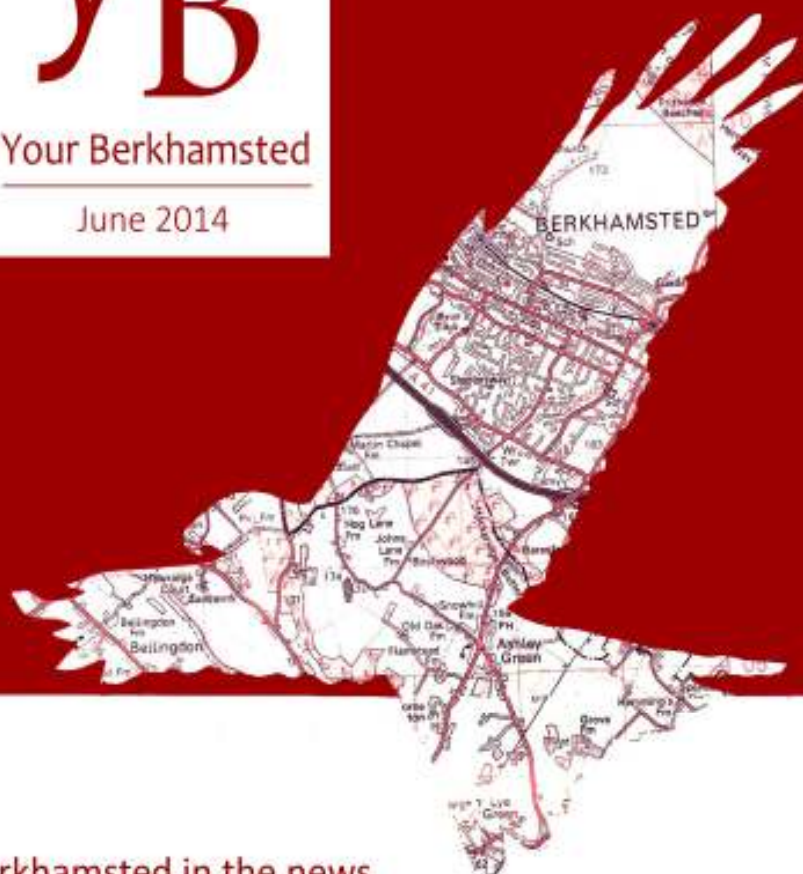


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YB

Your Berkhamsted

June 2014



Berkhamsted in the news

Short story winners continued

What's on in June

West End star graces Berkhamsted for charity

50p

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

In this issue...

Welcome to the June 2014 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

I hope you enjoyed my first edition. Just to say I intend to stick with a lot of the content already as some of this is pertinent to our everyday life in Berkhamsted, but also would like to add new items each month so that there is an element of surprise and hopefully something for everybody. In this edition we have a couple of reviews on events that have happened at the Civic Centre and some articles regarding our local schools, as well as the What's on page and much much more. So make a nice cuppa and read, while enjoying this wonderful weather (though this could change by the time this edition comes out!).



Jacqueline, Editor

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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



We kick off this month's merry jaunt with Graham Greene, who else. Hertfordshire-genealogy.blogspot.co.uk reproduces a fascinating old photograph of Greene's actual birthplace at St John's House, Berkhamsted School. Apparently "When Graham became thirteen he returned to St John's house as a boarder, living in a part of the building he had not known as a child." In his work *A Sort of Life* he recounts the horrors of that part of the building set aside for pupils.

Greene died in 1991, and as far as I know he didn't donate his body for medical research. But according to tringtontoday.co.uk John Waller of Cobb Road, Berkhamsted, wants to "donate his corpse to medical research after death so that he can help trainee doctors learn about science – and save money on funeral costs." It can also be seen as the ultimate form of recycling since it frees up resources at cemeteries and crematoriums. Though to be honest I am suspicious of the economies of scale here. If we all decided to donate our bodies the problem of overcrowding, as it were, would simply be transferred. Rather less macabrely, a couple of local stories have hit the internet big time.

Nydailynews.com reported on the news that has caught the imagination worldwide. Two twins have been reunited after being apart for 78 years. Elizabeth Hamel lives in Oregon, Ann Hunt in Aldershot. Born out of wedlock, Elizabeth was given up for adoption, but Ann remained close to her mother who worked for a time at Berkhamsted manor.

Perhaps regrettably Berkhamsted has also been in the national news over the inflated row over whether Lidl should be seen fit to grace our town. The tale of snobbery and ungraciousness has not shown our town in the most happy of light. A letter written in hemeltoday.co.uk by Anne Waller puts a different perspective on the argument. "I was rather surprised to read that one "Waitrose" and one "Tesco Metro" are considered to be ample for a town (Berkhamsted) with a population of approximately 17,000." She goes on to say that there were many more grocers in the town in the 1950s, together with other specialist food retailers, when the population was significantly smaller.

