

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

December 2013

A musical celebration

Christmas memories

Gift ideas and recipes



50p

In this issue...

Welcome to the December edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

We hope you like our Christmas front cover which is designed again this year by Katy Leigh. Katy is another Berkhamsted artist and you can read an interview with her in this issue. There is also a Christmas story for you to enjoy in a brief respite amidst the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparation.

If you're struggling for ideas of what to buy people then Matt Dawson may have the answer in the second part of his 'Sporty Christmas Gift Guide'. Alternatively, if you're planning to give home-made gifts this year, you could have a go at our festive Nougat recipe – just make sure you keep a little aside for yourself as a well-deserved treat.

Finally I'd like to thank everybody who has helped out with *YB* this year, from contributing articles and pictures to collecting, sorting and delivering magazines, and everyone on the Editorial team. A very merry Christmas to you all!

Helen Dowley, Editor

Helen Dowley, Editor



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A special thanks to Katy Leigh who designed our Christmas cover for the second year running. Read more about Katy on page 8 and visit her website at www.katyleigh.co.uk to see her work.



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



To begin with a thank you to Patrick Lepper, YB's swift correspondent. His eagle eyes spotted a reference to his own swift-saving efforts on swift-conservation.org. The news section headlines with Patrick's own attempts to encourage these threatened remarkable birds in our own neighbourhood. The swifts have long since departed for sunnier warmer climes (and who can blame them), so we shall have to wait until next May to see if the swifts do indeed use the proffered nest boxes. We shall await further news.

Meanwhile our canal boat correspondent Chris Clegg has kindly supplied me Berkhamsted's entry in *Pearson's Canal Companion (Oxford and Grand Union Canals)*. Its offbeat, if somewhat out of date entry, states that "many fine buildings combine to create favourable impression: the 16th Century Monk's House (now a French restaurant), the Town Hall (now a French restaurant) and St Peter's Church (which hasn't become a French restaurant – yet!)." Though with the parlous state of the church finances, this is not as far-fetched as might have once been.

Talking of money, Berkhamstedtoday reports that drivers will feel the brunt of a car park charges review. The biggest increases will be in Berkhamsted's St John's Well Lane and Lower Kings Road car parks where parking for up to four hours will rise by 70p to £2.50. In the law of supply and demand this does make a degree of sense, and if it discourages some pollutant exhaling traffic from the streets then all to the good. There is certainly no call for a multi-storey car park in any sustainable environmentally friendly management plan. And nearby, Hemeltoday mentions the investigation on whether a right of way actually passes through Waitrose. It is alleged that Berkhamsted footpath 27 passes through the store, and one has visions of the tramp of walking boots through the fish counter. I suspect that this is a something and nothing story, but apparently the original investigation was overlooked 17 years ago before the new Waitrose was built. All a bit rum.

Another storm in a teacup, appropriately regarding Here café, where joint owner
(contd on p5)

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(Contd from p3)

Lisa Opie, the BBC's controller of business, knowledge and daytime has been taken to task by some national newspapers for conceivably taking her eye off the ball from her tax-payers funded role. *The Guardian* however reported that the BBC's Director General backed the right of corporation executives to have second jobs, within reason. Whether Here will last long enough to detain Ms Opie from a day job may be rather more of a moot point.

Law and Lawyers blog reports on the sentencing of Ian McLoughlin to 40 years in prison for the murder of Graham Buck in Little Gaddesden in July. A whole life tariff may not be imposed for this tragic crime due to rulings from the European Court of Human Rights in a classic case of

executive versus judiciary and how politics might guide such reactions to violent crime.

I mustn't let this column pass without mention of local golfer extraordinaire Alice Hewson. The 16 year old has been impressing on the golf courses. The *Daily Telegraph* reports on her victory in the girls Junior Golf Championship in Spain. You can view an interview with the assured young woman and Andrew Cotter. American college offers beckon. No 1 in the world is her aim.



Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator
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Local noticeboard

Crackers at Oxfam

If you want your Christmas to go with a bang, why not make your own crackers? Oxfam has some excellent packs available and you can choose your own contents, maybe from Oxfam's extensive Festive Food or gift lines. Too short of time? There are some beautiful luxury dinner crackers ready-made for the Christmas table. If you are having a children's party the mini crackers are ideal. Still looking for that elusive present? Why not give one of Oxfam's alternative gifts from Oxfam Unwrapped. Many people would prefer a gift of clean water for the needy instead of socks or soap and it's certainly in the spirit of Christmas.

Upstairs Gallery

The Upstairs Gallery above the Post Office in the High Street will host an exhibition entitled 'Reflections' from 14th November to 24th December. It is a very special Christmas exhibition showcasing the best of local talent. The gallery is open 10am – 4pm from Tues to Sat.

The Friends of Ashridge

The Family Christmas Walk takes place on Friday 27th December, 10am to midday. It starts and finishes at the National Trust Visitor Centre, Monument Drive HP4 1LX. Mince pie and mulled wine or soft drink at the end. Booking essential (this event sells out early!): 01442 851 227 before 20th December. FoA members £6, other adults £7, children under 16 £5.

