

*the magazine for town and parish since 1872*

# YB

Your Berkhamsted

October 2013

Local authors and artists

Berkhamsted in WWI

Enter the Young Writer 2013 competition

50p

# In this issue...

## Welcome to the October edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

We have a wide range of articles for you this month. Art has been on the agenda recently with the Herts Open Studios so to continue the theme I met up with local artist Mitzie Green to talk about her work. We also feature a piece about the life and work of the late Alma Duncan (Polly) Rafter to mark the forthcoming exhibition of her work at the Upstairs Gallery. On a literary theme there's an interview with local author Rowan Coleman and we bring you news of the YB Young Writer of the Year 2013-2014 competition.

Looking towards next year's Centenary, there is a poignant piece on Berkhamsted's role in WWI, and finally, our regular sports columnist Matt Dawson reports on Berkhamsted FC's FA Cup campaign. You can't say we don't give you variety!



Helen Dowley, Editor

<b>Berkhamsted in the News</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Local Noticeboard</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Life With Polly</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Local Charity Events</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Hospice of St Francis</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Berkhamsted's WWI Double Tragedy</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Parish Pages</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Mitzie Green interview</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>My Berkhamsted</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Census Corner</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>A Century In and Out of Berkhamsted</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Young Writer Competition</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Recipe</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Your Sport</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Young Berkhamsted</b>	

Front cover image by Alma Duncan Rafter



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

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

# Berkhamsted in the News

Julian Dawson returns with his monthly media round-up



It is sad, but probably inevitable, that it takes a sequence of gruesome events to put Berkhamsted in the forefront of media coverage, though technically the sad events involving the murder of Graham Buck took place in Little Gaddesden. Reports were to be seen in the main nationals, as well as ITV and BBC. So at times such as these, it was reassuring to be brought back to cosy normality by narrowboatchance.blogspot.co.uk. This blog relates to the gentle everyday tale of narrowboat folk travelling along the Grand Union from the Thames. They reached Berkhamsted in the week of writing week, and had nothing more worrisome to contend with than crumbling lock walls and unbuttoned shirts. It certainly makes life on the canal sound very attractive, though I might suggest that last summer this trip would not have been so idyllic. It seems however that the canal travellers have a natural fellowship, akin in my experience to birdwatchers and I suspect the cycling fraternity. Discuss...

You will know that I am always keen to let you in on musical best kept secrets. Perhaps we need a music reviewer in our midst to cover the town's rich musical heritage, whether it is organ recitals or folk and blues renditions in our local hostelries. If that sounds like a plea, please take it as such! Chroma Ensemble have taken the best of classical fare and combined it with bluegrass. They brought their unique fusion to the Greene Room, as reported in the *Tring Gazette*, where their performance was inspired by Jack Kerouac's beat movie 'On the Road'. If you went, do let us know.

I was somewhat taken aback by this headline in the *Berkhamsted and Tring Gazette* – "Get your dog chipped and checked for free". I had somewhat macabre visions of mulching my garden with the dog, but it turns out it was talking about electronic tagging, or microchipping. That isn't a form of fried nouvelle cuisine from Heston Blumenthal by the way.

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

Following the rant concerning facilities for the less abled at our local railway stations, Individual.com was pleased to report some timely Network Rail developments which include new passenger lifts between the subway and all platforms at Berkhamsted. Scheduled to be completed by next February, this will be a very welcome addition to the facilities.

Berkhamstedtoday.co.uk reported that the discovery of a rare Samuel Beckett first edition by the town's Oxfam shop won the store a Charity Retail Association prize. Bonhams sold *Murphy* for £12,000, and one can't help thinking that the original owner must be a trifle peeved.

If you were taken by last month's exposé on tooth fairy haberdashery, you will be

delighted to know that upcycling is the thing. Nothing to do with exploits on the mountain stages of the Tour de France, this is all about upgrading your cheap fabrics to make something new, fashionable and striking. Hemeltoday.co.uk explains that Sewing Seams Easy (see what they did there?) can help people transform their clothes by the neglected skill of needlecraft. Which all goes to show that the internet always reveals a rich seam of tapestry.



Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator  
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# Local noticeboard

## The 2013 Pepper Walk

Take part in this fundraising event which starts at noon on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October.

There is a choice of a 3 or 7 mile course by the Grand Union Canal and through Whippendell Woods, starting from St Paul's C of E School Langleybury, Herts WD4 8RJ.

Refreshments and a BBQ will be available. Find out more at [www.peppershow.com/pepperwalk.htm](http://www.peppershow.com/pepperwalk.htm).

## Half term activities with the National Trust

If you're stuck for something to do with the children this half term why not visit one of the many National Trust sites nearby such as Waddesdon, Claydon, Cliveden, Hughenden or Osterley Park. Most are within a 40 minute drive of Berkhamsted and will be offering seasonal activities. Visit the National Trust website [www.NationalTrust.org.uk](http://www.NationalTrust.org.uk) for details of what's on at each of the individual sites.

## Berkhamsted Fireworks

This annual event hosted by Berkhamsted and Bulbourne Rotary Club takes place on Saturday 2nd November at the Berkhamsted Cricket Club, Castle Hill. As well as the fireworks there will also be sideshows, a rodeo bronco ride, teacup ride, barbecue and bar. Tickets are £8 for adults and £6 for children. They can also be bought in advance at Berkhamsted Saturday Market with a saving of £1 per ticket. Gates open at 5pm and the display starts at 6.45pm. Get there early to avoid the queues.

