this term.
- Staff training needs: Headteachers have worked with advisors to identify training needs for all staff, at both Primary and Secondary level, and to ensure these are provided for in a variety of ways, including in-school support.
- Building work: some schools have significant building works to be undertaken. Both Bridgewater and Ashlyns have already got builders on site following the design and planning process. Bridgewater also has four mobile classrooms to allow the works to take place without disturbing classes while school is in session. The Thomas Coram School has some minor works being undertaken over the summer and Victoria First School also has some re-configuration to take place before September. Both St. Mary's and Potten End are already well on the way towards planning the changes they need for September 2014.
- Resources, equipment & furniture: the reorganisation of some resources has already taken place between schools with more to follow later this term. The Local Authority has authorised additional preparation days to give teachers the opportunity to pack and move resources.

(Continued on page 11)



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(Continued from page 9)

- **Funding:** Schools have received additional funding to support re-organisation, allowing release of teachers and Headteachers; the Financial Services department of the Local Authority are assisting with procedures for ensuring transfer of funds in September so that budgets match numbers of children.
- **Communications:** schools are keeping their own pupils and parents informed of progress but we launched a joint website to share updates:
www.berkhamstedpartnershipofschools.org
- **School Travel:** Headteachers have met on several occasions with officers from the “Safe and Sustainable Journeys to School” department from the Local Authority and are working with them to find solutions to some of the potential travel issues at and between schools.
- **School places:** Headteachers continue to meet regularly with Schools Planning officers to ensure that sufficient school places in Berkhamsted continues to be high on their agenda and forward planning for admissions is robust.

In short, this means a lot of work for senior leaders in all the schools! We are all fully committed to creating the smoothest change for staff and pupils – and also making sure that current pupils don’t miss out on any opportunities that they would have normally had.

For those of us expecting an Ofsted inspection, it’s a very real challenge of ensuring that we are still providing the very best every lesson, every day in

addition to the workload of creating a new school.

Julian of Norwich claimed God himself said to her “*All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well*” and so it shall be: through hard work, dedication and prayer. Please join us:

God of Love, you are with us in every transition and change. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love.

We thank you for the gifts, talents and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. We thank you for the work of others that gives breadth and depth to our own work.

Fill us with your wisdom and guidance and gift us with humour and humility. Be with us as we move forward and help us to accomplish the task set before us, rejoicing with you and supporting one another.

We ask this in your Holy Name.

Amen.

Rob Halls

Graham Greene Festival 2013

David Pearce, Festival Director, prepares for this year's event

The weeks to the September Graham Greene Festival tick down like a time bomb. And that is exactly what we will have. A new Dr Fischer (of Berkhamsted!) may provide a lucky-dip with presents of immense value; and amongst all the goodies perhaps, just perhaps, there will be a bomb. We shall see what happens in our re-enactment of the Bomb Party on the Thursday night at the film-showing after the Gathering Supper. The actress Greta Scacchi, star of *'Dr Fischer of Geneva or The Bomb Party'* fully intends to be with us that evening, and will be in discussion with our old friend Quentin Falk. Of course, there will be no 'Toads' there as there are in the book. Just old friends and Greene enthusiasts. I hope that you will be among them.

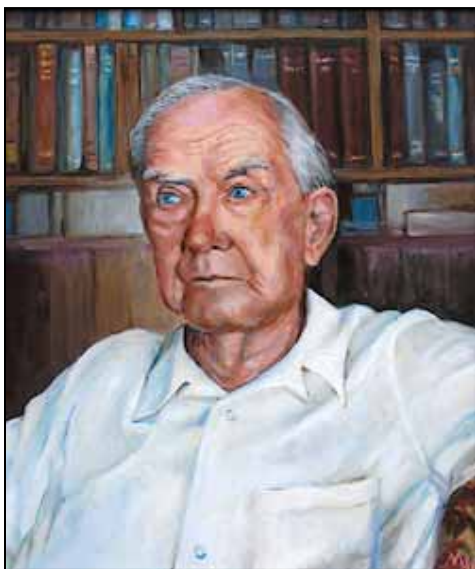
We don't come for material gain, but for the excitement of seeing those who have, in some cases, come to our Festivals for sixteen years. Can it have been so long ago that we took our first tentative steps into the unknown here in Berkhamsted? All those years ago it was just like Graham heading off into the uncharted Liberian forest. We posted our notices and swamped the local libraries with our brochures. It was an act of faith. People joined us out of curiosity; but some out of convictions already established.

And so, the Festival is not just a literary occasion, but a rallying ground for much more. It provides a focus for all sorts and manner of men and women who find that they have this common interest. In sixteen years it has brought me, personally, a great company of

marvellous people. An experience I shall never forget. Some are still with us, and imparting their memories. Bernard Diederich, if he comes as he intends, will be of that generation, and none could be better than Nicholas Shakespeare – who will talk to us on the Saturday afternoon of the Festival – as a spokesman for that past time.