(Continued on page 5)

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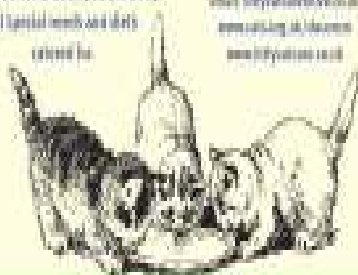
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(Continued from page 3)

Bring on the competition I say! John Waller (yes, him again, and I am imagine married to Anne), put it rather more bluntly, saying that “snobs and ‘toffee-nosed twits’ were behind a petition to try and stop the discount food chain from opening a supermarket in the area.” This quote was gleefully grasped upon by the Daily Mail, and indeed ITV.

Mix96.co.uk reported on the lack of trains over the May Day bank holiday, , “If you want to get a train from Leighton Buzzard, Tring or Berkhamsted to London this weekend, you won't be able to” and warns of further weekend closures to come later in the summer. It is all a far cry from the original plans to shut the network for the whole of August.

That was never going to be a sensible option, and finally the rail operators have seen sense. It is not known whether increased trains will be put on for journalistic spectators to watch our latest planning spat.



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What's on

Don't forget Fathers Day – 15th June!

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.

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

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

Open: For NGS: Sun 8 June (12pm – 6pm)
Within the National Gardens Scheme –
Ashridge House will be open. The gardens

cover 190-acres forming part of the Grade
II Registered Landscape of Ashridge Park.
Based on designs by Humphry Repton in
1813 modified by Jeffry Wyattville. Small
secluded gardens, as well as a large lawn
area leading to avenues of trees. 2013
marks the 200th anniversary of Repton.

10 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 8.00pm at Dar Papillon, 360-364
High Street Berkhamsted HP4 1HU, with
an optional pre-show buffet at 7.15p,,
costing £7.50.

Info/booking:
suehampton@btinternet.com or 01442
877052.

22 June: A Summer Walk – a circular walk
with a stop for lunch at the 'Full Moon'
Cholesbury. Leader: Paul Crosland. Meet
at Berkhamsted Station at 10.30 am. For
info: www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk .
Free.

28 June 8pm: Jazz Concert – Zoe Francis
Quartet at the Civic Centre. For info:
www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk.

What's on, continued from page 7.....

Out of Town:

7 June: Ashley Green Village Fair.

13 June: The Songmen at St Mary's Church, Rickmansworth at 7.30 pm. The Songmen are an international multi-award winning cappella ensemble. For info: www.trms.elgar.org 01923 775882.

Imagine Watford Returns for a 4th Year Watford Town Centre

Following a hugely successful third year in 2013, which saw over 90,000 people attend, the Imagine Watford Festival will once again be bringing free world-class performance to the streets of Watford in June 2014.

Amongst the favourites returning from last year's festival will be curious directive And We Will Play Again?, (Imagine Watford 2013), Motionhouse dance company (Captive, Imagine Watford 2013) Tango Sumo (Expedition Paddock, Imagine Watford 2013) and some of the best international outdoor companies.

Imagine Watford: A Festival of Extraordinary Open Air Moments is organised by the Watford Cultural Leader's Group and will run from 19th – 29th June 2014.

28 June: 10 am to 4pm – Wendover Craft Fair at the Barn Courtyard.

July:

1 July: 7pm Dacorum Health Walk - Little Gaddesden at Village Hall, Church Road HP4 1NX. <http://www.hertslink.org/cms/content/15488274/16532575/hwdacmaytoaug14.pdf>.

4 – 6 July: Chilfest , Pendley Meadow, Tring. For info: www.chilfest.co.uk.

12 July: Tring Carnival - Pound Meadow, Tring 12noon - 5pm. Back for its 4th year! This year we have a Commonwealth Games theme so get planning how you want to get involved. Tickets: £2 on the gate (children free).

12 July: Tring Carnival Band Night - Doors open at 7pm in the Tring Brewery Marquee on Pound Meadow, Tring. Old Country Union are back and they are headlining this evening with two support bands. Tickets available from 1/4/14 at Tring Brewery and Beechwood. Tickets: £12.50 (£5 for accompanied under 12s) info@tringtogether.org.uk.



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All Aboard for the Petertide Fair



Berkhamsted's annual Petertide Fair is taking place on Saturday 14 June, 10 – 3pm at St Peter's church, High street, Berkhamsted. Now in its 33rd year, the Fair appeals to all ages with its mix of traditional stalls, sideshows and entertainment.

This year a new craft stall will join the books, plants, bric-a-brac, cakes and music stalls while visitors can try their luck at the bottle tombola, raffle or china smash or make a bid at the popular Silent auction.

There will also be traditional entertainment from the Aldbury Morris men, local band Stop and Search, the Jolly Jazzers and BURP (Berkhamsted Ukelele Random Players). Children will be entertained with a toy stall, face painting, games and train rides across the church lawns. Refreshments galore will be on offer

including Pimms, Elsie's ices, tea, coffee and cakes, BBQ and Petertide Ale.

This year's Fair is taking place on Saturday 14 June 2014 and all proceeds will be going to support two local causes - The Hospice of St Francis, which cares for people with life-shortening illnesses living locally and to provide equipment for Ashlyns School's new Sports Hall which is intended as a community facility.