## DENS week 12<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> October

DENS is a local charity tackling homelessness and poverty in Dacorum by giving people the chance to build a better future. It provides a number of integrated services such as DENS Night Shelter, DENS Day Centre and DENS Dacorum Foodbank. Help raise funds in DENS week by hosting a dinner party, holding a coffee and cake event or through one of the many suggestions which can be found on their website at [www.dens.org.uk](http://www.dens.org.uk).

## Antiques Identification Day

Take along your antiques to the experts from the Amersham Auction Rooms who will be at Ashridge House on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October from 10am – 4pm. No booking required. £3 per item with a maximum of 5 items per person. Easy access and free parking.

## Autumn Fayre Open Day, Fritshden Vineyard

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 12 noon – 5pm  
There will be a nature trail, barbecue, tea, coffee and homemade cakes at this seasonal event. Contact Natalie Tooley on 01442 878723 or email [info@frithsdenvineyard.co.uk](mailto:info@frithsdenvineyard.co.uk)

## "Life With Polly" Art Exhibition

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October – 2nd November  
The Upstairs Gallery (above the Post Office on the High St) will be hosting a retrospective exhibition of work by Alma Duncan (Polly) Rafter who lived in Berkhamsted for many years. Find out more about her life and work on page 8.

# Life with Polly

Joan Fisher from The Upstairs Gallery, reflects upon the life and work of the late Alma Duncan Rafter



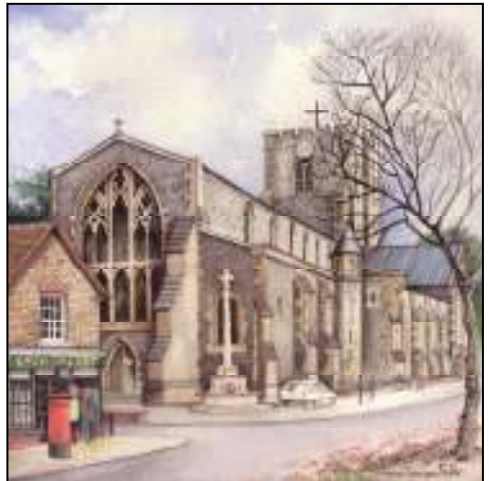
Alma Duncan was born and brought up in Liverpool where she trained at Liverpool College of Art for 5 years, specialising in weaving and illustration. Upon graduating she became Head of the Art Department at Huyton College and then in 1960 Berkhamsted School for Girls, where she became a much loved and respected member of staff until her retirement in 1995.

She acquired the name 'Polly' when she was very small. Her bird imitations and drawings had earned her the nickname of 'Polly Wolly Doodle', which shortened to 'Polly' became the name she was known by to all.

Polly was an amazing character. Not only was she a very talented artist and keen observer of people, she also had a wicked sense of fun. She was always the practical joker, seeing the funny side of most things. This was witnessed early on by her new stepson soon after she had married his father. Tim was 10 when they went

for their first ride in her VW beetle car - after she had turned round the wind-screen washer nozzles! He was highly amused to see passing cyclists and innocent pedestrians being squirted!

This sense of humour can also be seen in her illustrations of life at the school and in Berkhamsted, for which she was justly famed. Her acute observational skills of people and sense of fun make these caricatures so appealing. We all still laugh at her 'Hole in the Road' which was an interpretation of the lengthy saga of the High Street being dug up, as true today as when it was first painted



*St Peter's Church*

It was her love of architecture and architectural illustration, however, which led to her meeting her husband George Rafter, the Police Inspector for Berkhamsted. She had decided she needed to



*Peggy Sear Bookshop Manager*

paint the old police station and wrote to ask permission to do so. However George had decided that she needed to be checked out and he asked Pam who was the special constable to go and visit and see if she was of reputable character.

Pam came back and declared that Polly was 'safe enough to give the keys of the Police Station to'. It did not take long before George was besotted and when she was knocked off her bicycle the following year he was the first on her doorstep.

The rest was history as they say. After retirement Polly went to live near her stepson in Surrey. However she missed Berkhamsted and her friends too much. So she returned and began work as a 'duster' in the Way Inn bookshop, which became her life over the last ten years. She loved being there and meeting all

kinds of people, and her sharp eye and sense of fun caught us all in our unguarded moments. Art was her love. Besides being a brilliant caricaturist Polly was also a very fine graphic artist with a great love for architecture. Before recording the buildings in and around Berkhamsted she had created many drawings and paintings of Liverpool. Her work can be found in Liverpool Museums recording socially important areas of that city which no longer exist.

Although we have no museum in Berkhamsted, Polly and her work will always be part of the life here. She lives on in the lives of the girls she taught and the people she loved and laughed with.



*Golfers*

An Exhibition of Polly's work will be at the Upstairs Gallery Berkhamsted (above the Post Office) from 22nd October – 2nd November 2013.

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# Local Charity News

## All Saints' Friendship Club Diamond Jubilee

In 1953 the Methodist Minister's wife Mrs Watts and her friend Dorothy Courtney went from door to door inviting young women in the area to a new club and the Methodist Young Wives Club was born. This year it celebrates its Diamond Jubilee.

As the years went by the name became less appropriate so it was changed to the Friendship Club and it has certainly lived up to its name. The members pay tribute to its supportive, happy fellowship. Two members can look back on 55 years' membership.

The club meets on Tuesday evenings at All Saints' and enjoys a lively, varied programme with talks by visiting speakers, a monthly devotional evening and visits to the theatre. They also select two charities a year to benefit from their very effective fundraising. This year both the RNLI and the Hospice of St Francis have received substantial cheques of £1200 and church funds have also been supported. It is estimated that since 1987 over £72,000 has been raised.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> the Club will hold a service to give thanks for sixty glorious years and plan for the future. New members are always welcome on Tuesdays at 8pm.

