

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

May 2014

NEW How does your garden grow by Helen Reeley

What's on in May

Winners of the short story competition

Book, cinema club and restaurant reviews

50p

Exploring the past, reflecting the present and looking to the future in Berkhamsted

In this issue...

Welcome to the May 2014 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

Firstly may I introduce myself as the new editor of Your Berkhamsted. The previous editor, Helen Dowley has done a wonderful job with this magazine and I hope I can continue to keep this as a fresh and vibrant read. In this edition we are introducing a gardening page written by Helen Reeley from Reeley Landscapes, this will be a regular feature and will have a seasonal content each month. We will also be expanding on the What's On page (previously Your Noticeboard) which will have a snapshot of the current and next month's events. Also included in this month is the Dacorum Choir's recent trip to the Royal Albert Hall, a fairtrade report on Palm Oil, plus there is a book, cinema and restaurant review. A delightful little box of goodies. Enjoy!

Jacqueline Hicks, Editor



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

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Berkhamsted in the News

Julian Dawson



We begin this month with some sporting prowess reported by berkhamstedtoday.co.uk. William Jarvis of Ashlyn's school won the U-13 discus competition at the Oxford City Open throws competition, which is extremely impressive since he only took up the sport a year ago and he is now in the top-five of the UK rankings. A name to look out for in the future. Meanwhile tringtoday.co.uk was also able to report of Ashlyn's school that the Hemel Hempstead and Berkhamsted Rotary Clubs had hosted a technology challenge event for 11–16-year-olds. The task involved designing a mechanical arm to move a radioactive asteroid looking suspiciously like a tennis ball. You can trust Wikipedia to delve into the more arcane avenues of public life. Because members of Parliament are forbidden to resign, a legal fiction is used appointing the person wishing to resign to an office of profit under the crown, which disqualifies an individual sitting as an MP. So Sinn Fein politicians have bizarrely been appointed as Steward and Bailiff of the Manor of Northstead. So it was that in 1752 Henry Lascelles was appointed the fictional title of Chief

Steward and Keeper of the Courts of the Honour of Berkhamsted. In case you were wandering he was a Barbados plantation owner, and presumably therefore slave owner. And on the subject of taking the town's name in vain, lovemoney.com report on a scam whereby rare earth metals were being sold at inflated prices. Thanks to current lax company laws, the companies involved could get away with giving a "business centre" in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire as the address of the one and only director, when in fact his real residence was Ware. Hertfordshire.com reported on the exhortation to local golfers across the county to take part in the inaugural Hospice Challenge Trophy at Stocks Golf Club to support the Hospice of St Francis. The particularly salubrious golf course and 19th hole was hoped to attract a number of local clubs. The return of brewing to Berkhamsted is reported in more detail elsewhere in this issue, but mix96.co.uk also reported the Harefoot (sic) Brewery beginning production and describes the new competition for Chiltern and Tring breweries. It has taken 100 years to

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)
 return beer making to the town, which is an awful long time to wait for a drink. Blog site alangibbons.net provides a more tenuous link with my own professional institution. CILIP (that's the Chartered Institution of Librarians and Information Professionals – deep breath). The CILIP School Libraries Group conference in Derbyshire hosted a question time whose panellists included Nick Dennis, the deputy head of Berkhamsted School. Rather more entertaining is contentedsouls.blogspot which describes the escapades of the crew of the narrowboat Matilda Rose. Eleven locks is considered a hard day, which is what you will have to navigate between

Berkhamsted and Boxmoor. Hard work, but probably not too stressful providing you are not on a tight deadline. In fact canal farers blogs are ten a penny, nbgecko.blogspot making similar reports from the Gecko, paying particular attention to the Crystal Palace's claim to canal views, which from the blogger's point of view seemed a somewhat superfluous statement.



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What's on

Every 2nd Tuesday at 12.30pm to

1.15pm: Lunchtime concerts – St Mary's Church, High Street Hemel Hempstead.

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts

Market (1st Saturday every month)

10am to 4pm. The Town Hall, 196 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3AP.

Through the double doors above Carluccio's on the High St. Lift access at back. If you would like a stall contact Claire – Mob: 07968 627 179; Email: berkhamstedmarket@hotmail.co.uk; website:

www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk.

Tring Farmers Market (Alternate

Saturdays) The Marketplace, Brook Street, Tring 9.00am - 12.15pm

Tring Farmers Market promotes local food for local people and offers a full range of produce including: meat, eggs, bacon, cakes, biscuits, preserves, pies, vegetables, cheese, fish, plants, jewellery, crafts and much more. For more info email: enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk.

Sunday 4th and Saturday 10 May, 10am

to 4pm: Tring Bowls Club's Open Day

An invitation to all ages – male and female. Just come along between 10.00am and 4.00pm with a pair of flat-soled shoes or trainers to give bowls a try in a fun and friendly environment. More information at www.tringbowls.co.uk or call 01442 825462.

10th May at 10.30 am: Dar Papillon,

Berkhamsted. B.Wel daytime (momentum-sustaining and empowering). Please come along to share how we as individuals belonging to this group can help to make Ecocide Law happen in 2020. We'll use ideas from <http://www.eradicatingecocide.com> and from a wonderful book called *Active Hope* by Joanna Macey so that the meeting isn't a formal business but a deeply encouraging experience. We aim to finish by 12pm and those who wish to do can stay for lunch. Sue Hampton suehampton@btinternet.com or 07975 812866.