Proceeds are also supporting Silent Voices which helps marginalized deaf children in SW Uganda through the provision of residential sign language summer schools. Find out more about Petertide events on Facebook: Petertide Fair

<http://www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk/asa/index.htm> / www.stfrancis.org.uk

For further information, please contact Fair chairman, Pru Murray on 07780 600180.



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Short Story Competition

Year 8 winners and runners up

All are from Ashlyn's. The Judge, Rowan Coleman is the internationally best selling author of more than twenty novels for adults and teens, her latest novel *The Memory Book* is out now.'

WINNER: GIRL: Abbie Hawkes

Judges comments: I thought this was a great premise, and stand out opening line and had great pace and an energetic and atmospheric use of language.

WINNER: BOY: Oscar Johnson (to be printed in July edition)

Judges comments: This was really great. It has a great premise, a complicated plot, structured well in a short space, great use of language and sentence structure to create pace and plot, and a fantastic twist. I really loved the circular nature of this story, very accomplished.

RUNNER UP: GIRL: Sophie Johnson

Judges comments: I really liked the premise of this story, the unusual point of view and the confident style.

RUNNER UP: BOY: Chris Taperell

Judges comments: Best opening line I read! Really strong confident voice, great idea - huge scale, and pretty neatly executed in short story form - but I think he could turn this idea into a full length novel!

The Mistake – Abbie Hawkes

I felt it sucking, pulling me in to the darkness. I knew right there and then that opening the door was a mistake. The door was a strange one; it was just standing there at the bottom of the stairs in the cellar. I had never been in the cellar

before because we had just moved house. The door was painted a shiny black with a singular red dot in the middle. Suddenly the darkness got a hold of me, my eyelids started flickering and different coloured shapes started dancing in front of my eyes. I knew this feeling, I knew what was happening. Yes! There they were, the black smudges in the corners of my eyes filling them up.

I awoke on an ice-cold floor to feel something warm and sticky dripping on to the back of my hand. I sat up I was in a room, a bedroom. I looked down at my hand the warm sticky stuff was blood! I screamed at the sight of it. I quickly stood up and to my horror there lying on the bed was a body, A DEAD body.

I was now sitting in the corner of the room screaming, crying and panicking. I didn't know what to do. Should I make as much noise as I could so hopefully someone would hear me and rescue me or should I look around the room and see if there is a way out? Yes! That's an idea! I'll look for a way out I thought. I started feeling around the walls.

There! I felt it, a large lump that went all the way around in a square shape. Could it be? Yes it was! A window. I could just smash it and get out! I started rubbing away at the dark murky stuff on the glass. But unfortunately this wasn't the sort of one I wanted to climb through because on the other side was just another room.

(Continued from page 11)

I had been sitting in this room for hours now. I can't survive very long without food or water and I was beginning to get very thirsty. I decided that I would try and smash the window and see if there was a way out in that room. I gasped as I took a closer look into the other room. The room next door was exactly the same as the one I was stuck in. It had the bed the body everything except somehow the body had managed to get some blood on the ceiling. One singular red dot in the middle of the black painted ceiling.

Suddenly it hit me. I collapsed as I remembered the door that I had fallen through with the singular red dot in the middle. There was no escape now. I squinted through the window and to my horror the body on the bed wasn't just any old body it was mums.

What was that? Thud, thud. There it was again thud, thud, thud. Just like a heartbeat I thought. Just like a heartbeat. Which was when I realized that it was a heartbeat. I slowly turned my head to the body its eye twitched and I suddenly darted under the bed. I was quite astonished that I managed to do that. To scamper under the bed. I thought that once I had looked through the window and seen my mum's body, that I was going to break down and die right there on the spot.

Suddenly I was awoken from my thoughts as I heard the body stand up. Strangely the body just vanished right in front of my eyes. I began to slowly crawl out from behind the bed and then a light turned on. I saw a door in the corner of the room, I had no time to look around I just RAN!

I was sitting on the floor a few metres away from the room. The reason I was sitting down was because I thought I was about to faint when I came outside the room. I just sat there for a few minutes to let my mind process what just happened. I was in a long corridor there was a room to my left and one a bit further up to my right. This looked vaguely familiar. OH MY GOD! I was in my old house!

I sprinted down the stairs and out the house, on to the pavement. I got in a taxi hoping that I had enough change in my pocket to pay him. I told the driver to take me to my new house. I speedily paid the driver and leapt out the car. I jogged across the driveway and banged hard on the door. My dad opened it. As soon as I saw him I fell into his arms and burst into tears. Suddenly I heard a voice in my mind saying "what if it's too late, what if it's too late to save your mother." I quickly pushed past dad and ran up to mums room. But I was too late she was DEAD. I burst into tears. I took her hand it was ice cold and it was only when I looked into her lifeless now grey eyes that it all became clear to me. When I was trapped in the room it was mum's old room and mum's death was my fault. The worst bit was that the thing I thought was a window was a MIRROR.

Which meant I was there throughout the time Mum was dying, and I didn't even try to help. Now I knew that some doors should NEVER be opened.