## Mothers' Union

It is good to meet together! For MU members gathering in their branches, or at diocesan or national events, it affirms commitments and reminds us we stand alongside over 4 million members across the world.

The annual national meeting, open to all members, is one such occasion. In June it took place in Bath. The guest speaker was Adrian Plass, an author who writes from a Christian perspective. In his humorous address, entitled *Working Together*, his key message was about the importance of laughter, listening and love in our lives. Fedis Nyagah, a young priest from Kenya, spoke enthusiastically about a new project using the approach of the MU literacy programme to enable people to read the bible and contribute positively to their communities.

Worship is central to MU gatherings. A service before the meeting was also held in the Bath Forum. We gave thanks for all MU has achieved through its projects, community work and campaigning. By working and praying together lives are transformed and dreams become a living reality.

## Oxfam and Wash Your Hands Day

What do you do with a pallet of bars of soap? That is the size of the consignment shipped by Oxfam to emergency situations around the world.

After the devastating earthquake in Haiti, Oxfam employed local people to make up hygiene kits comprising a bucket, wash basin, potty, sanitary towels and eight bars of soap. A kit costs £14 from Oxfam Unwrapped's catalogue of alternative gifts, available at both shops, and when the new range launches at the end of the month there will be a new gift for just £6 for Kids Health Training to teach children the importance of washing their hands – with soap – to prevent the spread of disease. October is Wash Your Hands Day. Let's wash the world!

# News from the Hospice of St Francis

## Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary

### Our Beds

We opened our last two beds in April thanks to two amazing legacies. Last year we cared for 300 people in our beds and hope that this will rise to 350 over the course of this year. Every patient and their family is treated as unique and special and the care we provide is truly holistic. It ranges from the medical to the spiritual to complementary therapy. We also provide a range of practical and holistic services for outpatients living with a life-limiting illness in our Spring Centre – find out more at [www.stfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk).

### Count Yourself In for Hospice Care Week

It's Hospice Care Week from 7th-13th October, which gives everyone the opportunity to explore and understand what goes on at their local hospice. We're opening our doors and inviting the public to our new Spring Centre on Tuesday 8th October from 3pm – 6pm to understand a little more about our hospice care and what services local people can access.

The afternoon will include the unveiling of a new 2-minute film about The Hospice, directed by international film director, David Wachs, with an introduction by our Director, Dr Ros Taylor. There will also be clinical staff on hand, the opportunity to book a taster complementary therapy session, free tea, coffee and cakes and the chance to go on a Hospice tour.

We're asking patients, friends and supporters to show their commitment to hospice care with its 'Count Me In' pledge, part of a national programme to

local communities. People are invited to write a message of support when they visit us and add it to our art wall. For further details on the event, visit [www.stfrancis.org.uk/hospicecareweek](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/hospicecareweek) or call 01442 869555.

### Do something remarkable to help us

This autumn, why not sign up for one of our 2014 challenges to do something different, meet new people and be there for us?

Whatever your interests we have something to appeal: learn to dance or showcase your dance skills in *Strictly Learn Dancing*, lose a few pounds in our *Biggest Loser* event or undertake a cycling challenge such as the London to Paris bike ride in July 2014. All these events require sign up before Christmas and a specific training commitment depending on the event chosen, plus a pledge to raise funds to support

the work of The Hospice of St Francis. Emma Beattie, 40, who took part in the *Biggest Loser* 2012, says "The Hospice is an amazing local charity that supports



Robert Ashby before taking part in the 2013 'Biggest Loser' event



...and after the event with his  
winner's trophy

our local community and, by helping them, I helped myself, losing 10% of my body weight. It makes me feel good to know that this year I raised £1,200,

which could help a patient who needs care or support a child who's just been bereaved.

Anyone interested in the London to Paris Cycle Ride (2nd – 6th July 2014), can also come to an informal open evening on Thursday 3rd October at 7pm at the Hospice to hear about the event, what's involved and meet some of the team who took part this year.

### **Volunteer for us**

We're on the look out for local people with a variety of skills to volunteer for us. We have over 1,000 volunteers who generously give their time and we couldn't do what we do without them! Megan Parkins, 19, a new Hospice volunteer comments, "I wanted to volunteer locally and there were some great choices available at the Hospice. I chose to work in fundraising administration and, as well as learning some new skills, I've been able to enhance my CV and experience working in a team environment."

The Hospice welcomes volunteers with all

types of skills and backgrounds and is perfect for those completing a Duke of Edinburgh Award, wanting to undertake some work experience before University, looking for a fulfilling role between the school runs or who have recently retired. Currently, we particularly need helpers in the following areas:

### **Central Distribution Centre (Northbridge Rd, Berkhamsted HP4 1EH)**

Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles including checking games and puzzles, moving stock and furniture, tagging donations or those who can help with IT or PAT testing electrical items. People with a good knowledge of books, fashion and bric-a-brac are also required to sort goods. The centre is open between 9am – 5pm daily.

### **Ebay**

Packers and listers required, particularly in the run up to Christmas. Volunteers will be based at the Central Distribution Centre on Northbridge Road.

### **Administration**

Volunteers urgently required to help with administrative tasks, particularly in the Fundraising team to assist with promoting the work of the Hospice, helping out at events and undertaking administrative tasks in the office.

If any of these roles appeal, please contact Gillian Van Der Merwe in Voluntary Services on 01442 869550 or email: [volunteering@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@stfrancis.org.uk) to find out more. Read more about our news in our autumn newsletter, available on our website.