11th May: Berkhamsted Walk – for more info visit www.berkhamsted.com

Don't forget – dig out your walking boots and join us for the Berkhamsted Walk through the beautiful bluebell woods of Ashridge and the surrounding Chiltern countryside. Come with your family, friends and work colleagues for a great day out and raise money to support The Children's Society's work here in the UK ensuring vulnerable children are safe from harm and have a brighter future. Choose between **The Fun Walk – a 6 mile gentle stroll** suitable for all ages, particularly families with younger children, (note the route is not buggy-friendly), or **The Bluebell Walk – 12 miles or The Challenge – 18 miles**. This latter route is for fit and frequent walkers. The 12 and 18 mile walks start from the Court House between 10 and 11.30 am and the 6 mile walk starts at Ashridge College between 11am and 2pm.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Pick up a sponsorship form from St Peter's, the Library or The Complete Outdoors at Bourne End or download one from the website

www.berkhamstedwalk.com, where you'll also find lots more information about the Walk and the work of The Children's Society. Alternatively pay by donation on the day.

14th May 7pm for 7.45pm start:

Speakeasy at The King's Arms, Berkhamsted.

Another cabaret of short stories brought to life by the wonderful Speakeasy actors. Hear tales of Ducks, Hats and Velcro Cats from a stunning line-up of writers, including Dave Eggers, AJ Ashworth and George Saunders. Price £12. Buy your tickets now by following this link: <http://www.berkospeakeasy.co.uk/p/priority-booking.html>.

For further information, please visit www.berkospeakeasy.co.uk

17th May: DENS Sponsored Walk around Ashridge – contact 01442 800268 or visit www.DENS.org.uk

Within the National Gardens Scheme Patchwork at 22 Hall Park Gate, Berkhamsted is open on **Sunday 4 May 2-5pm** and 15 Gade Valley Cottages and Great Gaddesden is open **Sunday 25 May 1.30 – 5pm**. www.ngs.org.uk. Hopefully I'll be wearing sandals to these events. (Helen Reeley)

30th May to 2nd June: Summer Exhibition at Little Gaddesden Village Hall. Admission free. For more details visit www.little-gaddesden.co.uk/artclub.html.

10th May: Open Day at Queens Park Arts Centre, Aylesbury – free entry – for more info visit www.qpc.org or call 01296 424332.

16th May: Three Rivers Music Society at St Mary's Church, Rickmansworth 7.30 pm for more info visit www.trms.elgar.org or call 01923 775882.

25th May: Wendover Celebrates Medieval Style – visit www.wendovercelebrates.org.uk.

June

1st June: The Hospice of St Francis holds its summer garden party at Ashridge House. For more information please visit www.stfrancis.org.uk

10th June: BERKHAMSTED LIVE showcases four skilled local musicians who write their own songs and a trained dancer. Charlie Goodall sings his own original indie/folk, Huseyin Hodja plays pop-punk, R&B and acoustic guitar, Anna and Joe Perry dance and perform their own blues/folk/rock. There'll be a wall-to-wall display of classic album covers, colourful lighting and projected images from artist Maria Emilov.

The show is free, with a collection for Pepper Nurses who support ill children. It begins at 8pm at Dar Papillon, 360-364 High Street Berkhamsted HP4 1HU, with an optional pre-show buffet at 7.15pm costing £7.50. Info/booking through suehampton@btinternet.com or 01442 877052.

We'll also have a display of classic album covers, colourful lighting and projected images from the artist Maria Emilov. www.mariaemilov.net.

Fairtrade Palm Oil – a World First

Angela Morris



Palm oil is amazing; many of us try to avoid it, but it is in toothpaste, biscuits, ice cream and a

wide variety of everyday products. It originates in West African countries but as the number of uses of this versatile oil increased so demand outstripped supply.

87% of the world's production has moved to the Far East where huge plantations are springing up to the detriment of rainforests and their inhabitants. The UN forecasts 98% of Indonesia's rainforests could be destroyed by 2022.

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Enter Traidcraft, with 'Clean and Fair' the world's first Fairtrade cleaning products made with Fairtrade palm oil from Ghana and Fairtrade coconut oil from India for a cleaner, fairer planet. They are organic, eco-friendly and biodegradable and have been developed over the past two years by a major ethical company in this country.

Being Fairtrade means the farmers are paid a fair price and given support to farm efficiently and the palm oil processing unit employs local people on fair wages. A premium is paid to fund local community projects, for example providing clean water for villages, making a huge difference to women who might otherwise have to walk miles to obtain water.

The cleaning products are washing up liquid, hand wash, laundry liquid and multi surface cleaner. Soap will follow shortly.

These are obtainable on-line from Traidcraft or more conveniently from Fairtrade stalls at St Peter's and Sunnyside churches on the first Sunday of each month and All Saints Church each second Sunday. Also, from the Fairtrade stall at the market in the Town Hall on the first Saturday of the month. You can find a full list of FAQ at www.traidcraft.co.uk/fair-palm.

Palm oil is amazing – ask Angela, she was at the launch and is totally committed.

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Dacorum Community Choir join children for Gala Concerts

by Stan Gillon

The biennial concerts held at the Royal Albert Hall earlier this month once again illustrated the tremendous musical talents of the young people in our Hertfordshire Schools.

Two choirs, each of over 1,000 primary aged children, performed in either the afternoon or evening concert. These choirs were supported by the County Youth Orchestra, several musical groups, dancing groups and soloists provided a rich feast of musical entertainment for the sell-out crowds.

For the first time the Community Choirs of Dacorum and Hatfield Welwyn Garden City had been invited to share the opening and closing songs of the performances. This was a dream come true for so many people. To say it was a pleasure to be at the Gala Concert was absolutely true but to be a member of the choir, along with the children, was something never to be forgotten.