As I prepared for the Festival, I engaged in a spirit-quickening correspondence with Pico Iyer. We have never met, but we confided that we walked a common path; talked of a known friend. All because of Graham. Pico cannot come to the Festival but it is because of the Festival that he is drawn into our number. This Festival in Berkhamsted gives reason and privilege to invite those who have taken part in the story. It is as if we were custodians of something valuable.

This Festival is constructed on certain lines. Graham's life and personality are aspects we always enjoy. Richness of experience is what we are here for, and Graham is an example to us. An objective evaluation of Graham's work is also important. We, in our individual minds, know what we think of his novels, but can we arrive at a consensus of judgement? That is why I have asked Professor John Batchelor, on the Saturday, to evaluate Graham's standing in the ranks of 20th century writers. There are many who think that he should have received the Nobel Prize for Literature. His writing reflected the spirit of the age.



Portrait of Graham Greene - Margaret Woods

It was – and is – relevant. It constantly surprises me how often, and in so many different contexts, the thoughts, the views, of Graham are seen as a benchmark or reference point. The extraordinary fact is that we track Graham wherever we go, and often without realising it. The writer and actor Bryan Forbes who came memorably to one Festival wrote in his autobiography: 'Graham Greene was the only mentor I ever wanted, and the only one who consistently inspired me to go a yard further than before.'

The theme, then, of Evaluation is one strand of the Festival, and Professor Randall Stevenson, on the Friday, will weigh *The Heart of the Matter* against the other prize choices selected for the James Tait Black Memorial Prize over the last century. How does this one Greene novel, selected in 1948, compare with the other great prize winners? Perhaps those who intend to come should read the novel again, for we shall all discuss it after the

talk, in company with Mike Hill (a former Director) and Richard Greene.

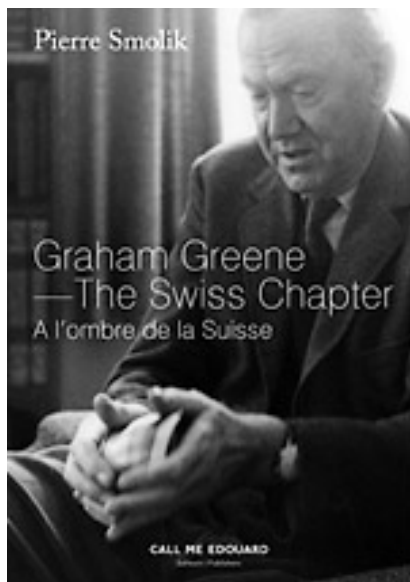
That brings me on to another aim: that of involving the audience. Festivals like ours are not for being lectured; they are for our taking part. The academics who come bring their rich understanding, but each of us brings our own considered experience, which, unhampered by the pressures of teaching and authorship, is just as pertinent. For that reason there will be a place for 'Greene Shoots' where – for no more than five minutes (strictly timed) - anyone will have an opportunity hold forth on any Greene topic or observation. Perhaps let me know beforehand of ideas that cannot be kept silent. In the same way, I propose not to have a guest speaker for the convivial Saturday Dinner in Old Hall (Greene's old playground in the holidays, and a place that too few have a chance to visit), but rather to invite spoken contributions. This will be a Festival for the audience; it lies in your power to make it a success. We shall see; we shall see.

As with Africa, so out of Greene semper aliquid novi. There is always something new. That is the excitement and the range of the man. This year Dr Frances McCormack, who will direct the Festival in 2014, will crack open *The Captain and the Enemy*. In past years this late novella has hardly been mentioned, let alone considered. We shall also be given perceptive slants on Greene and Israel, and on Greene and his aversions to America. Did he really take those viewpoints? With Frances Assa and Professor Joyce Stavick - both singularly well qualified to deal with their topics - we shall find out.

(Continued on page 14)

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A new book, too; the Festival will mark the Launch of *Graham Greene: The Swiss Chapter* by Pierre Smolik. New territory, new angles: and we shall be pleased to see again the Swiss publishers for that launch on the Friday morning.



New, too, on the Sunday morning, will be Professor Richard Greene's recent gleanings for his new biography. We shall all be fascinated to learn of the progress. Something new; something old! Well, Professor Neil Sinyard is almost as old as anything in the Festival's history, and yet, out of the hat of his imagination, each

year he extracts new celluloid rabbits. We all know what to expect; we all know we shall not be disappointed. And that is true of our other three speakers, all of whom are known to regular Festival goers. I do not think that the Fr Michael Bowie came as Rector to Berkhamsted because of Graham Greene but he has certainly espoused our cause wholeheartedly, and he will give an insight into the complexities of Graham's awareness of Damnation and of....whatever is the alternative. And our Spanish and French professors, François Gallix and Carlos Villar Flor, will show us the dusty footprints in some of Graham's favourite places – though not the brothels, I am told.