# Berkhamsted's WWI Double Tragedy

Norman Groves

Berkhamsted and villages around suffered double tragedy from the insanity of World War I.

Many local men and boys were lost or damaged, devastating local families. But Berkhamsted was also a major special training centre for young officers-to-be from around the then Empire – and likewise a shocking number became casualties.

About 5,300 out of nearly 14,000 members of this Inns of Court Officer Training Corps were killed or badly wounded. Nearly 2,200 died – for them, Berkhamsted was their last "home" in England.

The central London Inns of Court OTC came to Berkhamsted in 1914 because they needed open countryside to train hugely expanded numbers. There was a constant throughput, a basic training "factory", before recruits were commissioned into fighting regiments. A vast tented camp grew up along the valley, plus kitchens, stores, lecture rooms, stables, billets, drill grounds, and constant railway movements. Farms and villages for many miles around became surrogate front lines, territory to practice raiding, night exercises, equipment, and trench construction. Many parts of Berkhamsted became closely associated with the Corps, such as:

-Kitchener's Field, then the parade and drill ground, now the playing fields near the Castle

-Key's timber yard near Castle St and the canal, then the mess, now housing the disused brewery on Water Lane, then the stables, now the car park behind Tesco

-the Courthouse, then the Corps' Orderly Room

-plus the Station, the castle, and many pubs, especially the Crown where the cavalry had their own "lecture and sing-song" room.

King George V visited the training camp in August 1916. Famously, the whole Corps lined the country roads to cheer the King away, but an efficient someone had already removed the special road signs and the chauffeur went the wrong way, leaving the disappointed hoards waiting...and waiting....

During the war the Corps had to overcome considerable difficulties - particularly shortages of uniforms,



*Despite digging nearly 8 miles of practice trenches, the Corps complained the clay and flint conditions were not ideal... digging was very strenuous*

ammunition, food, accommodation, billets – and serious differences with the War Office over the type of men they should be recruiting, with the War Office accused of summarily wanting people from "particular schools, occupations and in some cases parentage" and being uninterested in a candidate's military knowledge.



*A few of the cavalry Squadron passing Berkhamsted Station*

Three members of the Corps subsequently went on to be awarded the Victoria Cross. Many other awards were won. The Inns of Court regiment proudly carry the nickname "The Devil's Own". You may think this was because they fought like devils. But it was George III who, having asked the origin of the troops he was inspecting, exclaimed 'What? All lawyers?! ALL LAWYERS!! Call them the Devil's Own!!'

### **To the present day.....**

The "Devil's Own" still exist today, as a Territorial Army unit, still with the same HQ in Lincoln's Inn, within a regrouped Inns of Court & City and Essex Yeomanry. Over the winter of 2012/3 some of these Reservists helped the Berkhamsted Trench Mapping Project, set up by the Chilterns Conservation Board, to clear the remnant practice trenches on Berkhamsted Common, one of the few physical reminders of the "Devil's Own" stay in the town. Their War Memorial is nearby on the Common. During WWI Berkhamsted and Northchurch Commons became covered with nearly 8 miles of trenches but nearly

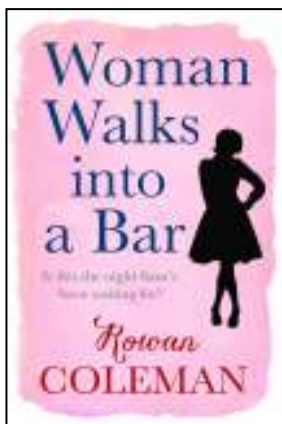
all were filled in, with the remaining 500m "lost" within dense undergrowth. The initial map of these prepared during 2012/3 shows a traditional zigzag layout, with north/south communication trenches.

As well as chronicling this important use of the commons in the Chilterns, the Mapping Project will contribute to remembering and honouring the (very) young lives so prolifically squandered, by acting as an educational resource to schools, groups and individuals. In time for the 2014 war centenary it is intended that suitable information boards, web and other resources will be produced. Over 35 volunteers have so far been involved in the Mapping Project and, amongst others, thanks is given to these, The Chilterns Conservation Board, Berkhamsted Golf Club, The Chilterns Society, Berkhamsted & District Archaeological Society, and Richard North (for the photos).

Norman Groves, Trench Mapping Project Co-ordinator

*All views in this article are the authors alone*

# An interview with author Rowan Coleman



Local author Rowan Coleman tells Ian Skillicorn about her fundraising project for the domestic abuse charity, Refuge. Rowan has released an ebook novella with 100% of

the royalties being donated to the charity.

## **Could you tell us what your novella, *Woman Walks into a Bar*, is about?**

It's the story of single mother Sam, who is struggling to find her confidence again after escaping a difficult past.

## **Where did the idea come from to donate the royalties to Refuge?**

I spoke to a lot of survivors of domestic abuse while I was researching my novel *Dearest Rose*. I was shocked by how prevalent the problem still is, and also how hidden. I knew I wanted to do something, and as I'm not much one for bungee jumping I thought I'd release a book instead!

## **Did you have an idea of the extent of the problem before writing *Dearest Rose*?**

No, I truly didn't. What stunned me was when I asked my Facebook followers to email me if they were willing to share any of their experiences to help with my research. The next day I had more than 200 emails in my inbox. From all sorts of people, from all walks of life.

## **What sort of work does Refuge do?**

Refuge offers help and advice for anyone who is in an abusive relationship, or for friends and relatives of someone suspected of being in one. They also have an emergency helpline and work to help victims find a safe place to go and eventually rebuild their lives.