West End Star Charity Event

Editor's review on recent performance at the Civic Centre

In May Berkhamsted had the pleasure of West End Star Tabitha Webb performing for us at the Civic Centre. This charity event was to endorse Tabitha's work as an ambassador for Interserve – covering two Charities in Asia.

Tabitha Webb is a musical theatre/classical singer and actress. She started her professional career at the age of 16 after winning the BBC Choir Girl of the Year competition. She went on to numerous national radio and television performances, recordings and concerts around the UK and Europe and also recorded her own one hour radio special for BBC Radio 2. In 2008, Tabitha performed as one of the featured soloists in Sir Tim Rice's production of Chess at the Royal Albert Hall.

Following on from this between 2005 and 2009 Tabitha understudied and played the role of Christine in Phantom of the Opera and Cosette in Les Miserables, in London's West End, she was then selected as the alternate lead as Christine in Phantom between 2009 and 2011. Love Changes Everything sees the start of a 15 month long campaign which will promote the work of Interserve in two areas, orphans in India and palliative care and hospice work in central Asia.

The evening was hosted by Mike Naylor of Three Counties Radio and Tabitha sang many songs from different shows

and also some songs she has written herself. She has also created a CD for this campaign and this was available on the night. She has a beautiful voice, her range is very varied, which included soprano and classical. In between songs, Mike asked Tabitha questions about her life and about her plans ahead, we also watched videos showing the fantastic work that Interserve is doing.

There was a packed audience at the Civic Centre and it was a lovely way to spend a Sunday evening.



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Oxfam is Working



Placards saying “Thank you Oxfam and Save the Children for helping us” can be seen at the entrance to typhoon-ravaged communities across the Philippines. When the typhoon struck it left 14 million people in need of immediate, life-saving assistance. But now the focus has moved on to enabling people to recover their livelihoods. Oxfam has provided tools to cut up the fallen coconut trees to prepare timber for rebuilding as well as supplying seeds and other essentials. 547,000 people have benefited so far.

In Cambodia a rice project has enabled Sopheap Meas to treble the size of her harvest, meaning she can afford more food, school books and medicines as well as buying pigs and chickens. Oxfam is always associated with disaster relief but enabling people to resume their lives after the storm is equally important. But no sooner does one situation improve than another one erupts.

South Sudan, the world’s newest country, is in the grip of a major humanitarian crisis. Following fighting which erupted last December, more than a million people have been forced to flee their homes, abandoning crops and animals. More than 800,000 are displaced within the country and a further 250,000 have fled into neighbouring countries.

Oxfam has already reached 155,000 people with clean water, sanitation, hygiene materials and food but there is an urgent need to expand. The charity is also supplying vouchers for people to buy charcoal so that they can cook the food distributed by other agencies. Oxfam is urgently appealing for additional funds to meet the increasing need. Donations would be welcome at either shop.



Did you know?

As one of the most important early Norman castles, Berkhamsted controlled the northern approach to London.

After the Battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror received the submission of the English at Berkhamsted Castle. Around 1070, his half-brother, Robert of Mortain, built a timber castle. It was in the

Chiltern Society Walk

Chesham Stile-Free Walk

This walk takes you from the edge of Chesham up through Great Bois Wood, along fine woodland paths and back through fields.

Distance:

2 miles (1 hour)

Start:

There is parking at the Chesham Open Air Pool on Moor Road SP964007.

Access Information:

An easy-going walk with some gentle slopes.

The path through the Great Bois Wood from 4-6 can be muddy after rain.

Refreshments:

There are a number of pubs and a cafes in Chesham. Park next to Chesham Pools **1**, turn right past the front, cross the road and go over the little bridge onto Chesham Moor. Walk along the south side ignoring the footpath to the right on the far side of the little wooden pavilion. After about 200 yards, come to a gate with a white building beyond, where the path leads off to the road.

Cross the road **2** and go up Woodley Hill, a rough road which bends round to the left and continues for 200 yards until it meets a junction on a bend.

Turn right there and go under the railway bridge **3**. Follow the broad track (a bridleway) leading away from the railway. You will pass a cemetery on your right followed by a line of huge hornbeam

trees. Keep on this track which is good underfoot. Coming to Great Bois Wood House on your right, follow the tarmac road for about 100 yards. You will find a path on the right going up a short steep bank, doubling back and through 'bike proof barriers'.

Follow this path **4** which can be muddy and opens up between large gardens with huge beeches on the left. After walking along this path for 400 yards the route will divide **5**.

Take the left fork along a wide woodland path which divides again after 50 yards, this time go to the right. You descend now and reach the edge of the wood where you can look out over Chesham **6**.

Go through the gate and follow the path left across the field. Go through the gate at the edge of the field, picking up a path and going right, passing back under the railway bridge. You come out amongst houses and follow the road round to the right where you will see Chesham Moor and the place where you began. Follow the road back round to the left past the front of Chesham Pools to your car in the car park.