Rufus Frowde, the Artistic Director, chose these words to explain how the Concert had come about. "I reflected on 100 years of musical development. I turned my thoughts to popular music and our concert began to take shape. Today we commemorate and reflect upon the centenary of the outbreak of World War I with a powerful commission by Will Todd. Despite the misery of war, life was still for living and we did not forget how to have a good time. Music, song and dance never ceased to beguile, comfort, entertain, console, energise and calm the human soul. Musical and dance styles evolved, each decade coloured by its own energy and spirit. Children performed

today alongside adult singers from recently-formed community choirs. All ages share the joy of the 100-year artistic journey that has driven us to the Britain in which we now live, a country still with its challenges but thankfully more peaceful than 100 years ago."

The Concert highlights? There were so many. From the rousing opening of 'O Fortuna' by Carl Orff to the final song 'Viva la Vida', made famous by Coldplay, ended with a crescendo to end all crescendos. The crowd rose to their feet to applaud and cheer, long and loud, the dancing, the singing, the musicians and the County Youth Orchestra.

Through narration, songs, dancing, Charleston, Jazz, Glenn Miller, Rock and Roll, Pop Music, the 100 years of music had been brought to life by the expertise of the young people. Their tremendous energy was commendable.

At the close of the Concert one great grandma said so passionately, "I never dreamed I would be at the Royal Albert Hall today singing with my 10 year-old great granddaughter, Elisia".

James Dickinson, Head of Herts Music Service, had promised the audience a highly exciting performance demonstrating the breadth and depth of the musical achievements of the County's children and young people. He congratulated Katherine Wolfenden and her team for leading on this huge project. The conductors, directors, primary school teachers and 2,500 performers were thanked profusely.

At the end of the concert Henry, aged 4, said "Can we come again next week?".

Short Story Competition

This month we are printing the Year 8 winners Laura Miller and Ben Cooke
The Year 8 runners up are: Girl: Miranda Allen, Ashlyns; Boy: Daniel Brierley, Ashlyns

The Mistake by Ben Cooke

It happened when I was walking along the street when I saw a man lying on the ground. I walked up to the man and asked him if he was alright. He grabbed my jumper and pulled me violently down to the floor. His hands had blood on them as if he had just had a fight with another person. I screamed for HELP!! but no one came to my aid. His big rough hands grabbed me so tightly, I could not run away. Some big tough guys came and made a circle around me; while the wounded man had still had his hands tightly gripped on to my clothing. He finally let go. I said "What are you going to do to me?" They replied menacingly "You'll see." I got even more scared. As he said that, I thought I heard them laughing. They obviously had a painful plan for me to suffer!

They brought me to a small estate building outside of town. The place had broken windows and even parts of it were crumbled and deteriorated. They took me inside into their dump of a mouldy old flat. They had taken me into a dark and terrifying room. Then they walked out of the room and locked the door so I could not get out. I heard them laughing as they walked outside of the dirty and cold flat. I did not see or hear from them for a couple of days. I did not have any food or water; I was getting so hungry and thirsty that I started drinking the rainwater that dripped from the roof of the room. That was all I survived on; I had absolutely nothing to eat. I eventually heard some footsteps outside the door. Painfully, I lifted up my head slowly; I did not have enough strength in my voice to shout help. I put

my head back down because what was the use of putting my head back up, when nothing was going to happen. The sound I heard was like someone lifting something sharp, like a knife, as it scraped across the stone walls. More time has passed and I am still in this hellhole, drinking rainwater. My stomach is getting thinner and thinner as the hours went by.

Eventually they came back; they unlocked the door and pulled me along the floor. They brought me into the middle of the living room and strapped me to a partly demolished chair. I could not move due to the misery and pain that I was in. One of them punched me in the face. My face was covered in blood. Then the biggest and hairiest of them all came towards me with a knife, put it to my neck and pulled something out of his pocket. It was a wallet. He pulled out a photo of his wife and then pulled a photo out of a man who looked like me. I swear it wasn't me, but I do not know who it was! The big one said angrily "*why are you with my wife?*" I replied weeping, "*that's not me*" but he just punched me again.

I was knocked out from the punch that I received a couple of hours before. I woke up in the kitchen strapped to a table; I could not move. I heard several footsteps outside the flat. I heard the noise of someone breaking down the door; I was hoping that the police had finally come. They looked in each room, they opened the door of the kitchen last, the police had come to rescue me – thank God! They found me tied up with rope on the table. The policeman got a small knife out of his of his pocket and cut the rope and I was free. They carried me outside, and led me

to a waiting ambulance and the paramedics drove me off to the hospital. When I was laid in my bed in the ward, the police came to ask me questions like *"do you remember what the kidnappers looked like?"*, *"what did they do to you?"* and *"what did they want with you?"* I barely had the strength to answer all their questions.

One week later when I had had time to recover and regain my strength, I told the police all that I remembered. I told them what they wanted from me, what they looked like and what they did to me. The next day my wife came to see me from London; it was lovely to see her. She rushed to my bedside and gave me a hug. Then I said to her *"My stomach still hurts from when they did not feed me."* Then she let go and burst into tears.

Then Doctor Wilkinson came in and told me that I needed to stay at the hospital for another three weeks. When I got home, I would need about five meals a day for four weeks. After the four weeks, I would have to come back to hospital for a check up to see how I was doing. After staying at the hospital for 3 weeks, I went home and had those five meals that Doctor Wilkinson had told me to do for four weeks. I went back and they looked at my stomach to see if I was nice and healthy again. They said I was in perfect shape and that I could start working and living a normal life again. The next morning I saw pictures of myself from when I was in the horrible event in my life. I also saw the guys that kidnapped me; they have been thrown in jail for 20 years. I was able to live my life in peace now they have been locked up for a long time. My wife and I lived happy lives after my horrible experience in the mouldy old dark flat. "The Mistake" was theirs, a most terrible case of mistaken identity.