## **What did they say when you contacted them with your fundraising idea?**

They were pleased, as they are with all the brilliant fundraising that goes on for them all over the country. It's very expensive running an operation like Refuge so all help is gratefully received!

## **How have you been promoting the project?**

I have a blog, featuring stories written by abuse survivors, and I've had really amazing support from my readers and other writers on social media, who've been helping me get the word out on the book. I'm lucky to have many great, supportive friends - a lot of people have wanted to help.

## **What sort of feedback have you had from colleagues and readers so far?**

So far all the feedback has been really positive, and I'm very grateful for the generosity of spirit of everyone who's got involved to help me with this project.

*Woman Walks into a Bar* by Rowan Coleman is available from [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk) for just £1.59

You can read more about Rowan at [www.rowancoleman.co.uk](http://www.rowancoleman.co.uk).

# Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Father Tom Plant



After the best summer I can remember for years, the nights are finally drawing in and the mornings doing less and less to encourage me out of bed. The time is coming

to huddle up in jumpers and get the slow cooker out of the cupboard again ready for warming soups and stews. Mulled wine will replace chilled lager, and I'll be spending more nights in, which I suppose is good news for the bank balance. Time to hibernate.

The Church has its own seasons different from the natural ones, but parallel.

Through the months of summer, we've been in "ordinary time," marked by cloths and vestments in green, the colour of growth and fertility. But at the end of October, we'll be moving into the black of All Souls, the time of year when we particularly pray for the dead - as we believe they continue to pray for us.

If you have a relative whose soul you would like remembered in our prayers at this year's All Souls Requiem service, do pin their name onto the prayer board at the back of church - and of course, you're welcome to join us for the Requiem, sung solemnly by the choir at 8pm on Friday 1st November, when the names will be read out.

The period of remembrance carries on with Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, when the Royal British Legion and local uniformed organisations will join us as ever for the 3pm service. It has special poignance this year as our troops begin to withdraw from Afghanistan, and we will be praying for the recent dead as well as those who died in the world wars.

All in all, this is a good time for a bit of introspection. It's not as if we can get out much as the weather gets worse, and as the days get shorter, our bodies start telling us to wind down a little and take stock. We can take the opportunity to do so spiritually, too, as we remember our loved ones who have gone before us, as well as those who died in the service of their country. We can reflect on the example they have set us (both good and bad!) and re-commit our lives to continuing the better part of their legacy.

But most important for us Christians is that we use this season of spiritual darkness to seek deeper within for the true light that dwells in everybody's hearts, in the hope that it might shine through us and help others to find it in themselves. Light against light is invisible: it is only against the darkness that we can see it shine.

## ***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***

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

**Sat 28th Sep:** 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. Since her Royal Festival Hall debut in 1986 and her BBC Proms debut in 1988 Jane has travelled all over the world as a solo recitalist. Tickets: £10 on the door.

**Sat 12th Oct:** 7.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia. Beethoven Creatures of Prometheus, Ravel Piano concerto in G, Brahms Symphony no 3. Tickets: [www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk](http://www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk), 873205, Aitchison's High St. Annual £45, visitors £15, U18s free.

**Mon 14th Oct:** 8pm: ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Stuart Watton, Esther Parish Church. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

**Mon 28 Oct:** 8pm: ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Rufus Frowde, Hampton Court Palace. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

**Sun 3rd Nov:** CONCERT – A Celebratory concert for Adrian Davis's Birthday. Free Entry. Retiring collection in aid of the Association for International Cancer Research.

**Mon 11th Nov:** ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's Church – Adrian Davis, St Peter's Church Director of Music. Free Entry. Retiring collection.

### **All Saints'**

**Sun 6th Oct:** Harvest Festival, 10am All Age Morning Worship with Holy Baptism, Revd Rachael Hawkins.

**Sun 13th Oct:** Twentieth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden and Penny O'Neil, 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group.

**Sun 20th Oct:** Twenty first Sunday after Trinity, 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am Morning Worship, Ruth Treves Brown and John Cotton (Karibuni Trust), 4pm Thanksgiving Service for the bereaved, Revd Rachael Hawkins.

**Sun 27th Oct:** Last Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion with Holy Baptism, Revd Rachael Hawkins.

## ***Registers***

**Baptisms – St Peter's:** 16th August: Erin Anne Brown, 18th August: Tristan James Dunnett, James Frederick Barham, 25th August: Samuel Edward Cooper-Rolfe

**Weddings – St Peter's:** 17th August: Trevor Graham Stokes and Eleanor Jane Ormiston

**Funerals – All Saints':** 9th September - Edward John Hulks

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

# Meeting Mitzie

An interview with artist Mitzie Green

As many of you will know, Mitzie Green is a local artist whose work has regularly adorned the cover of this magazine. Her paintings are eye-catching for their vibrant sense of colour, texture and dynamic composition, as I discovered recently when I met and chatted to her in her own studio.