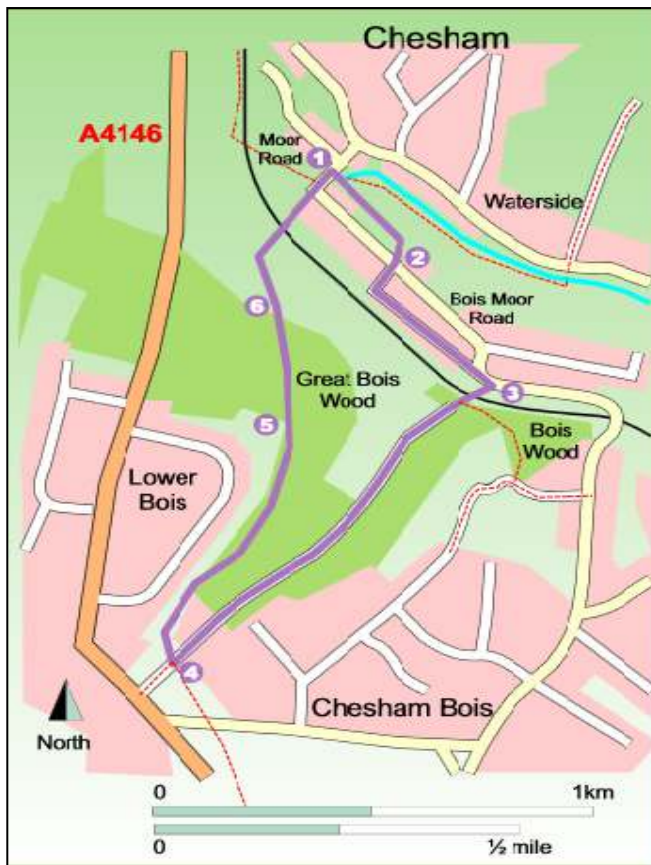
(Continued on page 16)

Chiltern
Society

We care for the Chilterns

(Continued from page 15)

Map for Chesham Stile-Free Walk



The Chiltern Society is a local charity with about 7,000 members. It is one of the largest environmental groups in England directly associated with the conservation of some of the country's finest landscapes. The objective of the charity is to care for the Chilterns, to encourage people to explore this beautiful landscape and to conserve it for future generations. In addition to its campaigning work on planning issues to protect the area from

urbanisation and encourage good design, It does practical work to care for the environment; caring for a growing number of heritage sites and nature reserves, doing conservation work on ponds, commons and woodland, and maintaining footpaths and rights of way. Its leisure activities for members include walks, cycle rides and photography days. For details of the charity's work and all its groups www.chilternsociety.org.uk

Parish Pilgrimage

Thoughts arising from Pilgrimage to Walsingham by Caroline Watersone

This week, Caroline Waterstone, a new parishioner at St Peter's, writes about her experience of the annual parish pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk. Known as "England's Nazareth", Walsingham has been England's second greatest place of pilgrimage after Canterbury since the Middle Ages. Our church enjoys close relations with the Shrine, of which Fr Tom Plant is a Priest Associate.

For more information about the work of the Shrine or to join the friendly Cell Group of the Shrine at St Peter's Church, please see <http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/groups/walsingham>.

'So what is this pilgrimage to Walsingham?' I asked.
'It's about finding the Mary within you!'
'I don't have a Mary inside me!!'
'Oh yes you do, everyone has!'
'I am not sure about this...'

Before our departure, Fr Tom blessed the group, especially blessing Nathan, the parish intern, charged with leading us spiritually during our pilgrimage. Philippa, St Peter's pastoral care co-ordinator, who organised the pilgrimage, would look after us temporally.

After a glorious journey through spring-clad countryside, we arrived, were welcomed by friendly staff and given our allocated rooms in Richeldis House: named after Lady Richeldis who

first saw the vision of Mary in 1061 which caused her to build the "Holy House," representing the house where Jesus was brought up, and around which the Shrine would be built. We met for tea and then to supper.

After supper, Nathan led us to the Shrine to Our Lady in the Holy House. We spent some time there, in silence and lighting candles, before going as a group to the chapel of the Guild of All Souls, where the Eucharist was celebrated by Fr Stephen, one of the Shrine Priests. A beautiful very modern chapel, I found myself distracted by the design, especially of the roof, which reminded me of the crown of thorns that Jesus suffered. Or was it that there were 33 beams, one for each year of Jesus' life? And then it was bed for some and the pub for others.

There was a full programme on the Saturday, none of which I participated in as I was under the weather. Time passed quickly and Philippa was solicitousness itself. The serendipity was that with no phone signal, no radio, TV or internet, not even a novel, I had time for contemplation and to hear in the silence what I suppose I had come to hear. I popped into the café for a scone in the evening and came upon a book of poems written in 1863. One in particular has stayed with me. I don't know what I missed that Saturday but I do know that what I learned from the poem will stay with me forever.

17

(Continued on page 27)

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

Diary

St Peter's

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

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

Sat 21st Jun at 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church - Bridgewater Sinfonia directed by Adrian Davis. Haydn Creation with Chiltern Chamber Choir.