Carol Concert in the Chapel

Ashlyns Chapel, Ashlyns School, Sunday 15th December, 5–6pm.
This annual carol concert is held in Ashlyns Chapel. All are welcome.

Find out more at www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/information/index.htm. Donations on the door to Thomas Coram Charity.



Dacorum Community Choir present

'Star Bright – A Concert of Seasonal Songs and Organ Music'

Wed 18th December, 7.00 pm, Carey Baptist Church, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1LD.

Tickets are £6 and £4 (under 18s) and can be purchased from any member of the choir or on the door. £1 per ticket will be donated to Hope for Children charity. Visit www.dacorumcommunitychoir.org.

Traditional New Year's Day Ramble

Organised by the Berkhamsted Citizen Association, this circular walk led by Paul Crosland starts at Berkhamsted Station at 10:30am on January 1st 2014, with a stop for lunch in Aldbury. The walk is undertaken at your own risk. Find out more at www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk.

CAP Money Berkhamsted (Christians Against Poverty)

Local residents are being given another chance to get their finances in order with another free course being run over three sessions, on 23rd January, 30th January and 13th February 2014 at Make Believe Café, Berkhamsted.

To find out more about CAP Money or to book your place visit www.capmoney.org or telephone Mike Wallis, CAP Money Berkhamsted Lead Coach on 07891 760244 or 01442 865521.

Meeting Katy

An interview with local ceramic artist and illustrator, Katy Leigh



Berkhamsted has a lot of artistic talent and we are delighted to bring examples of it to our readers, and this interview follows on from the “Meeting Mitzie” interview in our October edition.

Katy Leigh is best known nowadays for her distinctive painted ceramic designs, although our readers may recall the front cover of last year’s Christmas YB as an example of her illustration. It is always interesting to discover how and why artists become artists, so my first questions to Katy were about the source of her original inspiration. With degrees in illustration, Katy’s first career was in the fast moving world of journalism where she worked as Picture Editor on such well-known names as *Conde Nast*, *Shortlist* and *Stylist*, sourcing and selecting the pictorials, and keeping her hand in by filling any gaps with her illustrations. Although she comes from Stoke-on-Trent (the heart of the old ceramic industry), it wasn’t until she moved to Berkhamsted and had her first child that Katy rediscovered her roots and the inspiration to change her artistic career.

Taking her family to the Hanley Museum in the Potteries, where Katy used to go as a child herself with her dad and brother, two things made a deep and lasting impression. Firstly the Emma Bridgewater studio brought her face to face with a successful modern commercialisation of the traditional craft of her home town. Secondly she noticed the rather dilapidated nature of the old pottery area since the traditional firms had largely been taken over by Chinese competitors.

Together, these pushed her into wanting to help revitalise this ceramic ghost town.

Inspired by this visit, Katy began to hand-paint her designs onto bone china, although it wasn’t until her second child went into Reception class at school that she was able to devote a proper amount of time to it. As her designs began to find popularity, Katy realised that individual handpainting made it impossible to keep up with demand.



The answer was to design onto ceramic decals and to fire the design onto the china. This latter technique is not as simple as it might sound, since any fluctuation in the temperature or the rate of heating can ruin the outcome. Katy does all this herself and it is what gives her work its distinctive attraction. Public awareness has followed with Katy being featured in a major *Financial Times* article a while ago and in the popular *Grazia* magazine more recently.

Importantly for Katy, she remains insistent on sourcing all her china from Stoke-on-Trent, thus paying homage to her own roots and to the centuries old tradition of Etruria (the name given to the Josiah Wedgwood factory back in the eighteenth century.)

Pushing Katy on what was her next move, she talked fascinatingly about putting her designs onto different backgrounds - cushions, Christmas cards, greetings cards as well as new pottery shapes. Clearly Katy's muse has some way to go!



Before leaving Katy with her designs, I asked her why she was in Berkhamsted. What she liked about it; what she would change if she could. The only thing she would change is the fact that Berkhamsted is not a full cross-section of life: it is a rather prosperous and unique 'bubble'. Almost in the same breath, she recognised a bit of hypocrisy in this as she loved the elements of the Town that contributed to the 'bubble' – the great High street, the wide range of activities available for all ages, the depth of the artistic base in the Town, the fact that she shares a local studio with two fellow artists from Berkhamsted who have become friends. All in all, she wouldn't be anywhere else!

For those who would like to see the real thing and perhaps enliven their kitchens, Katy is exhibiting in the Upstairs Gallery in December. Her portfolio can also be seen on her website at www.katyleigh.co.uk.



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Christmas Presents Past



Nobody can deny the excitement and anticipation of receiving a gift at Christmas and sometimes the meaning and emotion associated with that gift stays with us for a very long time. Here are some people's happy recollections of Christmas presents past.