Mitzie Green has lived in Berkhamsted for 27 years. Originally from Germany, Mitzie always knew that she wanted to paint. However, on leaving school she became a secretary as her father thought that she should earn a living. Knowing this was not for her, she moved to England and shortly after took up pottery since there happened to be a pottery school next to the college where she was learning English. It took her a while to get round to taking up art but when she eventually did she went to the College of Art in Edinburgh and met a friend who got her interested in textiles. After completing a Diploma in Stitched Textiles Mitzie finally settled on painting and completed a degree in Painting and Printmaking at the University of Hertfordshire. As part of the course students are helped to think about exhibiting and selling their work

and in 1997 Mitzie became involved in the Herts Open Studios Event and has exhibited her paintings annually ever since. When asked if she has a favourite subject to paint, Mitzie expresses her love of flowers as she is a keen gardener. She

explains that “Flowers allow a lot of freedom, in any state, even decay. The action of painting this subject allows flow and accidents to happen which can then be made use of.” She also enjoys and encourages the use of unusual materials to paint with, even sticks, in fact “anything other than a brush”. Other favourite subjects are, unsurprisingly, Ashridge and she is particularly fond of a



*Honfleur*

lesser known small area of the

Chilterns called Hodgemoor Woods near Chalfont St Giles which has a huge variety of trees. However, it's not just the natural world that appeals to Mitzie's need to paint – she also loves our very own High Street, particularly at the end near the Post Office down to Woods Garden Centre, and its varied rooftops. And as well as local architecture and scenery, Honfleur in Northern France, Provence, Corsica and Rome are locations further afield that have grabbed her attention.

It is clear from our chat that painting is at the very heart of Mitzie and that she sees a potential picture in almost everything that she lays her eyes on. However, it's not a case of just copying what's there, as she explains: "you learn to look for negative shapes rather than just subject matter".

After producing so many works of art and clearly seeing the world in a different way through her experience of painting, it is even clearer to me that a true artistic talent isn't something that can be learnt; it comes from deep within and is more an expression of how the artist sees the world and interprets that world to us the viewer.

The appeal of Mitzie's work is that it isn't one fixed style. She describes her art as an "ongoing development" which takes her forward to discover new things. She seems to look at life as well as painting as a continuously changing experience that develops and evolves and cannot be planned out too much. This allows things to occur more naturally perhaps than if too many plans and restraints are put in place.



*Yellow Field With Poppies*



*Poppies I*

Her infectious enthusiasm and thoughts about her own art can be applied to many things in life – until you actually begin something you don't really know where it is going to lead you. Luckily for Mitzie it has certainly led her down a very successful path.

As well as painting, Mitzie also teaches art and runs courses and workshops locally for beginners and the more experienced. Her next one day workshop is on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead and is in acrylics. Call 01442 862978 or visit [www.mitziegreen.co.uk/tuition](http://www.mitziegreen.co.uk/tuition).

She also has regular exhibitions; the most recent was the Herts Open Studios Event which takes place every year in September. Her next joint exhibition is from 17 October – 3 November at Apsley Paper Trail, Fourdrinier Way, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9RY.

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# **My Berkhamsted**

by Danny Bonnett, co-founder of Transition Town Berkhamsted and recently elected town councillor for Berkhamsted East

## **I moved to Berkhamsted because...**

I was working for the renewable energy company, RES, based in Kings Langley, and living in London. My wife (Jo) and I had resolved that we would move out of London, and so it was obvious to look at places with a good train link to London (for Jo's job), and within cycling distance of Kings Langley. From the places we considered, Berkhamsted was our clear favourite, even though the cost of houses was high. I grew up in a Chilterns market town, so it felt very much like home.

## **I think the most beautiful sight in Berkhamsted is ...**

In a recent run of good luck, I've had 3 kingfisher sightings on the canal in 3 days! These birds are so special that I feel privileged whenever I spot one. You seldom see them clearly, as they travel so fast, but you cannot mistake them for anything else because of the electric blue, and the occasional flash of orange. Stunning!

## **The local places where I like to relax and reflect...**

I do most of my reflection when I'm out running or cycling. Consequently, I have most of my 'big thoughts' either somewhere around Winkwell (on my way home from work on the bike), or up in Ashridge when out running in the early morning. In terms of pure relaxation – lying on the grass in the Castle when the sun shines is second to none!

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

The town has a lovely vibrant High Street and market, and is surrounded by

wonderful countryside. It's convenient for our jobs, and the schools are good. We also know lots of great people, and hope to get to know more as time goes on.

## **What would you change about Berkhamsted?**

I'd like to see more democratic and good quality transport options in the town. Our bus services could be more frequent, and the prices should be lower; electric bikes for hire will help those with the will but not the power to get up those hills (ask Lovelo – these are coming); more pedestrian priority, especially on routes to schools (like the proposed crossing at the top of Kings Road); car clubs for those who would like to use a car occasionally but don't wish to own one.

## **What is Berkhamsted is crying out for?**

More things for young people to do. I'm not sure exactly what would be most welcome here, and I am no expert, so I'm canvassing opinion. Possibilities include a BMX cycle track, a youth film club, an extension of youth activities at the Swan from week nights into the weekend, and clearly many other things are possible. If you have ideas for this, please let me know!

## **When I tell people about Berkhamsted I always tell them...**

That it's a Transition Town. (Someone told me recently this had been a positive factor in them choosing the town to come and settle!) I also tell them about the canal and the market, the Berkhamsted Half Marathon and the Ridgeway Run.

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# Census Corner

Julian Dawson

This month's census report looks at those providing unpaid care.