The Mistake by Laura Miller

Ben had been asking his Mum for the last week if he and three of his mates could go to the wood for a game of football; well that is what he told his Mum. On Monday she said no, on Tuesday she said no, on Wednesday she said no and so on until Friday. Ben's Mum, Clare, was going for lunch with her work colleagues and his Dad was at work so Ben had nowhere to go on Saturday.

Saturday came along quickly and Clare was telling Ben all the rules before he left. "Don't walk down the alleyway; don't talk to strangers; don't go beyond the perimeter of the field; don't touch any dogs you don't know..."

Almost an hour later Clare had exhausted every rule in the universe so that Ben could hardly touch anything or do anything.

It was two o'clock and Ben had just crossed the road with his Mum holding his hand, which he hated because he was twelve years old and nearly thirteen. They got to the alleyway at the end of West Way and Clare suddenly pulled Ben back. "I don't ever want to see you laying a foot in that alleyway, you'll just have to go the long way round" she demanded with a terrifying voice.

"But Mum, Sam, Nick and Harry will be at the field by now. What's wrong with the alleyway anyway? Asked Ben.

"You know what's wrong with it."

"What? Tell me" interrupted Ben.

"If you let me carry on I will." But before his Mum had a chance to tell him, Ben stormed off down the road towards the field.

Finally Ben reached the field. He looked around to see if he could see his friends.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

"BOO!"

"Ahh - you scared me - So how long have you been here for?" asked Ben.

"Oh, only about 15 minutes" replied Harry.

"So what took you so long?" wondered Sam.

"My Mum, you know what they're like sometimes!" answered Ben "Yeh, tell me about it" Sam said. "So, how about that game of footy?"

"Good idea" exclaimed Ben.

After an hour the boys had tired of football and wanted to do something else. "I'm bored" grumbled Nick. "Same here", agreed Harry. Nick set off into the wood for an adventure with Harry, Ben and Sam following, wanting to know where he was going. Nick told them that he wanted to see if there was something exciting to do in the wood. They walked for a while not seeing much until they came across an old abandoned house in the middle of nowhere. The boys looked at each other and then looked back at the house in surprise and wonder. "Ben, I dare you to go inside the house. You're not scared are you?" questioned Nick.

"No" shouted Ben, "I suppose my Mum didn't say anything about not doing dares and going in houses. Fine, but I'm only going in if one of you comes with me."

"No way! It's your dare" Sam said.

Ben stared at the house for a while, thinking if he should do it or not. With a frightened voice Ben told his mates he would do it but only if they promised not to run away.

"We promise" chanted the boys, "Go on then we will stay here and wait for you, but don't be long" hurried Harry.

As Ben opened the old, rusty, creaky door his whole body shivered with fear while the other boys laughed and hurried him in. When the door was fully open Ben could

see what had once been a big grand hallway, but was now a broken down twentieth century piece of rubbish. It looked the same in what looked like the living room, but it was hard to tell with dust and cobwebs everywhere.

Ben stepped into a kitchen with brown and grey tops around two walls and a black table which stretched the length of the kitchen. There were ten chairs around it, some had only three legs or were lying on the floor covered in dust. Suddenly, one of the cupboards swung open all by itself and Ben looked behind him because he kept hearing creepy whispering noises. That was when he realised he was not the only person in the house. He called out, "Is there anyone there?" There was no reply. "Sam, Harry is that you?" he called again but still no reply. The kitchen door creaked open. Ben ran to hide in a corner by the wooden table, so scared that he couldn't breathe. He heard noises of someone or something moving in the kitchen and Ben realised then that going into this house had been a big mistake.

Again Ben heard the kitchen door open and he looked up to see if anyone was still there. No one was so Ben ran into the hallway. He saw a large ghostly figure and heard a loud, terrifying scream. Ben ran for his life, out of the door and passed his friends without stopping. They followed him back through the wood and all the way to his house.

Ben's Mum stared at him as he stood terrified with big round, shocked, eyes. His friend burst in behind him while Clare asked "What's happened?"

Nick explained about the house and the wood to Clare. After 20 minutes she had heard everything and then she remembered her mistake. "I forgot to tell you the rule about the house" she said, "It's haunted by....."

Chiltern Society

Free events and walks this year to explore the Chilterns!!

The Chiltern Society is launching a fantastic new range of themed events and activities this year to encourage people to get out and explore the Chilterns or try out a new activity. These events start in early April and going through to the end of the year:

- Farm walks
- Glow worm walks
- One day map reading courses
- Night walks to see shooting stars
- Launch of the north Chiltern Way loop path and walking festival
- Wild flower and wildlife walks
- Nordic walking



Places are limited for each event and you need to reserve your place by using the booking form on our website.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have offered to lead these activities, and I look forward to meeting you at some of these new events during the year.

Jenny Gilmore, Director

The events are open to everyone (you do not have to be a member of the Chiltern Society in order to take part) and are free of charge (excluding some of the Nordic walking courses).

The full list of dates and activities can be seen on our website, this link takes you to the full listing and booking form <http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk/activities.php>.

Turn to page 16 to find out more about the events in May.

(Continued from page 15)

See examples of events below:

May 1st (& 8th) – Get Fit, Nordic-style

Part 1 of 2-part Nordic Walking Course.
Hyde Heath. 11.00-12.30.