"Opening presents on Christmas Day, when I was about 8 or 9, I was handed a very large parcel. I had no idea what it was and my parents were both beaming with expectant smiles. "What is it? What is it?" I cried. "Maybe it's a scalextric set!" shouted my older brother. I saw my mum's face fall and instantly realised that it most definitely wasn't. No worries, that's not what I wanted anyway...it was a Pelham Puppet Theatre. It was a total and lovely surprise, and that Christmas I put on a puppet show for three generations of family in the dining room. I still have a tape recording of it somewhere..."

Ian Skillicorn

"Most memorable was one Christmas dawn in the War when I woke to find a pillow slip – not a stocking – hanging from my bedpost and bulging with goodies. I humped it into my parents' bedroom, sharp corners banging against my knees, and unwrapped box after box. It was a Hornby clockwork train set, O Gauge. The engine was the 'County of Bedford', and there were trucks and carriages in cream and brown Pullman livery. Each opened box brought a new joy to a boy who would sit for hours on a

daisy-spangled railway embankment collecting the number and names of those majestic steam trains. It was not a new set; second hand, but in the original boxes. I suppose it dated from the middle of the 1930s. The railway lines came from a different source and never quite fitted together precisely. But never had I expected to own anything so marvellous. The next Christmas new components arrived: buffers, a water tower, a snowplough, more trucks. My grandmother had sewn little sacks, tied at the neck and labelled 'Min. of Food'. My father had built a wooden station – up-side and down-side – with curved platforms; and there, on the walls, were miniature copies of those romantic pre-war Great Western posters for Devon and the Cornish Riviera.

So much did this Christmas present evoke memory of my happy childhood that I would not let my children play with it, and only twice did I set it out for my grandchildren. Even now, it is stowed away, and, like my past, is taken out from time to time and gazed upon – with longing." – *David Pearce, churchwarden*

"So many marvellous presents, how to choose just one? The luxury I'd take to my desert island? It would have to be a microscope. A simple one but a proper one; no plastic – all metal and glass. It opened up a whole new world to me as a teenager; hours of fun collecting stuff and making slides; all the tiny creatures in pond water. Unforgettable. Happy Christmas!" – *Richard Hackworth*

(contd from page 11)

"I can think of various normal types of presents I had as a child but I thought the abnormal one might be more interesting: this was a leather gas-mask case. It is a little difficult to understand now what a fashionable item this was." – *Priscilla Watts*

"I can remember our first Christmas out in Bombay when I was six years old and had been longing for a doll's pram. I can't remember much in the way of a Hamley's out there and most books were posted over from the UK by my grandparents so probably not a very hopeful wish. And there on Christmas Day was the most perfect old fashioned little doll's pram, looking so very British, complete with candy striped sheets and pillowcase and a knitted blanket...I was so happy! And I can still remember that it was not shipped back home three years later, heartbreaking." – *Jane Morgan*

"My most memorable Christmas present was a very quaint and beautiful wooden dolls house when I was about 5. I vividly remember being fascinated by the little furniture items and curtains that actually drew and wishing that I could have my very own house like this one day. The dolls house brought me hours and indeed years of fun, but its true value, lay in the fact that once I had outgrown it, it was kept hidden in the loft. But when I had a daughter of my own, my dear Dad decided the dolls house needed a bit of renovation and a touch of the 'changing rooms' or '60 minute makeover' and he lovingly made it into the best Christmas gift for my daughter when she was 5! To see her playing with what I played with, meant the world to me. The said dolls

house has in recent years been put in the loft and I do wonder if it will be brought out for a 3rd generation at some point. A gift that money couldn't buy!" – *Joanna Gotheridge*

"Many years ago I received the most amazing Christmas present and although it's getting older now, the condition is still pretty good. Over the years it's had a few problems and has even had to have some repairs done to keep it going but it still gives lots of pleasure. It has a fantastic storage system which doesn't take up a lot of room and allows me to access all sorts of information when I need it. It allows me to record beautiful sunrises and sunsets. It gives me the pleasure of witnessing the seasons, the snow, the sun, the lovely Autumn colours and even the rain. It lets me communicate with people and even some animals to a limited degree. It has meant that I can create various objects and pieces of art. Best of all though it has allowed me to share 45 years of married life and see two lovely children and four grandchildren grow up. I would like to think it could last forever but like all things it can't, but I reckon if I continue to look after it perhaps it will last a good number of years yet. I was given this gift on Christmas day 1946. That is the day I was born and given this amazing gift of life." – *Malcolm Lane*



The Christmas Goblins

A short story by Charles Dickens

In an old abbey town, a long, long while ago there officiated as sexton and gravedigger in the churchyard one Gabriel Grubb. He was an ill conditioned cross-grained, surly fellow, who consorted with nobody but himself and an old wicker-bottle which fitted into his large, deep waistcoat pocket.