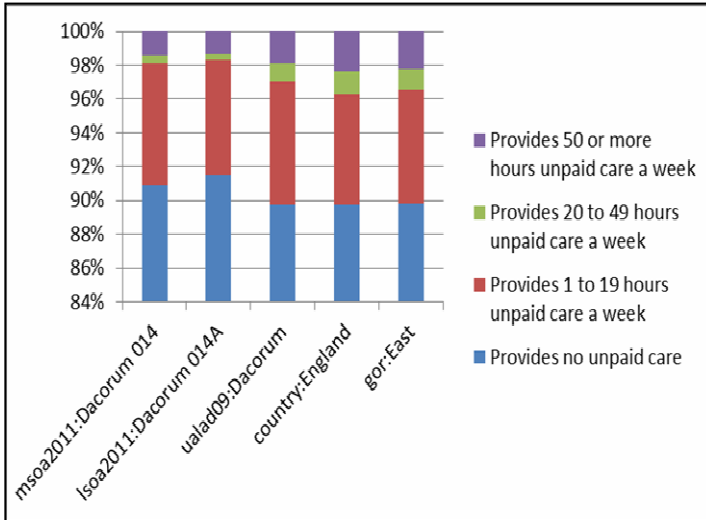
Recent press reports have laid out stories whereby elderly people, or their next of kin, end up

spending all their lifelong savings on long-term care in homes. The subtext to this was that somewhere we live in a less caring society whereby we are too

quick to fob our relatives off on others. But what does the Census say? The Census asked people whether they were providing unpaid care to family, friends or neighbours with long-term physical or mental health problems. It turns out that a not insignificant 10.3 per cent of people in England provide this sort of unpaid care, and Dacorum reflects the national average. However, southwest Berkhamsted is somewhat below the rest of the country at 8.4 per cent. If we put that in terms of absolute numbers, 5.5 million England-wide are providing unpaid care, nearly 300,000 in Dacorum, and just a little over 100 people in southwest Berkhamsted. The chart gives the detail on how this breaks down in

terms of time. Generally speaking in terms of extensive long-term care, that is in excess of 50 hours a week, the East of England is below the national average.

If we invert the concern about whether we are a caring society, there is growing evidence pointing to the adverse impact on the health, future



employment opportunities and social and leisure activities of those providing unpaid care, particularly in young carers. The Census reveals the extent to which this is happening and demonstrates the importance of unpaid care in social policy. It is sobering to reveal that the numbers of unpaid carers aged between 5-17 rose 19 per cent between the 2001 and 2011 censuses. So rather than criticising those who choose to rely on others to care for their relatives, perhaps we should be addressing the kind of environment that deprives young people of their childhood whilst they look after their family members.



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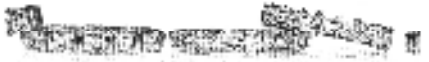
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# *A century in and out of Berkhamsted*

Nancy Lawrenson

Another school visit! A great favourite, perhaps because it also provided Saturday jobs, and was an evening at our local High Street Waitrose. Produce, much of it local, arrived in lorries and vans and was taken by lift to the first floor. Did you ever go up there? Fascinating. No Fairtrade then and little pre-packaged food. The meat, game and venison from Ashridge, fish from Grimsby, grains, dairy produce, poultry, eggs, fruit and vegetables were processed if necessary, and packaged to go onto the shelves downstairs. And a wall notice drawing attention to safety precautions – guillotines have always been a hazard. But “food, glorious food.” I am still in touch with several of the girls.

I also took on the Careers job. As the only member of staff who had done jobs other than teaching it was an obvious one and I had a Careers Room with two huge filing cabinets full of university prospectuses and information about choice of subjects in relation to abilities and aims. Berkhamsted School has changed so much and some of the old days seem ancient history. Penny buns and tuppenny squashes from the Tuck Shop. Son Andrew and friends would buy a 1d bun and 1d chocolate bar, sandwich them, run over them with bicycle wheels before eating especially after a swim –don’t ask why!

The old school pool was very chilly, specially as a teaching pool. The Girls School pool was open air beside the tennis courts so only for summer use. Our three all chose swimming as their main sport and Andrew went into his university swimming team and Celia, teaching English at St Alban’s School, found herself in charge of swimming despite the fact that the school did not then have a pool and they had to go to the Westminster Lodge public pool.

In 1979 as BS Chaplain JRL took the chapel service for the official opening by the Queen Mother of the New Croft Science building. Wilson House was built for the Headmaster with his garden in the old cemetery and the Wilderness.

In 1982 Jim retired from the BS Chaplaincy and I retired from BSG. At the Founder’s Day immediately after, the school bursar, Col. Jeremy Day, recruited Jim to the church of St Peter and St Paul in Little Gaddesden where he was the Church Warden. I had already recruited Jim to teach senior school RE and junior maths at Tring Park School. So, we were both teaching there for ten years and thoroughly enjoyed that time. After school on Fridays we were able to go out into Tring Park with its cowslips and orchids and the King’s Ride reminder of Nell Gwynne and others. The Rothschild French Restoration style mansion house with its portico, steps to entrance, magnificent staircase ballrooms/dance studios and Elizabethan garden approached by an underground passage from the house provided us with a fascinating workplace.

In 1987 Jim was recalled as Chaplain to BS for Sunday services and for the dedication of the Centenary Hall in 1988. We returned every year afterwards for the Founder’s Day and Commemoration. Meantime, Jim took Sunday services at Little and Great Gaddesden and we went for brunch at Jeremy and Barbara’s house Bailiffs. I remember so well standing outside to hear the bells ringing and gazing out over the ‘blue remembered’ Chiltern Hills. Only last week son David took me up there to find the spot where we had buried Jim’s ashes – just inside the churchyard wall with rosemary, purple sage and a small climbing rose all from our own Downside garden.

# **Do you have what it takes to be a Your Berkhamsted Young Writer 2013-14?**



To celebrate this year's National Short Story Week *Your Berkhamsted* is launching a short story competition for Berkhamsted schools. There will be two age-groups for the competition, years 5 to 6 and years 7 to 8.

Pupils who enter must write a story based on the title "The Mistake". What happens in the story is up to each entrant, but the story should be about some sort of mistake.