Tickets: £15, U18s free from Aitchisons or www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's Church. Fiona Duncan (violin) and Kevin Vockerodt (piano)

All Saints'

1st: Sunday after Ascension Day, 10am Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins

8th: Pentecost, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins; 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins and Messy Church group

15th: Trinity Sunday, 10am morning Worship, Brian Parsons and Malcolm Lindo

22nd: First Sunday after Trinity, 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

29th: Second Sunday after Trinity, St Peter & St Paul, 10am, Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

Registers

Baptisms (St Peter's)

April 20: Evelyn Grace Ruggles, Sofia Jane Ruggles,

April 27: Poppy Georgina De Kretser

Weddings: (St Peter's)

April 5: Paul Michael Reynolds and Rebecca Jane Meredew

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



Midnight Walk – Saturday 28 June
9:30pm

June is the month when we hold our biggest annual fundraising event, our Midnight Walk. This year we are hoping to make £100k for the Hospice and attract as many walkers as possible to come and walk either a 5 or 11 mile circular route from Hemel Hempstead to Berkhamsted.

Anyone can come and join the event – whether you’ve a previous affiliation with the Hospice or not. It’s a night of fun and celebration, yet also has a very reflective tone offering the perfect opportunity to remember someone special and do something amazing in their memory.



This year our walkers will be joined by local actress Rosie Marcel, who plays heart surgeon Jac Naylor in the BBC 1 drama Holby City. She has kindly agreed to show her off-screen,

warm-hearted, side by inspiring the walkers as they gather excitedly at Hemel Hempstead school before the walk and then sounding the starting klaxon. Anyone over 11 can register the walk and are asked to raise as much sponsorship as possible to help support the work of the Hospice. We need to rise £4.7 million every year to keep our services going. Registration costs just £20 per person



(£15—under 18s). Sign up at:
www.stfrancis.org.uk/midnightwalk.

Helping with Care at Watford General
In conjunction with Peace Hospice care, we have launched a year-long ‘Hospice Care Champion’ project to transform ward culture and practice on 8 wards at Watford General Hospital.

The Champions will focus on delivering compassionate care and their remit will include the sharing of skills, knowledge and systems from hospice best practice with clinical staff as well as holding regular conversations with patients regarding their end of life care. The overarching aim is to ensure patients nearing the end of life are discharged from hospital if they wish to their preferred place of care, promoting



22nd June Paint a Chair 10.00am
3.00pm £125 * Chair supplied
5th July Learn the Basics 10.00am –
1.00pm £75

Cost includes all materials, completed item to take home and refreshments

Call 01442 874356 / Email:

returnedtoglory@stfrancis.org.uk

There is also a Lampshade Making Course on 20th June 9.45 – 1.00pm £39.00

Volunteer's Week

It's Volunteers Week from 1 – 7 June! We have over 1,000 volunteers who are vital in supporting the work of the Hospice and going the extra mile to help us provide patient care. We'd like to thank everyone who volunteers for us and are always looking for new skilled volunteers to join us – please visit

www.stfrancis.org.uk/work-with-us to find out more.

improved care for those who need to remain in hospital and preventing inappropriate hospital deaths through better advanced care planning.

Returned to Glory – Forthcoming Events
Returned to Glory, our pre-loved furniture showroom on the Northbridge Road is the proud recipient of the Berkhamsted Business of the Year Award, presented by the Berkhamsted & District Chamber of Commerce in recognition of its contribution to the local community. The store is now stocking Autentico paint and running some paint workshops– these chalky paints are perfect for painting furniture and breathe new life into pre-loved furniture.

Autentico Paint Work Shop Programme

7th June Learn the Basics 10.00am –
1.00pm £75

21st June Learn the Basics 2.00pm –
5.00pm £75



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Your Local Reviews



Carry on Screening

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

Our May viewing was the Ealing Comedy classic 'Kind Hearts and Coronets'. The plot follows the fate of Louis Manzzini who is sitting in prison for multiple murders in flashbacks. The movie itself is remembered through one actor, Alec Guinness who plays all the 8 victims. Dennis Price as the murderous but very refined Louis is a joy to watch, whilst Alec Guinness as all 8 victims makes this film something special. Kind Hearts is one of the greatest British films of all time and an amusing study in the gentle art of murder.

You can find us at

www.carryonscreening.wordpress.com

Charity Film Quiz Night

Madeleine Hughes review on the recent quiz night

On Friday 16th May Berkhamsted was host to a Charity Film Quiz Night at the Civic Centre in aid of MediCinema. It was a sell-out event with a brilliantly fun quiz of exciting video rounds and challenging trivia rounds – the atmosphere was fantastic!

Participants were also treated to a screening of 'Purgatory Eden' by Charlie

Maton-Presley, the winning piece of the Berkhamsted Independent Filmmakers Award. There was a great reaction to the short film which was excellently shot and very thought provoking.

This is the first year we have held the Berkhamsted Independent Filmmakers Award and I have been overwhelmed with the response and support it has received. We hope to make it a regular event and look forward to welcoming the entries next year.