But first of all you must sign up for the Festival. We have no brochure this year, though printed flyers may be found in the usual places in the town. The cry nowadays is for electronic ticketing and the website, but you will still be able to buy your tickets by phone or - for the talks - at the door. Some events of the Festival are limited in number. I say that lest you be disappointed. A Festival is only as good and as much fun as an audience enables it to be. All is ready if our minds be so.

David Pearce

GRAHAM GREENE

FESTIVAL 2013

Local History

News of what's happening locally by Jenni Sherwood, Chairman of Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society

A series of open days and tours have been organised by Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society at many of the town's historical sites. Taking place between 12th and 15th September, they feature amongst them the British Film Institute, Berkhamsted Place, Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store, St. Peter's Church and Court House, St Mary's Church, Northchurch and the Castle. Details were featured in last month's YB but if you missed this you can visit: www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk or www.heritageopendays.org.uk. Book a place (recommended) by contacting Jenni Sherwood on 01442 865158 or KSherw9100@aol.com

The Society has also released its programme of forthcoming talks:

- 11 Sept 2013 'The Gruesome History of Body Snatching.' Robert Stephenson, Guide, City of London and Kensal Green Cemetery.
- 9 Oct 2013 'Halton House from the 1880s to today.' Trixie Brabner, Archivist Halton House and Society member.
- 13 Nov 2013 'The History of Coleshill – a village once in Hertfordshire'. Julian Hunt, historian.
- 11 Dec 2013 'Rothamsted: 800 Years of History.' Professor Roger Plumb, Rothamsted Research Station, Harpenden.
- 15 Jan 2014 'Local Brick Making History' Jim Matthews of H.G. Matthews Brickworks, Bellingdon.
- 12 Feb 2014 'The Ancient Art of

Deception' Hugh Davies, Bletchley Park.
• 12th March 2014. 'Dr John Incent 1480 to 1545, founder of Berkhamsted School.' David Pearce, former master Berkhamsted School. This is preceded by the AGM.

PERCY BIRTCHNELL MEMORIAL PRIZE

For the past 13 years the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society has awarded two prizes of £20 each to children in Year 4 of Victoria First School. The prize was set up in memory of Percy Charles Birtchnell, local historian and founder member of the Society, whose interest in local history was first awakened when he was a boy in Victoria Boys' School. With the changes in Berkhamsted's education system this month, when Victoria School will become an Infants' School, this will be the last year the prize will be offered to children from that school.

The children prepare a folder on a topic based on National Curriculum work, this year 'The Normans'. The work is carried out in their own time. Percy Birtchnell Memorial Prizes 2013 were awarded to Olivia Sadler and William Hunt. Eleanor Littler's project was very highly commended. Ben Davies and Lucy Preston were both highly commended for their work.

The exact form in which the Percy Birtchnell Prize will continue has not been decided. Rather than offer it to the Thomas Coram School it may be offered to each of the Junior Schools in rotation to give a wider range of children the same opportunity.

News from the Hospice of St Francis

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Complementary Therapy

Local people with cancer and other life-limiting conditions are being encouraged to try the complementary therapy courses on offer at our new Spring Centre.

The Centre focuses on an integrated and holistic approach to wellbeing helping patients to manage their symptoms and improve their quality of life. The treatments are open to anyone with a life limiting condition, regardless of when they were diagnosed, and also their carers.

Aromatherapy, body massage, Indian head massage, shiatsu massage and reflexology are all available on Tuesday and Wednesdays. A new hairdressing service is also available offering a restyle, trim or a wash and blowdry, fortnightly on Thursday afternoons. All you need to do to make an appointment is secure a GP referral and email:

sandy.winyard@stfrancis.org.uk or call 01442 869550. The full programme is available by visiting the website: www.stfrancis.org.uk/springcentre.

Cycletta

Do you enjoy cycling and would you be interested in taking your bicycle further afield?

Cycletta events are for women of all abilities, demonstrated by the fact that 70% of participants in Cycletta 2011 had never taken part in a cycling event before. It's the perfect environment for women of all abilities to cycle starting and finishing at wonderful family-friendly host venues. We have places at the following Cycletta Events in September

and October and ask that people commit to raising a minimum of £200 for the Hospice to participate.

Cycletta Scotland – Scone Palace – 15th September 2013

Cycletta Brighton – Plumpton Racecourse – 29th September 2013

Cycletta New Forest – Beaulieu – 13th October 2013

It costs from £28 for the 20km routes to secure a place.

To find out more visit:

www.stfrancis.org.uk or contact the fundraising team on fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk 01442 869555.

Dates for your Diaries

Literary Quiz – Wed 25th Sept, 7 for 7:30pm. Old Dining Room, Berkhamsted School. £8 per person.

Test your literary learning with a quiz on books and authors as part of Graham Greene Festival.

Hospice Coffee Morning – Friday 27th September, 10:30 – 12am. Tours, chat, coffee, craft sales.