Year 5 to 6 pupils should write a story of between 500 to 600 words, and year 7 to 8 pupils should write between 900 to 1000 words. Entries can be handwritten or typed. Pupils can only enter if their school has registered for the competition, so if you would like to take part, please tell your English teacher or school librarian, and ask them to email [editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk) to register their interest, if they haven't done so already.

We'll send them all the relevant details about the competition.

The competition is now open and entries can be submitted at any time between now and Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

There will be four category winners: Best story by a year 5 pupil, Best story by a year 6 pupil, Best story by a year 7 pupil, Best story by a year 8 pupil. The judges include Ian Skillicorn, Director of National Short Story Week, and local author Rowan Coleman. The winning entries will be published in *Your Berkhamsted* between January and February 2014.

**Good luck to all pupils who enter and we hope you enjoy writing your story!**



# Recipe

Joanne Lloyd-Evans



## Carrot, Tomato and Lentil Soup

This is a very tasty soup that is nutritious, cheap and does not involve too much peeling and chopping. It contains some spices, which could be omitted if you are not keen on them.

### Ingredients

2 tbsp olive oil  
2 onions, chopped  
2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped  
3 large carrots, peeled and sliced  
400g tin of chopped tomatoes  
80g red lentils  
800ml water  
1 chicken stock cube  
½ teaspoon ground cinnamon  
2 tsp ground cumin  
1 tsp ground coriander seed  
chopped coriander and natural yoghurt to serve

### Method

1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan, then add the onions and garlic.
2. Cook for several minutes over a medium heat, and then add the carrots.
3. Put a lid on the pan and sweat the vegetables for about five minutes over a gentle heat.
4. Add the tinned tomatoes, red lentils, water and stock cube. Stir and bring to the boil.
5. Cover and simmer gently for about 40 minutes or until the carrot is soft.
6. Stir in the ground cinnamon, cumin and coriander, and then take off the heat.
7. Process the soup in a blender until it is smooth, then taste and see if you want to add salt or pepper.

### To serve

To serve, add a dollop of natural yoghurt to the middle of each bowl and top with some fresh, chopped coriander.

# Your Sport

The days are getting shorter, it's colder and darker which can only mean one thing, football is back! Murray winning Wimbledon and England winning the Ashes seem all but a distant memory as football now sets upon its job of covering our screens and papers for the winter. I take a look into Berkhamsted's exploits in one of the World's most famous competitions, the FA Cup.

Although not a 'major' team as such, Berkhamsted FC qualify to take part in the FA Cup. They have to get through the preliminary and qualifying rounds before reaching the first round proper in which the Football League teams enter.

Berkhamsted Town, who in 2009 folded due to outstanding debts managed to reach the third round of qualifying on three occasions. The first time was in the 1988–89 season when they were knocked out to Barnet following a 3–0 defeat at home. The old Wimbledon FC went onto win the tournament. The second time came in 1992–93 when neighbours Chesham United beat them 3–0. Wolverhampton Wanderers were the eventual competition winners. The final time they reached the third round was in the 2001–02 campaign. This time they were beaten by Burton Albion 2–0 and the eventual winners of the whole tournament were Arsenal.

The newly formed Berkhamsted FC reached the second qualifying round last season, 2012–13, but were knocked out by the Metropolitan Police after suffering a 3–0 defeat at home. That season they played Hoddesdon Town, the first ever winners of the FA Vase in the extra preliminary round and following a 1–1 draw beat them 2–1 in the replay. Berkhamsted then faced Hadley in the next

preliminary round and ran out 3–1 victors. In the first qualifying round Berko were drawn a tough away fixture to Uxbridge. Although below them in the football pyramid, Berkhamsted won 4–3, in the dying moments thanks to a screamer from 30 yards out from Jordan Frederick. Speaking after the game, manager Mick Vipond said; "It was a massively emotional day" and when speaking to the players in the dressing room afterwards said; "That is exactly what this competition is about, you could not sum it up anymore than what's happened today. That is the fairy tale of playing in the FA Cup."

The financial rewards from this competition are huge for the smaller clubs which adds an extra incentive for everyone involved. Keith Hardy, the assistant manager, said in an interview with FA TV, "It's major, with our ground there's a railway one end and you've got the canal the other end so we're losing footballs £40–£50 a time. I'm more worried about that so this is great for the club and hopefully we can buy some new footballs and perhaps a bit of netting."

This season they beat Dunstable 2–1 and also saw off Harefield United 4–1 in the preliminary rounds though they failed to get past the first round of qualifying losing to Daventry Town of the Southern Football League. They suffered a hammering 6–1 defeat to a side a few places above them in the football pyramid. Compared to the seasons mentioned above it was a disappointing performance in the Cup; however they can now concentrate on the league. Berkhamsted currently lie in fourth place at the time of writing with 3 games in hand over Hanwell Town in first and Amptill Town in second. Berko also have 2 in hand over Dunstable in third.

# Young Berkhamsted

## Autumn

Autumn is the transition from Summer to Winter. In the Northern Hemisphere the Autumnal Equinox takes place usually on 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23rd September and ends with the Winter Equinox around 21 December. An equinox is when the Earth's equator passes the centre of the sun. The term 'equinox' is derived from the Latin words *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night), because around the time of the equinox, night and day are of about equal length.

The reduced sunlight at this time means shorter days and colder weather. Many animals start growing warmer coats to prepare them for the forthcoming winter and they begin to store food in their nests and dens to get them through the Winter.

Try this Autumn Sudoku puzzle.  
Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters L E A F.

F			
			A
L			
			E

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