Nordic walking is a fast growing fitness activity with over 10 million enthusiastic participants worldwide. It's suitable for all ages and fitness levels, simple to learn and really sociable. The specially designed poles make walking feel easier and reduce pressure on knees and hips. You use all the major muscles in the body and burn up to twice as many calories as ordinary walking. It's so effective that it is being used for weight loss, rehabilitation and sports specific training all the over the UK and those that have tried all agree that being outdoors was energising and that they felt fantastic afterwards! However, it is not simply a case of grabbing a pair of poles and walking with them! It requires the correct technique in order to get the whole body working and it is essential you learn. The Chiltern Society is offering a two-day Nordic Walking course with Melissa Laing of MCL Fitness – an Outdoor Fitness instructor with over four years Nordic Walking instruction experience.

Open to all, there is a small charge for attendance on this two day course – for further details and to book please contact Melissa Laing by email or tel. 01494 778 518. Course fee, £30, includes instruction on the 1st and 8th May, use of poles, and covers membership to NW UK and access to all walks in the UK on a drop in basis with any instructor. Nordic poles are provided.

Meet: Cricket pavilion on Hyde Heath common, near Amersham (opposite the Plough pub). Parking: please park on the road next to the common – parking on the common is not permitted. Walk Type: Entry level Nordic Walking suitable for a wide range of abilities. Some hills, but taken at an easy pace. To Bring: Light walking boots or shoes. How to get there: Postcode: HP6 5RW; GR 928 004.

May 7th – Wild Flower Walk

Pishill/Hollandridge. 10.30-13.00.

Join Gay Beattie – author of *Wild Flowers and Where to Find Them in the Chilterns* for a 3 mile walk at a gentle pace through fields and woods. There's plenty of time to observe and photograph wild flowers. The route goes through fields and woods, including a couple of hills and returns down Hollandridge Lane.

Meet for 10.30 prompt start at Pishill Church car park, OS Explorer map 171 GR 726899. Walk Type: Woodlands and fields, with a couple of hills at a gentle pace. To Bring: Walking boots or strong shoes, clothing suitable for the weather on the day, camera useful. How to get there: Pishill lies between Watlington and Henley on Thames.

For details of the charity's work and all its groups: www.chilternsociety.org.uk.



We care for the Chilterns

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Fr Tom Plant



Right, that's it. Enough! I know people mean well, but I do wish they'd stop calling me "Vicar" all the time. Or better still,

down at the Lamb, "Vic." I'm not a vicar. No really, I promise you! Let me explain. A member of the congregation has asked me to write a little piece explaining all the different titles in the Church, or 'ranks,' as he called them, being of a military mind. I don't like churchy navel-gazing very much, but in case you're interested, here you go. We don't actually have ranks, but we do have orders, and there are only three: deacon, priest and bishop.

Deacons assist at the altar, take communion to the sick and assist in the teaching of the faith. You have to be a deacon for at least a year before you can be ordained a priest, but many people feel called to serve as deacons permanently, and have no intention of becoming priests. Most of the clergy are priests. Priests teach the faith and 'administer the sacraments': that means mostly leading the Eucharist ("celebrating Mass"), hearing confessions, marrying and burying people and anointing the sick. The head priest of a parish is the "Vicar" or "Rector." Assistant priests, like

me, are called "curates." Priests can also be chaplains in schools, prisons, universities, the Armed Forces and even airports. They may become canons or the Dean of a cathedral, or even an Archdeacon, who is responsible for all the human and material resources in a diocese.

So what's a "diocese"? Well, that's where the bishop comes in. The whole country is divided up into large areas, sometimes the size of two counties, called "dioceses", and the bishop is the head priest of the diocese. The bishop leads all the clergy and people of all the parishes and chaplain cites in his (and soon her) diocese. I've also been asked about forms of address. Priests and deacons are formally "the Rev'd", or less formally, if they're men, "Father." The Archdeacon (the Bishop's right-hand man or woman who is actually a priest...) is "the Venerable". Deans of cathedrals are "the Very Rev'd", but traditionally one calls them "Mr/Mrs Dean". Bishops are "the Right Rev'd", or in conversation "my Lord" or simply "Bishop". By the way, to call someone Rev'd + surname (for example, "the Rev'd Jones") is strictly incorrect. It must be Rev'd + Christian name + surname (e.g. "the Rev'd John Jones"). Father + surname and Father + Christian name are both fine ("Fr John" or "Fr Jones"). So, I'm not a vicar. I'm the curate, and I'm a priest. Glad we've got that cleared up!

Fr Tom Plant

Assistant Curate, St Peter's, Great Berkhamsted

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 at St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, presented by The Cowper Society supported by the Friends of St Peter's

Thu 1st May at 6.15am: MAY MORNING MADRGALS sung from the Tower of St Peter's Church under the direction of Adrian Davis, followed by BREAKFAST in the Court House. Donations for breakfast please.

Sat 10th May at 7:30pm: CONCERT: Piano Recital, Alexander Ardakov. Tickets £12, concessions £10, U18s free from Adrian Cole (was Cole Flatt), 124 High St, Berkhamsted.

Sat 14th June at 10 am until 4 pm: Petertide Fair. For information visit <http://www.petertidefair.org.uk>.

All Saints'

May 4th, Third Sunday of Easter 8am: Holy Communion Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am: Morning Worship Revd Rachael Hawkins.