Oxford Fiddle Group Concert – Sunday 29th September, 7:30pm, Victoria Hall, Akeman Street, Tring. Enjoy the magical sound of the massed fiddles of the Oxford Fiddle Group playing tunes and songs from the UK, Ireland and the USA, from foot-tapping jigs and reels to beautiful airs and laments. Tickets are available in advance for £10 from David Lonsdale on 01296 631791 or £12 on the door.

For further information:

www.stfrancis.org.uk / tel 01442 869555.

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Fr Michael Bowie



School's IN

On my last day of school, which must have been in December 1977, though I now can't remember the precise date, my friends and I decided to greet the day on a beach as the sun

rose. There was a strong possibility that alcohol might also be involved. We duly rose at 4 and drove to Bungen Beach, one of Sydney's more secluded northern beaches, to welcome the dawn of this significant day with an interesting combination of local champagne and whisky. The rest of the day is a bit hazy in memory, though it did include, for me, having to preach at a chapel service (I remember gripping the pulpit rather firmly and quoting T.S. Eliot – which I'm told is the sure sign of an immature preacher). Then there was a Review, in which I had to impersonate the scary South African deputy head (achieved by certain exaggerated vowels, a particular combination of brown clothes and shoes for which he was famous, and speaking exclusively about Rugby, the only subject on which he was fluent). Finally – for this is an Australian story – the school laid on a BBQ, at which one of my contemporaries had arranged for loudspeakers to blare a selection of appropriately themed songs, beginning with Alice Cooper ('School's out') and Supertramp ('School' from *Crime of the Century*) – you get the idea.

And so school was indeed 'out'. By about Christmas that year most of us had realised that this apparently world-changing moment was merely the prelude to a lot more of the same - years of university for most of us, with less of the familiar and

supportive school context that we'd carelessly inhabited for a decade or more. I didn't actually escape the world of education into the 'real' world of ordained ministry, for another 12 years. I have now lost touch with all those I knew at school, to the extent that when I see school photos, or read personal notes in our old boys magazine, I can't remember almost any of the people. It is no longer as significant as it seemed at the time.

School is both an important and a transient part of modern life. Sadly, now, it is also a commodity. We know that people even move house, sometimes, on the basis of school catchments; there is an increasing pressure, perhaps ramped up by politicians, to see these years as the single biggest determining factor in a 'successful' life. Yet well-researched studies have shown repeatedly that school can make only a marginal difference to the outcome of our lives. The real determiner is what we get at home: not just values, but actual education, is gained primarily in the family. No doubt we would prefer someone else to be responsible, but we can never escape ourselves, our own responsibility for our lives and the lives of our families.

This new school year in Berkhamsted is truly new for all our schools. It is a time of significant change. None of that matters as much as who we *are*. Change is always challenging, but in all of it we are still ourselves, adapting and changing. We may welcome change, or rage against it, but we will not avoid it. The key is to accept that it is always an opportunity for new life, and embrace it. We can't live in our past, however comfortable it seems: as Cardinal Newman wrote, 'To live is to change; to be perfect is to have changed often.'

Regular Church Activities

- 3rd Mon Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534.
- Tues Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10–11:30am. All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Jenny Wells, 870981.
- Tues St Peter's Choir, Children 5:15–6:15pm. St Peter's. Adrian Davis 01296 632263 or Jean Wild 866859.
- 1st Tues Tuesday Club, 7:30pm A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Jean Bray 864532.
- 3rd Tues Mothers' Union, meet in members' houses at 2.30pm. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Lally, 863526.
- 4th Tues Mothers' Union Prayer Group, 2:30pm. 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 Berkhamsted Churches Prayer Breakfast, 8am, The Way Inn. Rachael Hawkins 866324.
- 1st Sun Sundays Together Lunch 12.30pm, Court House. For anyone on their own on a Sunday. Liz Jackson 864382.

Regular Church Services

St Peter's

Regular Sunday services

8:00am Eucharist

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

6:00pm Evensong

Regular weekday services

Morning Prayer: Monday – Thursday 7:30am; Friday 8:00am, Saturday 9:30am

Eucharist: Monday 6:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road; Wednesday 8:00am; Thursday Holy Communion 12:30pm; Friday 7:30am; Saturday 10:00am

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

This Month's Diary

St Peter's

Sat 14th Sept, 10am Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike

Tues 17th Sept, 8pm The Friends of St Peter's: Social Evening

Events presented by the Cowper Society at St Peter's Church or the Court House,

Sat 7th Sept, 7.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church - Berkhamsted Choral Society.

Sacred Choral Pieces directed by Graham Wili. Tickets: £13/£11, £6 students, U18s free free from Cole Flatt & Ptnrs, 124 High Street, Berkhamsted.

Tues 17th Sep, 8.00pm: TALK in The Court House - The Friends of St Peter's talk about current and future projects. With refreshments.