£1500 was raised on the night for the charity MediCinema. For further information on MediCinema, please take a look at their informative website. <http://www.medicinema.org.uk/>. The event was supported by local businesses and societies, in particular, the Berkhamsted Film Society.

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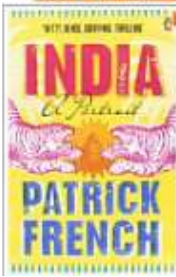
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The Book Corner

Julian Dawson's review of his latest read



India: a portrait. By Patrick French. Allen Lane

India has always fascinated me, through my love of cricket, international history, and *A Passage to India*. So,

this book by Patrick French who now lives in India and is married to an Indian connected to political dynasties, proved a tempting proposition.

French gives us a potted history of India, of how it began its independent life in 1948 forged in the disaster of partition, how Nehru established a benign beginning to the new regime that started with so much hope, and of how the economy stagnated through the 1960s and 70s. He explains how the dynastic politics of India crowds out all but those connected to past politicians and that Hindu nationalists threaten the ostensible secular multicultural outlook of world's largest democracy.

India's economic progress has stirred much opposition at home. But French deftly explains how India's early attempts at central planning took the Keynesian idea of a mixed economy to an extreme that Keynes himself would have found fiscally impossible. Under Nehru's watch India's share of world trade halved. And eventually matters came to a head with the 1991 balance of payments crisis.

India's recovery from those dark days mean that this book teaches us as much

about Indian business and economy as it does about politics, culture and religion. However, it is clear the author has more to say about politics, especially the Nehru Gandhi dynasty. He appears to be a particular fan of Sonia, the Italian who met Rajiv Gandhi as a student in Britain. She is still a strong influence as her own children make their own way on the political scene.

French describes the Hindu's sense of religion as being both comical and moving, as when a Ganesha idol left by the Irish ambassador outside his office turns into a shrine, creating a diplomatic conundrum for Ireland. There are constant complex contrasts and conflicts in this tribute to the country he loves. A country with extreme poverty that nevertheless as an envied culture of entrepreneurship and whose engineers make their way in Silicon Valley driving American software development.

It is perhaps intriguing that the author largely ignores India's influence on the game of cricket, as this area demonstrates how India is determined to push its weight and dominate. India's finances steer the international game, and the Indian Premier League rivals the English Premier League in its power of attraction and international sponsorship deals.

Nevertheless, if you are remotely interested in India, I would certainly recommend you explore Patrick French's affectionate portrait.



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Parish Pilgrimage cont...

(Continued from page 17)

After breakfast on Sunday, Nathan, cassock-clad, (resulting in calls of 'Morning, Father' from unknowing pilgrims) led us in intercessory prayers. It was deeply moving for many of us. I experienced a profound sense of release, followed later by joy. Then it was a short walk to the parish church for a High Mass.

After lunch came the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a ceremony where we worship Christ present in the bread of the Eucharist. We processed around the gardens, singing hymns, while following the sacrament, returning to the chapel for instructions on how to approach the 'Sprinkling': physically and spiritually. I entered the sunny and cherry blossom

carpeted garden and found myself in front of a deacon with a blue bucket at her side and a ladle of water from the Holy Well in her hand. I forget what she said but I know I drank deeply from the ladle and then she poured the remaining water over my hands. For a second time that day I experienced something significant; this time a deep cleansing and refreshing of the spirit.

And so to more tea and chat: not only had I been richly nourished spiritually but I had cemented and made new friendships over food and drink.

My icon of Mary and Jesus is a happy reminder of all that I experienced and an encouragement to maintain an openness of spirit with which to live life joyfully.

Thursday evening Organ Recital series at

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June 12th Peter Yardley –Jones (Swiss church, London)

June 26th Lee Burgess (Holy Trinity, Potten End)

July 10th Liam Cartwright (All Saints', High Wycombe)

Further details: organrecitals.com

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Your Recipe

Rhubarb is now in season and although considered a vegetable, it is mainly used for puddings. One childhood favourite being Rhubarb Crumble.



Rhubarb and Pear Crumble

- 3 ripe pears
- 600g rhubarb
- 100g golden caster sugar
- Finely grated zest and juice of 1 orange

For the topping

- 200g plain flour
- 200g butter, diced
- 140g soft, light brown sugar
- 50g muesli or porridge oats

Heat oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. For the topping, put all the ingredients together and rub with your fingers until you have a rough pastry, then set aside in the fridge.

Peel the pears and chop into chunks, then chop the rhubarb into strips. Put into a large ovenproof dish and toss with the sugar and orange zest and juice. Crumble over the topping and bake for 40 mins until golden and bubbling at the sides. Serve with fresh cream, custard or ice cream.



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Your Garden

by Helen Reeley

Well May is here and as I write the temperatures are finally starting to rise and we shall see the last of the cold nights. Over the next few evenings the seedlings will be hardened off gradually and set out in some of the anticipated glorious daytime sunshine until they flower their boots off in a few weeks time. They can then be transplanted into my clients' gardens to ensure we'll always have a good supply of flowering hardy annuals and biennials in years to come. Job done.