May 11th, Fourth Sunday of Easter, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Penny O'Neill, 4pm: Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group
May 18th Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10am: Morning Worship (Christian Aid) Richard Hackworth

May 25th Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10am: Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby, 4pm: Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, and Audrey Cox

May 29th Ascension Day (Thursday), 8pm: Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Registers

Baptisms

23 March: Louis James Andres GIBBON (St Peter's)

Funerals

6 March: Joyce Edna BENNETT (St Peter's)

11 April: Catherine Mary Bayliss (All Saints')

14 April: Arthur George Wray (All Saints')

Key Church contacts: Parish Office, Hilary Armstrong & Kate Perera, Court House, 878227. Fr. Tom Plant, 382633 (day off Fri) St Peter's, 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



Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the last year. We are

always astounded by the generosity of our local community and are able to care for more patients and families than ever. Our funding requirement never goes away and this year we need to raise just under £5 million to support our work through voluntary donations and fundraising.

Hospice Garden Party

Do come and support our annual Garden Party at Ashridge House on Sunday 1st June, 1-5pm, this year supported by solicitors D A C Beachcroft.

There will be Pimms, afternoon tea, stalls -a-plenty, live music from the Jolly Jazzers, quality stalls from many local businesses and children's entertainment including a traditional flea circus!

Tickets to the Garden Party are available

to buy in advance from Hospice Love to Give shops and Returned To Glory priced at £5 each for adults or on the day at £6. Children under 16 are free.

Golfers we need you!

Golf Clubs and societies across Hertfordshire are being invited to join the inaugural **Hospice Challenge Trophy** at Stocks Golf Club, Aldbury on Friday 13 June. The Clubs will compete in an 18 hole, fourball Stableford competition which will be followed by a BBQ, prize giving and raffle. It costs £200 per team of four to enter.

Midnight Walk

Put the date in your diary now for our annual Midnight Walk on Saturday 28th June from Hemel Hempstead to Berkhamsted which offers a night of fun, celebration and the perfect opportunity to remember someone special – a friend, mum, uncle or grandparent – and do something amazing in their memory. The event starts at 9:30pm at Hemel



Hempstead school and is an 11 mile walk (with the option of a five mile shorter route). Registration costs just £20 per person (£15 under 18s).

Lora Faye, who is signing up to walk for the first time this year to give something back to the Hospice who cared for her dad, adds, "My Dad passed away at the Hospice on Sunday 26th January and, as hard as this time was for us as a family, the support and generosity given to us by the nurses and staff at the Hospice was priceless and will never be forgotten."



Returned to Glory

Our pre-loved furniture store on the Northbridge Road, Berkhamsted (HP4 1EH) is now stocking Autentico paint which is perfect for breathing new life into pre-loved furniture. The busy shop also now offers free coffee so you can take a break whilst you browse. There's also a packed workshop programme including:

9th May Introduction to Crochet, 23rd May Intermediate Crochet, 8th June Introduction to Knitting

E: thecuttingtable@outlook.com for more information.

Dying Matters Week

As part of the national Dying Matters Campaign, the Hospice is taking part in a series of events around Hertfordshire to share all the things that we do to support people across the whole spectrum of care.

We are also planning a series of useful videos about accessing Hospice care on our website, as well as launching our Peoples' Panels to encourage the communities to share their thoughts about our care. www.dyingmatters.org.

Markyate Plant Sale

If you would like to buy plants, hanging baskets and get inspiration for your summer garden, don't forget to visit the Markyate Plant sale on Saturday 24th May 10am. No 64, High Street, Markyate, a delightful, private family garden in the middle of the village.

This event has supported the Hospice for almost twenty years, last year raising £6,300.



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My Berkhamsted

Hi I am Jacqueline Hicks and have taken over from Helen Dowley as the new editor. I thought it would be appropriate to tell you a bit about myself.

I moved to Berkhamsted because...

I wanted to be somewhere rural and pretty. I had never heard of Berkhamsted, but drove through it one day and with first impressions of the High Street I wanted to know more.

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

the Ashridge National Trust area, including the house and the views from the hills. The surrounding areas, which include the Chiltern Hills, are just so green with lots of lovely high points. There are many more I can think of and hopefully will feature these in future editions.

The local place where I like to relax and reflect is...

If I just want peace I will go to the grounds of Berkhamsted castle – it is a lovely spot for reflection, especially in the summer. I also like using the coffee shops in Berkhamsted and watching the world go by.

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

it is a little town in the countryside and we have everything we need here - the castle, canal, national trust area as well as the shopping and market. It is good we still have independent shops and I prefer

it to stay like that. There is a good selection of restaurants too.

When I tell people about Berkhamsted I always say ...

that Berkhamsted has a real community feel to it. There are lots of things to do, learn and explore – be it history, an area of natural beauty or a local event. I still feel I am on an adventure.

As the new editor I would like to

give Your Berkhamsted a cultural, historical and arty feel to it. I love that we use local artists for the images and would like to continue with providing opportunities for the community in Berkhamsted to contribute to the magazine. I would like the readers to get all the local information they need to make living in Berkhamsted even more enjoyable.

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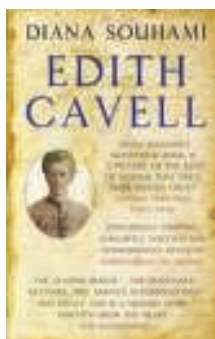
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The Book Corner

Julian Dawson's review of his latest read



Edith Cavell. By Diana Souhami. *Quercus*.

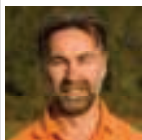
Many of us are aware of the tale of Edith Cavell, and there is sure to be renewed interest as the centenary of her death approaches.