Sat 28th Sept, 7.30pm: Celebrity ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church - Jane Watts, recognised as one of Britain's leading concert organists, opens the 2013–2014 organ recital series. Tickets: £10 on the door

All Saints'

1st Sept, 10am – 14th Sunday after Trinity, Morning Worship, David Williamson

8th Sept, 10am – 15th Sunday after Trinity, Holy Communion, Revd Valerie Rockall and Rob Wakely

15th Sept, 16th Sunday after Trinity, Morning Worship, Eva Wallace-Hadrill and Tracy

Robinson 22nd Sept, 10am Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity, Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins and Malcolm Lindo

29th Sept, 10am Michael and All Angels, Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby, 4pm

Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Tracy Robinson and Audrey Cox

Registers

Baptisms – St Peter's: 7th July Kassia Lydia BANNISTER, Kayla-Dee BANNISTER, 21ST July Noah Frederick SNOWDEN, Holly Anne MOFFATT, Oliver Ewart EVERITT, Poppy Alanna EVERITT,

Admission to communion before confirmation:

Jonathan Christopher BELOE, Harriet Lily Clarissa BEADLE, Beatrice Alice Victoria BEADLE, Sophie Grace ARMSTRONG, Nicholas James ARMSTRONG, Nancy Natascha Margaret ALLSOP, Dulcie Daphne June ALLSOP, Harriet Lucy WALKER, Daisy Janneke GROET, Emma Joan Marie GREGO, Grace Jennifer POWELL, Kassia Lydia BANNISTER, Kayla-Dee BANNISTER

Funerals – St Peter's: 12th July Kathleen May SHIRLEY, 15th July Aubrey Roy BRAIN, 16th July Mary CURZON-SWALLOW

Key Church contacts

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong and Kate Perera, Court House, 878227.

Fr. Michael Bowie, 864194 (day off Thurs), Team Rector, St Peter's.

Fr. Tom Plant, 382633 (day off Fri), Curate, St Peter's

The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints'.

Further information available from our church websites:

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

“The Energy Glut”

Bruce Nixon discusses the forthcoming talk by Professor Ian Roberts

Transition Town Berkhamsted will host a talk entitled “The Energy Glut” by Professor Ian Roberts, at Ashlyns School on Wednesday 16th October at 7.15pm for 7-30pm until 9.15pm.

World-wide, over a billion adults are overweight and 300 million are officially 'obese', more than 3,000 people die every day on the world's roads and global warming and war threaten our survival as a species. In Britain, nearly one third of adults are obese, we walk less than ever before in our history and our greenhouse gas emissions are shameful. Studies indicate over 2.1m deaths annually from air pollution alone. This talk considers how our abuse of fossil fuel energy links all of these public issues as manifestations of the same fundamental planetary malaise and considers how we can learn to 'tread more lightly on our world'.

This wide ranging talk is likely to be of great interest as it touches on so many issues of concern to people in our community – people who live or work here, parents and grandparents, young people, especially teenagers, and those concerned about the environment, health, transport, high levels of pollution in some of our streets, road safety, safe cycling, safe streets, local food, local shops and our high street. We envisage a lively and constructive discussion of these inter-related issues and how to resolve them.

Ian Roberts is Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. He trained as a paediatrician and then in epidemiology in New Zealand and at McGill University, Canada. His main research interests are the prevention and treatment of trauma and the links between energy and health. He is co-ordinating editor of the Cochrane Injuries Group, a network concerned with effective interventions in the prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of injury. He is principal investigator of the CRASH trials, large international clinical trials of better ways to treat injured trauma patients. He is the author of *The Energy Glut: the politics of fatness in an overheating world*. The proceeds of sales are donated to the RoadPeace charity. See his Youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjPA_dIXoVM

To book your place at this talk, go to <http://transitionberkhamsted.org.uk/>

Bruce Nixon is author of *A Better World is Possible*. To find out more about him visit his website: www.bruce-nixon.com.

SEPTEMBER FLOWER FESTIVAL

St. John the Baptist Church, Pipers Hill, Great Gaddesden

Opening Reception and Concert Friday 20th at 7.00 p.m.

Flower Festival open 12 noon Friday 20th to 3.00 p.m. Sunday 22nd

Food Fayre Saturday 21st 11.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Jazz Among The Flowers Saturday 21st 6.30 to 9.00 p.m.

Festival Service with local school choirs Sunday 22nd 3.00 p.m.

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My Berkhamsted

Jenni Cator is a local artist and jointly runs 'Art at 88' on the High Street

I moved to Berkhamsted because

I drove through one afternoon and remember looking out of the window thinking "I could live here". I had just finished a glorious walk in Ashridge, found completely by accident in a Hertfordshire walking book, and two months later, and with absolutely no research into the area, I had bought a house and was moving my worldly goods in. Little did I know how good the commute was, how supportive the people are, how diverse the High Street is, and four years later, I now live and run an art gallery here. I was so inspired by the town and community, that I wanted to create a space to exhibit the talent of local people – a real home grown shop unique to Berkhamsted.

I think the most beautiful sight in Berkhamsted is

The walk over the bridge on Gravel Path; my daily commute to the High Street! The birdseye view of the canal is always breath-taking whether in summer, flooded with holiday makers, dog walkers and herons, or in winter, glistening with ice or shrouded with early morning fog. Whatever time of day, it's such a relaxing sight, and I haven't tired of it yet.