A little before twilight one Christmas Eve, Gabriel shouldered his spade, lighted his lantern, and betook himself toward the old churchyard, for he had a grave to finish by next morning, and feeling very low, he thought it might raise his spirits, perhaps, if he went on with his work at once. He strode along until he turned into the dark lane

which led to the churchyard—a nice, gloomy, mournful place into which the towns-people did not care to go except in broad daylight, consequently he was not a little indignant to hear a young urchin roaring out some jolly song about a Merry Christmas. Gabriel waited until the boy came up, then rapped him over the head with his lantern five or six times to teach him to modulate his voice. And as the boy hurried away, with his hand to his head, Gabriel Grubb chuckled to himself and entered the churchyard, locking the gate behind him. He took off his coat, put down his lantern, and getting into an

an unfinished grave, worked at it for an hour or so with right good will. But the earth was hardened with the frost, and it was no easy matter to break it up and shovel it out. At any other time this would have made Gabriel very miserable, but he

was so pleased at having stopped the small boy's singing that he took little heed of the scanty progress he had made when he had finished work for the night, and looked down into the grave with grim satisfaction, murmuring as he gathered up his things:

"Brave lodgings for one, brave lodgings for one, "I came to dig a grave, sir," stammered Gabriel. "What man wanders among graves on such a night as this?" cried the goblin.

"Gabriel Grubb! Gabriel Grubb!" screamed a wild chorus of voices that seemed to fill the churchyard.

"What have you got in that bottle?" said the goblin.

"Hollands, sir," replied the sexton, trembling more than ever, for he had bought it off the smugglers, and he thought his questioner might be in the excise department of the goblins.

"Who drinks Hollands alone, and in a churchyard on such a night as this?"

"Gabriel Grubb! Gabriel Grubb!"



Dickens

(contd on page 14)

(contd from page 13)

exclaimed the wild voices again.

"And who, then, is our lawful prize?"
exclaimed the goblin, raising his voice.

The invisible chorus replied, "Gabriel
Grubb! Gabriel Grubb!"

"Well, Gabriel, what do you say to
this?" said the goblin, as he grinned a
broader grin than before.

The sexton gasped for breath.

"What do you think of this, Gabriel?"

"It's—it's very curious, sir, very
curious, sir, and very pretty," replied the
sexton, half-dead with fright. "But I think
I'll go back and finish my work, sir, if you
please."

"Work!" said the goblin, "what work?"

"The grave, sir."

"Oh the grave, eh? Who makes graves
at a time when other men are merry, and
takes a pleasure in it?"

Again the voices replied, "Gabriel
Grubb! Gabriel Grubb!"

"I'm afraid my friends want you,
Gabriel," said the goblin.

"Under favour, sir," replied the horror
-stricken sexton, "I don't think they can;
they don't know me, sir; I don't think the
gentlemen have ever seen me."

"Oh! yes, they have. We know the man
who struck the boy in the envious malice
of his heart because the boy could be
merry and he could not."

Here the goblin gave a loud, shrill laugh

which the
echoes
returned
twenty-fold.

"I—I am
afraid I must
leave you,
sir," said the
sexton,
making an

effort to
move.

"Leave
us!" said
the goblin;
"ho! ho!
ho!"

As the
goblin
laughed
he

suddenly darted toward Gabriel, laid his
hand upon his collar, and sank with him
through the earth. And when he had had
time to fetch his breath he found himself
in what appeared to be a large cavern,
surrounded on all sides by goblins ugly
and grim.

"And now," said the king of the
goblins, seated in the centre of the room
on an elevated seat—his friend of the
churchyard—"show the man of misery
and gloom a few of the pictures from our
great storehouses."

As the goblin said this a cloud rolled
gradually away and disclosed a small and
scantily furnished but neat apartment.
Little children were gathered round a
bright fire, clinging to their mother's
gown, or gambolling round her chair. A
frugal meal was spread upon the table
and an elbow-chair was placed near the
fire. Soon the father entered and the
children ran to meet him. As he sat down
to his meal the mother sat by his side and
all seemed happiness and comfort.

"What do you think of that?" said the
goblin.

Gabriel murmured something about its
being very pretty.

"Show him some more," said the
goblin.

Many a time the cloud went and came,
and many a lesson it taught to Gabriel



Grubb. He saw that men who worked hard and earned their scanty bread were cheerful and happy. And he came to the conclusion it was a very respectable sort of a world after all. No sooner had he formed it than the cloud closed over the last picture, seemed to settle on his senses and lull him to repose. One by one the goblins faded from his sight, and as the last one disappeared he sank to sleep.

The day had broken when he awoke, and found himself lying on the flat grave-stone, with the wicker-bottle empty by his side. He got on his feet as well as he could, and brushing the frost off his coat, turned his face toward the town. But he was an altered man, he had learned lessons of gentleness and good-nature by his strange adventures in the goblin's cavern.