This biography painstakingly looks at her whole life, and reminds us that even without her brave end she had already established herself with a fine reputation in her adopted Belgium. In some senses she was considered the Florence Nightingale of the Belgian nursing system. The German occupying authority accused her of sheltering Allied soldiers at a training school for nurses in Brussels that she ran. Her death was also a watershed in international propaganda, and it affected the Germans so much that the Kaiser ordered that no women be put to death in this manner again. Indeed, had senior commanders had any say in the matter her death would never occurred. One could almost say she was a victim of vindictive middle-ranking officers. On the British side recruitment posters exhorted volunteers to "Remember Edith Cavell". But Edith would have been horrified. Her inspiration was less king and country and more in the quiet spirit of Thomas à Kempis, a medieval Catholic monk whose "The Imitation of Christ" she studied all her life. This inspired some of her last words: "Patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards

anyone." This was later added to her monument in Saint Martin's Place in London.

Cavell was born in 1865, her father a stern vicar who ruled his family on strict lines of prayer, self-denial and duty to others. She and her siblings were expected to minister to the poor. Later, having been a governess (the last resort of the unmarried) she followed her sisters into nursing. This gives the author an opportunity to expand upon the state of public health and provision at this time. But her fate was in effect sealed in 1906 when a Belgian doctor, impressed by English nursing standards, was looking for an English nurse to establish a training school in Brussels. Being able to speak French and having once been a governess in Brussels she accepted the challenge. By the beginning of the war, her nurses were in demand and her reputation stood high. As the biography reaches its dreadful and tense end, we in fact discover that this is not just Cavell's story but a remembrance of the brave Belgians she worked with and some of who lost their lives too. The last word can however can be left to her German guard. When the priest arrived at the prison the evening before the execution, the German guard told him she was a fine woman– "like this", he said, and stiffened his back. I heartily recommend this very moving story.

You can read more about Edith at www.edithcavell.org.uk.



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Your Local Reviews



Carry on Screening

Joanna Kaye gives a review of recent films shown at the film club.

A good time was had by all at the

film club for the showing of 'Persepolis' on Friday 21st March. 'Persepolis' is a graphic novel translated into several languages and the movie, when released, was a co-winner of the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival in 2007. 'Persepolis' was written and co-directed by Marjane Satrapi depicting her own childhood up to her early adult years in Iran during and after the Islamic revolution. On this occasion, some of the Iranian themed food was prepared by the lovely Arianna; it was exceptionally delicious and consisted of lamb kofta, falafel and home-made Baklava (bāqlabā).

Friday April 11th was our fifth screening of the deeply moving, sombre but very stunning film by Xavier Beauvois 'Of Gods and Men'. It is a powerful movie about faith, commitment and the courage of one's convictions. The cinematography is outstanding, capturing the natural beauty of the surroundings regardless of the terror spreading the country. The food we provided was simple but tasty whilst 'Swan Lake' played in the background before the main feature. There was a reference to this later to be seen in a scene in the movie which was deep but a spiritually moving experience.

Our upcoming movie for May 23rd is an Ealing Comedy classic 'Kind Hearts and Coronets' which is one of the greatest

British films of all time, a hilarious study in the gentle art of murder. Do join us for this, you won't be sorry. You can find us at

www.carryonscreening.wordpress.com

A Taste of Sicily in Lower King's Road

John Gerry's review on Berkhamsted's newest culinary addition.

I Love Food was around in Lower King's Road as a small coffee and cake shop until it shut down, bought the empty property next door and reopened in April, not only three times the size, but in a wonderful new guise.

Owned by four siblings from Catania in Sicily, it is committed to bringing the delights of Sicilian food to Berkhamsted. To the coffee and cakes are added an extensive breakfast menu mixing the traditional with the unusual, a short but interesting lunch menu which is changed frequently and from mid-April, a dinner selection bringing Sicilian treats to the table. Of the siblings, Rosanna is the chef, Aliesta has designed the modern and empathetic interior featuring family scenes from the Sicilian background, whilst the two brothers, Mario and Davide will be there organising or as baristas. The whole thing is managed by Salvatore, also from Sicily.

Apart from the different tastes (nothing like the other Italian restaurants in town), I Love Food's attraction is the home-made nature of many of the offerings. Bread is baked fresh each day by Rosanna and you will not find the ragu coming from a jar at lunchtime! All in all, an exciting and welcome addition to the Berkhamsted gastronomic scene.

Your Recipe



The Radish

Radishes come in all shapes, sizes and flavours. Colours can range from pink, reds, and purples to

whites and black.

In Season: Radishes are available year-round, but are at their peak from April through July.

In the 16th century Spanish colonists brought the radish to Mexico and it is now a popular ingredient in Mexican food.

Mexican Beef, Radish and Avocado Salsa wraps

Serves 2

Prep Time: 5 mins

Cooking Time: 10 mins

Ingredients

- 2tsp cumin
- 1tsp olive oil
- 2 beef steaks
- 15 mixed radishes, quartered
- 1 avocado, cubed
- small bunch coriander
- ½ lime
- 4 Wholemeal or white tortilla wraps

1. Rub the cumin over each side of the steak and season.
 2. Heat a non-stick pan until hot and cook the steaks for 2 to 4 minutes on each side.
 3. Chop the radish, avocado and coriander. Toss the veg in the oil and lime juice and season well, then slice the steak.
 4. Lay the steak down the centre of the tortilla, top with the salsa and wrap.
- Serve with tortilla crisps and sour cream.
Enjoy!

A large, stylized purple letter 'Q' serves as a background for the advertisement. Inside the circular part of the 'Q' is a photograph of a two-story white villa with a swimming pool and a patio area. To the right of the 'Q', the text 'qualityvillas' is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'Luxury family villas with private pools' is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. Further down, the text 'France • Italy' and 'Morocco • Ski' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the phone number '01442 870 055' and the website 'www.qualityvillas.com' are displayed in a white, sans-serif font. In the bottom right corner, the text 'ABTA W3175' is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.