The local places where I like to relax and reflect

The castle. I took a friend of mine, visiting from Australia, to see it. She was bowled over by the fact the town has this treasure in its back garden. I've spent many a happy hour with friends and family there – nearly skidding into the moat on an icy Christmas morning, and spilling secrets to loved ones in the relative intimacy of the thick flint walls. The view of the ruins from the train is always exciting. And who knew Robert of Mortain had the foresight to build it near such excellent transport routes?!

I'm happy to live in Berkhamsted because...

It supports my life, socially and professionally. I'm proud that the town has so many independent businesses, and bucks the trend of declining High Streets elsewhere the country.. The people are so welcoming, and the community is so overtly proud of this little gem in Hertfordshire. I know I can walk up the street and will say hello to at least five people in one trip, but feel anonymous enough not to be claustrophobic. I love getting off the train, 30 minutes from London, feeling completely free of the city, and lucky to be following the canal home. Most of all, I love our customers and the enthusiasm of everyone who visits us. We are a small business but we are growing and becoming successful thanks to the town's continued support and loyalty.

What would you change about Berkhamsted?

Without question the parking. I live in a lovely old part of Berkhamsted, a stone's throw from the canal and less than 5 minutes stroll to the high street. It's an absolute privilege to be there. But I hate the fight for the right to park in my own street. A-level students, commuters, pub visitors, and people who either can't find space in town, or who are too tight to pay for it, all make living there a little bit harder than it should be. Parking for businesses is equally as bad. We need to make it easier for visitors to enjoy our town and absolutely everything it has to offer.

What is Berkhamsted crying out for?.....

A proper parking system where residents and visitors can live in harmony!

When I tell people about Berkhamsted I always tell them?.....

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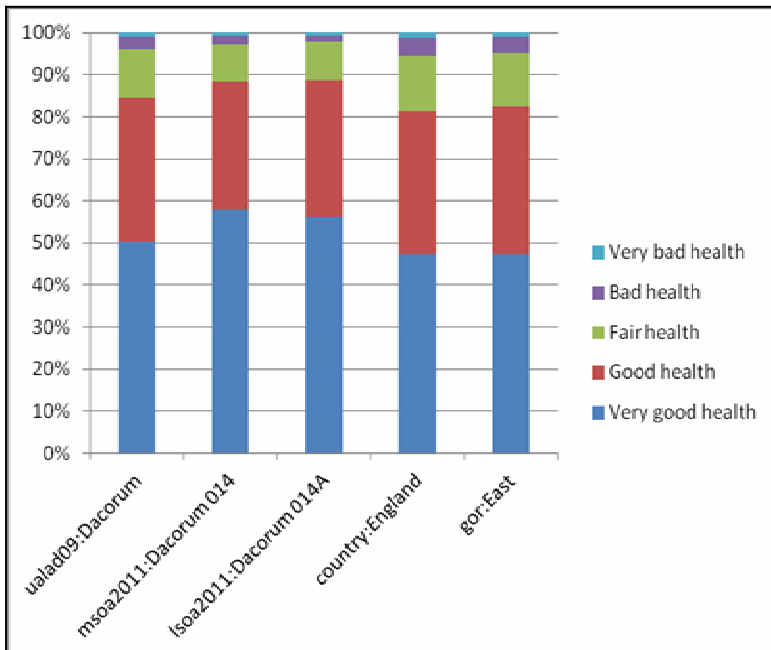
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Census Corner

Julian Dawson discusses how the health of the nation is linked to how rich we are

We hear a lot about the health of our fellow citizens, crisis caused by diet and lack of exercise, and the resulting demands on the NHS. But what is the true story as revealed by the 2011 census? It is gratifying to note that by the majority of people, whether in our locality or in England as a whole are in very good, or good, health. Indeed, in our part of Dacorum the numbers in very good health are above the national average at nearly 60 per cent compared to nearly 50 per cent for England as a whole. Conversely the percentage of people in bad, or very bad health, constitute around five per cent of the population in England. In south west Berkhamsted the figure is negligible at around two per cent, thirty seven people in real numbers.

But lest we consider the picture too rosy, over the last ten years, the Office of National Statistics have concluded that the number of years lived without a limiting longstanding illness or disability decreased between 2003–06 and 2007–10, the greatest decrease occurring not surprisingly in the most deprived areas. Further, the inequality in life expectancy between the least and most deprived areas in England grew between 2003-06 and 2007–10. Put in real terms, males in the least deprived areas in 2007–10 could expect to live about 15 more years disability free than males in the most deprived areas. We still live in a country of haves and have-nots.