We would like to wish all of our readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year

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Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Nathan Mulcock

If you can ever cut through the dense Youtube thickets of cute/funny/disturbing animals, pop music videos, celebrity news, teenagers talking about celebrities, teenagers talking about themselves etc, one interesting corner is the RSAnimate lectures, which are illustrated by a chap using a whiteboard and a pen. I promise it's immensely better than that description suggests. One that particularly caught my eye was that of Psychologist Philip Zimbardo explaining how humans have different interpretations of time. Briefly, there are 6 categories, two each for past, present and future. There is 'past-positive': someone who likes to remember celebrations and successes, and 'past-negative': someone haunted by their past mistakes. Then there is 'present hedonistic': those living for the pleasure-seeking moment, and 'present fatalistic' who feel their future is controlled by something other than themselves. Finally there are 'future oriented' people: the 'work now, play later' mentality with definite goals and plans, and 'transcendental future' which is about our attitude towards a future after death. I've been thinking about what sort of 'time perspective' predominates culturally in December. It is easy of course to point out the 'present hedonist' strand; not just the consumerist binge, but the more positive images of time spent with relatives and friends and joining in with Carol services (which coincidentally St. Peter's has a few of and you would be most welcome to join in with!). Yet the persistently popular urban

myth about the suicide rate at Christmas sharply reminds us that it's a time full of memories, which for some can be deeply haunting.

For the Church, the entire month is as important as the season of Advent, which is the start of the Christian year. For many, Christmas is one last hurrah in darkest December before January 1, but here it's the climax to a month of preparation, the bursting forth of the light out of darkness after a period that (ideally!) involves quiet and reflection. Sort of like giving the soul a good dusting. We re-tell two stories, one of a nation waiting for a big change, one of a woman expecting a child. It's a remembrance and a re-telling, but when we enter into it, it is about looking to the future and also a sign and source of present *hope*. Not a careless optimism that things will simply work out for the best however, but a grounded sense of asking 'How can I personally improve things?'

Perhaps when wrapped up in purchasing presents, a little time to be present to the presence of the gift of hope in our lives might be a welcome respite. Advent is a time of such hope, where we are invited to examine ourselves through the lenses of all of Zimbardo's time-perspectives, 'How did I do this year?', 'Am I making the most of 'right now'? 'Is this really where I should be going with my life?' It's a soul dusting I'm both in need of and am thoroughly looking forward to. A joyful Advent and Christmas to one and all!

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 – Friday 7:30am; Saturday 9:30am.

Eucharist Monday 6:00pm; Tuesday 9:30am at All Saints' Shrublands Road; Wednesday 8:15am; Thursday 12:45pm at Thomas Coram School, Saturday 10:00am

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

This Month's Diary

St Peter's

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

Sat 7 Dec at 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's – Berkhamsted Choral Society, Conductor Graham Wili. Britten Ceremony of Carols and carols for choir and audience. Tickets: www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk, Cole Flatt, High St Berkhamsted. £14, Seniors £12, Students & DC £6, U18s free

Mon 9 Dec at 8:00pm: ORGAN RECITAL in St Peter's – Jonathan Lee, St Peter's Berkhamsted. Free entry. Retiring collection

Mon 23 Dec at 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's – Chiltern Chamber Choir and Bridgewater Sinfonietta, leader Stuart James. Conductor Adrian Davis. J. S. Bach Mass in B Minor. Lucy Hall soprano, Kate Semmens soprano, Jeanette Ager alto, Jeremy Budd tenor, Piran Legg bass. Tickets: www.chilternchamberchoir.com, Cole Flatt, High St Berkhamsted. £15, Seniors £13, DC & U18s free.

Christmas Services

Sun 1st December at 6pm Advent Carol Service

Sun 22nd December at 9:30am Sunday School Nativity

Tues 24th December at 4pm Crib Service; 11:30pm Midnight Mass

Wed 25th December at 8am Holy Eucharist; 9:30am Family Eucharist

All Saints'

Sun 1st Advent Sunday, 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am Morning Worship, World Aids Day, Ruth Treves Brown

Sun 8th Second Sunday of Advent, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

Sun 15th, Third Sunday of Advent 10am All Age Worship (Nativity), Revd Rachael Hawkins, 4pm Carol Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Sun 22nd Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10am Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby, Tues 24th Christmas Eve, 4pm Crib Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Wed 25th Christmas Day, 10am All Age Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Sun 29th First Sunday of Christmas, 10am Morning Worship, Brian Parsons

Registers

Weddings: 19th October: Richard James Potter and Clare McMillan (St Peter's)

Baptisms: 27th October: William Jeremy Lloyd-Evans (St Peter's); 6th October: Molly Mayflower Jones (All Saints); 27th October: Georgia Grace Few (All Saints)

Key Church contacts

Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong & 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

News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary



The Hospice of St Francis would like to wish all *Your Berkhamsted* readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the community for their support this year.

Our staff and volunteers will be working hard over the festive season to make Christmas a special time of year for patients being cared for in our Inpatient Unit and their families. To find out more about our day-to-day work at the Hospice and get a glimpse of our Christmas preparations, please view our new film, *The Extra Mile* – <http://vimeo.com/76419426>.

Light up a Life This Christmas

Remember and celebrate someone special this Christmas by pledging your support for our annual Light up a Life appeal.

As well as caring for patients, part of our care is helping people who have lost a loved one to spend time reflecting on the life they shared together.