Your Garden

May garden adventures in boots or otherwise by Helen Reeley

Folk discuss whether April or May is the best month in the garden; April is full of blossom and bulbs and May has the first perennial flowers and outside warmth we all crave. Annual flower seeds have germinated and are putting on strong growth and evening countryside walks are in full swing. Out of doors in May is a very healthy and invigorating experience.



I've taken on a much neglected allotment this year on the beautiful south west facing slopes of the valley in Berkhamsted. As it's on a slope I haven't had to deal too much with the aftermath of the awful biblical rains we had this winter but the soil is heavy clay and flint so I'll be waiting some time into May when the soil will be lighter to lift before I start planting herbs. I'll buy in the most readily available herbs in small one litre pots: Lavender, Rosemary, Mint, Oregano, Salvia, Melissa and Angelica. I find the smaller plants establish themselves better in a new garden. I'm keen to try some very different mint varieties but I'll be growing these in bottomless pots placed into the soil as mint tends to run and can become terribly invasive.

I've got some annual plantings underway: Nicotiana, Sunflower, Ammi and Cerinthe. Later on I'll sow direct into the soil some Dill, Fennel, Borage and Foxglove. I've got gazillions of seed packets, most of which I

won't be able to sow this year due to being greedy purchasing and the allotment clearing taking longer than anticipated but the seeds will be fine for next year if kept in cool dark and dry environment.

So...much to do over the next few weeks! I feel a bit daunted just thinking about it all to be frank, but gardening in any form is a challenge. I'm just listening to Gardener's Question Time on the radio and I'm realising my challenge is nothing compared to the poor sods in Somerset whose soil is still squelchy from the floods. Their advice seems to be 'do nothing' which must be a worrying thing to hear mid April when all you want to do is get out there and get going. Gardening requires patience as well as vigour!

And on a finishing note here are some wise words : *A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.*
Gertrude Jekyll

Your Sport

This month Matt Dawson looks at Northchurch Cricket Club



The cricket season is now underway and with that, an article about the sport is due. With the football

season effectively over, the focus now turns to cricket in which many adults and children will be delving into cricket bags around the country as the new season gets underway.

I'm currently playing down at Northchurch Cricket Club which despite its size plays a very high standard of cricket. A standard of cricket that is higher than Berkhamsted's I hasten to add. NCC's 1st XI play in the 'Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League Division 2' whilst Berko's firsts play in Division Four. Northchurch's second XI are in Division 7 whilst Berkhamsted's are in the eighth one.

Last season I was a part of a squad that managed to get promoted, the previous season we had won the league at Colts level so, so far I have had great successes, which for me has made it a great club to be at.

NCC are currently looking for any new players that would strengthen and add extra numbers to both squads. If you're looking to try out cricket or are simply looking for a new club then we train at

6:15pm until dark on a Wednesday evening in the nets at Northchurch CC.

After the England cricket team's failure down under in the winter and their poor World T20 campaign you may not be that inspired to try out cricket. However with England being so poor there's no reason why a standard amateur cricketer couldn't be playing for them in the near future. After all, it would probably have no effect on their poor batting line-up.

Last season at the club we had two very talented Australians that featured for both the first and second XI's. They were a huge success and this season NCC have managed to get two South African's on board. Werner Labuschagne and Jacques Viljoen who are both talented all-rounders will be hoping to make a similar impact as the Australian pair did last season. Both of them managed to score over 1500 runs each in 2013 so Labuschagne and Viljoen have a lot to live up to!

As well as the XI's that play in the league on a Saturday there's also a Sunday Friendly XI or Development squad that play in a more relaxed manner to the games the day before. It's a good way to spend some time in the middle and play yourself into some form. It's also a great way to boost your wicket and run tallies. For more information visit: <http://northchurch.play-cricket.com/> and for the latest updates follow them: @NorthchurchCC on twitter.

Young Berko – School News

We all know how important it is to keep healthy by eating the right foods and taking exercise. It's particularly important that this becomes a way of life for the younger generation.

Year 5 pupils from Thomas Coram School recently became roving reporters and asked their peers how we can eat more healthily, become more active and in what ways we can all help to keep the

town a cleaner and more pleasant place to live. They then presented their work as a local newspaper: The Thomas Coram Times.

This month we have selected a couple of articles from their project relating to healthy eating and exercise. Look out for more in next month's issue.

Perhaps we have some future YB writers amongst us...

Thomas Coram Times

Keeping our community healthy

This summer we are trying to get people out of their houses and out in the sun, maybe even some exercise! As you know there are lots of local parks, so why not use them? Also we have tried to eat as many healthy foods as possible, so we can have fun and eat tasty food as well as keeping healthy. You will have lots of fun at Sportspace, lots of fun activities like swimming, roller disco and all sorts of things. But, if you're an adult you can go to the gym! Remember, get out in your spare time and try to go to the park or just a walk...Keep healthy!

Maddie Steers

Pupils from Thomas Coram School have been asked 'How do you think we can keep our community healthy?' 'Where do you go to keep healthy?' and 'What things do you eat to keep healthy?'

They answered "I do trampoline, All Stars, basket ball, cricket, football, netball and hockey."

"To keep healthy I eat meat, vegetables, fruit and I drink lots of water every day."

They also said that they would suggest doing more P.E., having healthier lunch options and drink more water.

SO PLEASE KEEP HEALTHY!!!

Ethan Dowley

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