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A century in and out of Berkhamsted

Nancy Lawrenson

To Berkhamsted School

Uncle Coombs, Major Coombs, told Jim that Berkhamsted School needed a new Chaplain for the Autumn of 1955. For some time we had been thinking that the *London Police Court Mission* was not a good place for a family with Jim away from home all days of the week with Sunday services in parishes all over the south of England and with only short holidays. With no good schools near Kew David had won an 11+ place at Tiffin's in Kingston so Jim applied for the Berkhamsted job. The Headmaster was Basil Garnons Williams, an Oxford Classics scholar who was impressed by Jim's seven year study of New Testament Greek and whose wife Margi (Schearme) was an RNS school friend of mine. We spent a weekend with them in the old School House, our bedroom facing St Peters and with a wake-up bell at 7.00am for the early service!

Jim was duly appointed Chaplain but there was no Chaplain's house. Jim was not an angry man but I could be an angry tiger mother and asked Basil what we were going to do about a house – "Buy one out of your own capital" says he. "What capital?" Meantime we had a short-term tenancy of the upstairs flat beside the old Art School with a lovely garden of red peonies. When we arrived at the beginning of the Spring term in 1956 the tank had burst and we were met by a cascade of ice down the stairs. With the old Art School sold off to the Wellcome chemical firm we went up hill

and down dale round Berkhamsted in search of a location in reach of schools for all of us, including me. Basil thought that as a BA graduate I could be useful coaching boys who wanted to retake and pass the entrance exam. Later I was appointed to give home tuition to children excluded from schools and referred to me by the Watford Clinic for 'Personality Disorders'. Just across Torrington Road where we had found a house lived two of the social workers and very interesting some cases were; including a boy sent by Victoria School because he could be very violent and dangerous. Jim was not happy that I should take on this boy but when not on his home ground he had no one to fight with. On one occasion he walked up our steps holding a broken biro which he said had been run over by a bus! Another boy, Phillip, spoke only of himself as "he" and told stories of himself as one of "those wonderful men in the Flying Machine" – and always singing. Autism was not yet diagnosed.

In school David worked diligently, kept his head down for fear of embarrassing his father, and won an Exhibition and Bursary at Queen's College Cambridge. Andrew enjoyed swimming and made very good friends, some still close to this day. Several of the disciplinarian masters reported him and always to his father so he left school after his science A Levels, did not take university entrance exams and after a year out read biology at Sheffield University. Celia made good

(continued on page 28)

friends at BSG on King's Road, then separate from the Boys' School which had been established in 1541 as the Grammar School (Latin and Greek grammar).

In 1960 the BSG head, Miss Russell, asked if I could possibly help them out as Mrs Cameron was leaving to have a baby. I was then teaching history at Tring Park, now Academy for the Performing Arts, and enjoying it very much in the beautiful old mansion with its wonderful park, King's Ride and wild orchids. Eventually I decided to do part-time at Tring and BSG. At Tring I taught all the examination classes reduced in number because of the emphasis on dancing and drama grades. At BSG I took 'Tops and Tails', the non-exam years. The syllabus for the 11 year olds up from the Beeches covered the Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age (Ivinghoe Beacon, flints from the Beeches playground, where did the Chiltern chalk come from?). The Romans meant enjoyable trips to Verulamium, pop songs all the way, and mosaic floors, hypocausts, city walls and theatre with its pictures of gladiators and oyster shells at tuppence each. Plenty to draw and colour and an Excellent from Miss Russell for the exercise book! And on to the Angles and Saxons and Beorchamstead, the homestead among the beeches. And always the school tuckshop, ices and sweets.

The 'Tops' were the Sixth General, the 16 year olds not doing A levels and intending to seek other qualifications – nursing, secretarial, librarianship. They enjoyed being treated as young ladies with minds of their own so I gave them a civics course and took them on a range of related visits – Houses of Parliament (arranged with a

local MP), local Magistrates Court (Nicky Evans a local JP) and Assizes at Aylesbury. This helped them to differentiate between civil and criminal law and between the different types of court. We did bus trips to Cooper, McDougall & Robertson's chemical works at Bourne End, the paper mills at Apsley (all qualities and types of paper), Billingsgate, Smithfield and Covent Garden markets. Covent Garden was still London's central fruit and veg. market with the porters dashing around with produce trays on their heads and grocers and florists in from the country to buy their fresh stock.

More in next month's issue...

Peter's Interiors

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Recipe



Apple strudel

I love the combination of apple and pastry, and now that the apple season is here again, I've tried making apple strudel. The recipe originates from the area that now comprises Austria, Germany and Hungary, and does not use filo pastry, but the traditional pastry sounded very difficult to make; it involves prolonged flogging against a table top and then rolling until it is so thin that you can read a newspaper through it! Ready-made filo pastry is a good compromise, as long as you brush it liberally with butter and treat it with care. This quantity serves 6-8 and I recommend that you serve it with cream, custard, ice-cream or all three!