If you would like to dedicate a light on our Tree of Remembrance this Christmas you can add your loved one's name to our special on-line tribute page. Please visit: www.stfrancis.org.uk/donate/lightupalife.

Calling all Santas!

If you'd like to do something different in the run up to Christmas and help support our patients and their families over the festive season, why not register for our annual Santa Dash? Taking place at Riverside in Hemel Hempstead at 10am on Sunday 15 December, we're asking as many people as possible from the local

community to dress up in a Santa suit and walk or run around a 2.5 mile course. It costs just £15 to register for adults, £5 for children or you can enter the whole family (including family pets) for £35. Santa outfits are included in the entry fee and participants are asked to raise as much as they can in sponsorship for the Hospice to help fund our care.

Christmas shopping!

If you're still looking for Christmas gift ideas, please don't forget to visit our local shops. Our Love to Give charity shop on 274-6 High street in Berkhamsted has a wide range of homeware, clothes, toys and books whilst Number Twenty on Lower Kings Road has lots of ideas for gifts for friends and loved ones. Returned to Glory on the Northbridge Road has also been decorated beautifully for the



festive season, offering vintage finds and home items which make perfect presents. Don't forget you can also shop online at www.numbertwentyonline.co.uk where you will find a whole range of gifts, plus our entire Christmas card range. 100% of the profits support the Hospice and go directly towards funding our care. Our card ranges are also available in our shops.

Lastly, don't forget if you want to lose weight in the New Year or learn to dance you still have a little time left to enter our Biggest Loser Challenge or participate in Strictly Learn Dancing. Visit the fundraising pages on our website for more details: www.stfrancis.org.uk.

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There's still time to be a Your Berkhamsted Young Writer 2013-14!

We have extended the deadline for our competition which we are running for Berkhamsted schools, to celebrate this year's National Short Story Week.

The new closing date for the competition is Friday 13th December so, if you haven't already done so, get your entries in and be in with a chance to win!

A reminder of the rules are as follows:

There are 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

1,000 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 to register their interest, if they haven't done so already. We'll send them all the relevant details about the competition.

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 February and March 2014.

School News

Thomas Coram October News:

We started off the month with our Harvest Festival and gathered together to give thanks for that which we have in our lives. Pupils brought in donations for the Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter - DENS - and we received a thank you certificate from them this week for the 140kg of produce we supplied them with.

October also saw our 'dedication festival' with Thomas Coram's Royal Charter signed by King George II on 17 October, 1739. We often make the journey across the field (or round the road!) to the Chapel at Ashlyns School - originally the Thomas Coram Foundling Hospital - and celebrate our heritage in historic

surroundings. This year, on the 274th anniversary, we stayed in our own building and welcomed the Rt Revd Paul Bayes, Bishop of Hertford, to lead our worship, which included an act of re-dedication on our re-designation as a junior school. It was a splendid occasion with spoken and sung contributions from pupils and an interactive talk from Bishop Paul, in which he told pupils that he knew of Thomas Coram (and Coram's Fields in London) from his days as a university chaplain, led us all in giving a blessing on our new school, and made us join together chanting "We're interesting!" - and long may that attitude remain. We're interesting! *Rob Halls, Headteacher*

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Census Corner

Julian Dawson discovers that those in professional occupations are in the majority in Berkhamsted, and that the politics of immigration can have unintended economic outcomes.

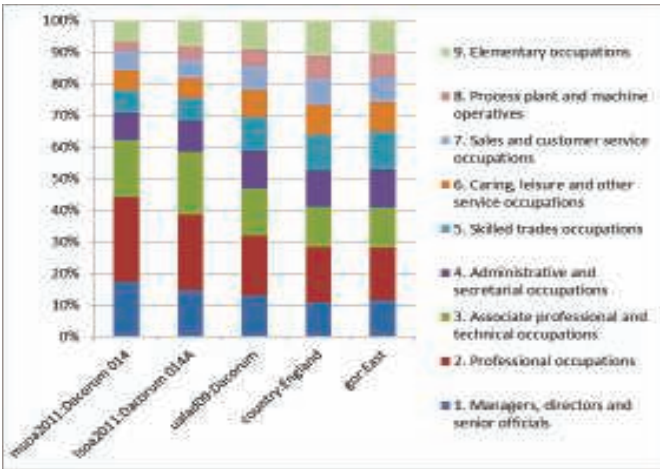
Having last month looked at the economic activity of the local population and those further afield, in this article I shall be investigating the breakdown of actual occupations of people in employment. The categories include occupations such as managers, directors and senior officials, administrative and secretarial occupations, and sales and customer service occupations.

In our part of Dacorum 25 per cent of those in employment are categorised as being in professional occupations, with a further approximately 18 per cent employed as managers, directors and senior officials.

So, not far short of half the employed population are either in a management or professional role. And if we were to include the associate professional and technical occupations category, these three occupational definitions account for 60 per cent of those in employment in Berkhamsted. This is considerably more than the average for the East region and England as a whole, where the equivalent figure is a shade over 40 per cent. By comparison, nationally around ten per cent of people are in skilled trade occupations, whereas in our part of Dacorum the figure is closer to seven per cent. You will have seen press reports concerning skill shortages in the UK, which has meant companies looking beyond our

shores to ensure they have the necessary people in place to keep their operations going. This process has not been made any easier by ill-conceived attempts to limit immigration thus stymying attempts by British companies to keep competitive. Despite those in certain quarters telling us otherwise, immigrants, especially from

eastern Europe, produce far more than they consume in public resources. Christian Dustmann, an economist at University College London, and others have shown that the



Poles and other eastern Europeans who arrived in Britain from 2004 have been net contributors to national income. They are more likely than existing residents to work and less likely to claim benefits or use public services. And perhaps more soberingly, figures from the Office for Budget Responsibility show that the more immigration is cut, the more the country sinks into the red as the ratio of working-age people to the general population shrinks. If that happens, attempts to prune back on state spending will have had no effect as the number of tax payers dwindles thus cancelling out budget cuts. Political decisions inevitably always have unintended consequences. And it always pays to look at the real situation behind the garish headlines.



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Recipe

Kate Perera

Nougat

I make this occasionally as part of a Christmas sweet collection – useful to combine with marzipan shapes, fudge, truffles etc to make gifts for unexpected visitors and hosts.

Ingredients

2 baking trays about 12" x 14"
2 sheets greaseproof paper (cut a little bigger than the baking trays) & 2 large sheets of rice paper, or enough small sheets to cover the greaseproof with a little overlap
A large weight – the 2lb weight from old-fashioned scales is quite good, or a large flat stone
3oz icing sugar
2oz honey
1 pinch cream of tartar
1 egg white
4oz chopped blanched almonds*
1oz glacé cherries chopped & rolled in icing sugar
4oz icing sugar for packing

Method

Sift the 3oz icing sugar and cream of tartar into a bowl, add the honey and egg white and beat for a few minutes until thoroughly combined.

Stand the bowl over hot water and beat while heating for about 30 minutes, scraping the mixture off the sides of the bowl constantly, until it is thick and stiff and white.

Remove from the heat and mix in the almonds and cherries.

Turn the mixture out on to a large board covered with the packing sugar, and form it into a sugar-covered ball.

Put this ball into a shallow tin or baking tray covered with 1) a sheet of greaseproof paper, and 2) a layer of rice paper. Cover with the reverse order: 1) the remaining rice paper and 2) the second sheet of greaseproof – place the second baking tray on top, place the weight on top of that and leave to cool. Remove the greaseproof paper and cut into small pieces leaving the rice paper on.



*Almonds are traditional, but I have found that you can use any dried or glacé fruit or nuts you like, or leave out the nuts if you cannot eat them, and substitute pine kernels or more fruit.



Birthday Extravaganza

by Christopher Green



A great gathering of musicians and other friends assembled in St Peter's Church on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd November for a concert celebrating the 70th Birthday of the Chief Musician – Adrian Davis. The

size of the gathering, more than three hundred people, is a reflection of the high esteem in which Adrian is held by musicians and music-lovers in Berkhamsted. This is no surprise. For nearly forty years Adrian has been bringing music of the highest quality to audiences in the town, with the Chiltern Chamber Choir, various smaller chamber groups and more recently a full symphony orchestra – the Bridgewater Sinfonia. All these forces and the choir of St Peter's Church, which Adrian also directs, were represented in a



programme that brought together Adrian's own compositions and the music that has inspired him, alongside musical offerings by performers who have often been Adrian's chosen collaborators, too numerous to name here individually. It was also a family occasion for Adrian with Thoby Davis playing the

violin in Adrian's own composition *Ubi Caritas*, and his daughter Rachel with

her husband Colin bringing Adrian's four grandchildren, including the new born twins, to witness the festivities. They heard their grandfather's life story recounted in psalmody, beautifully rendered by performers well-loved by audiences in Berkhamsted – Kathryn



Jenkin, Jeanette Ager, Phillip Brown and Christopher Foster.



When the music had

been brought to a spectacular conclusion in a performance of Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens* with the Chiltern Chamber Choir, St Peter's Church Choir and the Bridgewater Sinfonia, audience and performers alike mingled joyfully, glasses in hand and Adrian cut a magnificent birthday cake, surmounted by a model in royal icing of St Peter's Church, the venue which has witnessed many of his



greatest musical triumphs. Long may he continue to inspire and thrill.