Ingredients

700g apples (I used a mix of Bramley and Royal Gala)
80g brown sugar for the apple mix, plus 35g for brushing the pastry
50g raisins
50g almonds, finely chopped
2 tsp cornflour
1 tsp ground cinnamon

½ a nutmeg, finely grated

½ tsp ground allspice or cloves

6 sheets of ready-made filo pastry (one packet)

100g butter

1. Preheat the oven to 180C or 170C with fan.
2. Peel the apples and cut into small dice. Put them into a large bowl and add 80g brown sugar, the raisins, chopped almonds, cornflour, cinnamon, nutmeg and allspice and toss to coat the apples.
3. Melt the butter and add 35g brown sugar – stir to combine.
4. Lay out a clean tea towel on a bench and unravel your filo pastry. Very gently, lay one of the sheets on the tea towel. Using a pastry brush, carefully brush the entire sheet with the melted butter and sugar mixture, trying not to tear it.
5. Layer another sheet on top, brush with the melted butter and then repeat one more time, so you have three sheets stuck together.
6. Put half of the apple mixture in a thick line widthways near one end of the pastry. Roll it up like a Swiss roll, trying not to break the pastry. You do not need to tuck in the ends, but can leave it open.
7. Repeat steps 4 to 6 with the remaining 3 sheets of filo pastry and apple mixture. Brush both of your strudels with the remaining butter and sugar mixture and place them very gently onto a baking tray that has been lined with paper.
8. Bake the strudels for 25-30 minutes, until the pastry is crisp and golden.

Sport at Ashlyns School

Hundreds of school children will be making the trip up to Ashlyns this month as the school welcomes pupils not just from year 9, but for the first time year 8 and 7 children will be joining as Berkhamsted scraps the middle school system. So I will explain what sport there is on offer for pupils at Ashlyns.

I am currently at Ashlyns and am about to start sixth form. I have been a part of the school teams in each year I've been there and I have also thoroughly enjoyed PE which I also took as a GCSE option. The school's best facility is by far the amazing 3G Berko Astro which is used for PE lessons and extracurricular clubs. In year 9 we had to use the grass for our PE lessons but having the Astroturf in year 10 and 11 has been brilliant and we don't just use it for football. We have also used it for rounders and fitness training. Ashlyns' other outside facilities consist of rounders pitches dotted around the field on the maths corridor side of the school. That side also has an athletics track painted out during the summer which is used for PE lessons. It's also used for sports day which always proves to be a big success as the school's four houses, Handel, Raven, Coram and Bourne battle it out. Also on that side of the school is a rugby pitch which is in action over the winter. Situated at the back of the school and in front of Berko Astro are the outside basketball courts and the tennis and netball courts.

There is a sports gymnasium inside which along with the hall and canteen are often used for winter PE lessons or when it's raining. The gym contains a small basketball court which we've used during PE. Meanwhile, in time for the autumn of 2014 a new state-of-the-art sports hall is set to

be built. This will hopefully mean that the hall and canteen won't have to be used for table tennis and trampolining as it has been in the past.

Berko Cricket Club kindly allows us to use its facilities at Kitchener's Field as I've experienced. The after school club has its training in their high quality nets. In year 10 I also played my District League Cricket final there. Ashlyns winning team is pictured below, with me on the far right.

Our school football matches are held of course on the Astro. In the summer there is an Athletics team that I have been a part of which regularly attend meetings at Watford and Jarman Park.

Some of my fondest memories of Ashlyns so far have come in sport. I've won the District League for cricket as mentioned, reached the final of the District League for football and also finished second in the district for 200m in year 10. If you're a child reading this article and are going up to Ashlyns or even a parent then I would strongly recommend getting involved/ getting your child involved in the sporting opportunities at the school. They are very enjoyable and will provide you with some great memories to take away with you if chosen for the school's teams.





Young Berkhamsted

Nick's Favourite Flapjack Recipe

Ingredients

225g raisins/sultanas/chopped dried
apricots
175g butter
3tbsp golden syrup
85g muscovado sugar
340g oats
Cinnamon

Heat the oven to 180/gas 5.

Heat the raisin mix in a pan with some
water and keep squashing it until it goes
gooey.

In a big pan melt the butter, golden syrup
and sugar.

Stir the oats and some cinnamon into the
butter mix.

Put half the mix in a buttered baking tin
and squash it down really well.

Put the raisin mix on top.

Put the other half of the oat mix on top
and squash it down again.

Sprinkle with caster sugar.

Bake for 20 minutes in the oven.

Cut into squares straight away.

Leave to cool before removing from the
tin.

*Always get an adult to help you when
using a hob and an oven*

And the winner is...

In the June issue we ran a competition for children to come up with a new flavour of ice cream for Scoops to make and sell. Mario Achillea, Manager of Scoops, chose the winning flavour as:

'Toffee Apple'

Congratulations to Olly Smith who wins £5 worth of Scoops vouchers. The ice cream will be on sale in Scoops for one month only so be sure to pay them a visit if you can!

Two runner up prizes of a free ice cream also go to Oliver Tudor for his idea of 'Cheesy Chips' and Beau McArdle who suggested 'Pot of Gold' (banana, chocolate, toffee chunks, and marshmallows).

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to everyone who entered.

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