A Psalm for the Chief Musician

*By the hill of Sarum my rusks were my delight: and my napkins
were white as snow..*

*Beside the waters of Avon I searched out the notes of music: upon the high-
sounding organ, yea upon the well-tuned harpsichord.*

*In the Guildhall School of Music I inclined my ear to wisdom: I heard the
voice of the teacher, praise him for his name is Rubbra.*

*By the mighty Bulbourne I pitched my tent: to the young men and maidens I
opened my mouth and my teachings went forth.*

*To them that love music my voice was true: telling of Bach, Handel and Tallis,
Purcell and Gesualdo, Monteverdi and Palestrina.*

*He taketh the Bridgewater Sinfonia under the shadow of his wings: the
Brahms and the Butterworth he lifteth up on high, but the Wagner
he casteth into outer darkness.*

*Over the Chiltern Chamber Choir he stretcheth out his arm: like a rod of iron
is his baton and his auditions like a fiery furnace.*

*All them that cry aloud he hath rebuked: saying, woe unto them that shout for
this is not the stands at Twickenham.*

*All them that say ~~you~~ are an abomination to him: his wrath is kindled and
he dasheth them in pieces like a potter's vessel.*

*From them that sing tunelessly he turneth away vanity: He waggeth his head,
saying, surely that was just a fluke.*

*But on the day of the concert they remember his word: they put away their
wrong entries, their missed notes are swallowed up,
and there is no mischief in them.*

*Great and wonderful is their Hallelujah Chorus, and their notes rise up into
the heavens: more to be desired are they than gold, yea than much fine gold.*

*The choir of St Peter he leadeth as a shepherd leads his flock: He knoweth their
backslidings and smiteth them upon the cheekbone.*

*But their anthems are a rare thing, their sound is gone out to the uttermost
parts of the Earth: O sing joyfully unto Venice, unto Vienna and the parts of
Galicia around Santiago.*

*Length of days cannot subdue him and his leaf shall not wither: three score
years and ten to him are but the winking of an eye.*

*O clap your hands together all ye people, praise him in the great
congregation: marvellous are his works, all his notes are sure and his name
shall be exalted for ever.*

Your Sporty Christmas Gift Ideas

Matt Dawson

Christmas is almost upon us so following on from last month's article in which I suggested some gift ideas for children, here are my Christmas gift suggestions for adults.

Just in time for Christmas there have been plenty of new autobiographies released. The most anticipated one has to be Sir Alex Ferguson's. Criticised widely in the press for what he's said about former players in it, it's sure to be a great read, whether or not you're a Man United fan. Harry Redknapp has also brought one out where he'll talk about the trials and tribulations of being a football manager. Meanwhile Usain Bolt has also written his own, *Faster Than Lightning*. This is also sure to be a great read delving into the career of arguably the world's most famous athlete. Two of Britain's most successful athletes in Bradley Wiggins and Mo Farah have both also released their own accounts of their careers so far. To add to that list is the man that brought the Olympics to our country, Seb Coe. Wimbledon winner Andy Murray has brought out a book in which he takes a look into the last 2 years of his career. From US Open winner to Wimbledon winner and dealing with injuries it's sure to be an interesting read.

To relive some of this year's great sporting moments then 'The Ashes 2013' DVD is a good start. This will give you a chance to look back on what was a great summer for England's cricketers. Another side that successfully defeated the Aussies this year was the British and Irish

Lions. To celebrate, a documentary containing an unseen behind the scenes look at the Lions victory over Australia is being sold.

This is entitled 'The British & Irish Lions 2013: Lions Raw'. If you want to watch back Andy Murray's Wimbledon win and also want to watch his 'Behind the Racket' documentary then 'Wimbledon: Official 2013 Collector's Edition' is the perfect gift for tennis fans.

The classic gift for your parents or family friends could include merchandise for whatever sport they are interested in or whatever team they support. A retro shirt or programme from years gone by is an idea. Meanwhile things such as mugs for the work place or a desk calendar could be a good way to show your support for your team. A stadium tour could be a good gift along with magazine subscriptions for club magazines, and also things such as *FourFourTwo* and *Wisden Cricketer*.

I hope over the course of the November and December YB's that I've given you some good gift ideas and suggestions. In the meantime, have a great Christmas and a happy new year!



Young Berkhamsted

Christmas Word Search

Can you find the names of all the reindeers that pull Santa's sleigh..?

Blitzen Dancer
Prancer Comet
Cupid Dasher
Donner Vixen



d	a	s	h	e	r	a	n	d	o
f	c	d	o	n	n	e	r	o	u
r	s	c	o	m	e	t	e	v	r
u	d	o	l	p	d	h	b	i	d
y	y	t	j	c	a	r	l	x	h
k	b	r	w	u	n	m	i	e	m
l	r	p	m	p	c	k	t	n	q
r	t	y	p	i	e	c	z	n	r
c	k	n	t	d	r	z	e	z	m
p	r	a	n	c	e	r	n	d	v

And finally...

If you receive the customary pair of socks at Christmas only to find that by New Year at least one of them is already missing, James Dawson may be able to help...

Do you wonder where socks go when they disappear? Well they sometimes go wandering around your house, they go sit on your sofa and watch T.V. as they love to keep up with their soaps. They might sneak into your kitchen and have a ride in the microwave and then cool up in your fridge; or turn the taps on and jump into the sink

and swim about, and then eat up scraps of food left on the chopping board. They might even go outside into your back garden but then get chased off by the next door neighbour's cat. If you find that your pair of socks are not sleeping on your sofa while BBC news is on or find them playing in your kitchen, they might just be behind your chest of drawers.

A Happy Christmas
to you all !



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