Some of the gardens I work in are almost at bursting point and falling over themselves with huge fat buds ready to explode their beautifulness upon us as we toil. Papaver orientale 'Patty's Plum' has more buds than leaves in one instance. In another instance a (tree) Peony suffruticosa (pictured here) is drooping with silky blooms in an effort to get fondled; it's such a show off!

I'll be planting up all my containers soon, some with herbs which will be permanent features and some with sweet peas and annuals. Occasionally I'll plant up really big pots and tubs with glorious Dahlias;

Bishop of Llandaff is one of my favourites and lasts right through until the frosts. They take a bit of looking after with dead heading and feeding but I cut the flowers to bring indoors so it's no effort. I like to grow it with lime green Coleus; the deep red flowers and purple foliage of the 'Bishop' contrasts breathtakingly with the

lime green Coleus. Installing a summer display in containers and baskets is the only real time where you can have an instant show of flowers, granted it

might cost a few bob but you really can do it to great effect.

I'm running a workshop on Saturday 7th June on container planting up at Frithsden Vineyard 10-1pm all welcome particularly beginners/intermediates. We'll be looking how to create magnificent displays with baskets, troughs and tubs using flowers, herbs and alpinas. Please contact me on 07708 643313.

See the 'What's On' section for NGS garden openings.

29

Helen Reeley

Your School

This month James Dawson looks at Ashlyns School

Settling in at Ashlyns

I am currently in Year 7 at Ashlyns School. During the time I was settling in at Ashlyns I was very worried about getting lost, how strict the teachers were going to be, or where to have lunch.

The thing I was the most worried about was getting lost. If you think that you would be someone getting lost every 3 minutes, then don't worry. If a teacher sees that you are looking lost they will show you the way to your lesson. Even people from upper years would sometimes miss the beginning of their class just to help you find the room you're looking for.

The next thing I was worried about was how strict the teachers were, but I was very surprised that many of the teachers were very friendly and kind. They would sometimes make the homework sound

more exciting. For example I was given some English homework to make a Facebook profile for the main character of the book we were reading as a class. Also in French we were given homework to draw a crazy house that we had to label using French vocabulary.

Lastly I was worried about the lunch queues. At lunch time the school goes into the dining hall to get school dinner in order of house. Anyone with packed lunch can either eat their lunch inside the dining hall or outside on the year 7 playground. There is also a 'grab and go' outside where you can get a lighter lunch even faster.

In conclusion I found it quite easy to settle into Ashlyns School. It is a friendly School with lots of opportunities.

Striding Forward: Ashlyns School's first year as a secondary school

This time one year ago, Ashlyns School was putting the final touches to its transition to become a full secondary school, ready to accept students from age 11 in Year 7, as part of the reorganisation of Berkhamsted's schools to a two-tier (primary and secondary school) system. After waiting for this moment for so long, September 2013 finally arrived.

Looking back now, it seems incredible just how much careful thought and planning this entailed. Physically, the fabric of the beautiful 1930s Foundling Hospital

building underwent extensive renovation and refurbishment, building new classrooms, opening up disused laboratories, upgrading toilets, upgrading and building more student computer rooms and redesigning the main reception. Almost 50% of the staff in September were new to Ashlyns – many moving up from the previous middle schools, Thomas Coram and Bridgewater Schools – and significant time was invested in ensuring this much larger teaching and administrative staff body

developed a clear sense of shared identity and could familiarise themselves with the physical layout and systems of Ashlyns.

Most importantly, there were the emotional feelings of the students themselves to manage. Our young people were both excited and nervous: would the school cope with 400 additional students? Would it be gridlock on the corridors? Would the cosy, supportive, friendly feeling of a small upper school be lost?

The success of our first two terms, and the fact that the staff and student body bonded so quickly, is testament to the commitment of all involved. Parents have been overwhelmingly supportive of how smoothly their children have been integrated; the Sixth Form and Student Council were integral to the process, providing feedback and acting as mentors to new students; the Governors and staff worked tirelessly and with common purpose to make the new Ashlyns School a success. Looking back now, it is hard to believe that having 1200 students walk through the doors each morning didn't used to be the norm. We have taken great steps in pursuit of our goal of providing an outstanding education to all, in the heart of the Berkhamsted community.

So, where now? One year on, we are on the journey but it is in no way complete. We are working hard with students and parents to improve exam results further; but Ashlyns is also a community which aims to broaden young people's experience of the world they inhabit and their responsibilities and privileges as twenty-first century citizens. Whether our students are trekking through Nicaragua to engage in charity work through World Challenge; engaging in discussion with Nelson Mandela's god-daughter or the American Ambassador to the UK; winning the Under 14s County Rugby Championship; performing outstanding poetry, music and art in *Arts Week*; receiving interview coaching or simply pushing their own learning and academic boundaries, we aim to provide a first-class education to equip our young people for the challenges they will face in life. We look forward to the construction of the new sports hall, and – never far away from any school's thoughts – the arrival of Ofsted in the near future, to recognise officially that we are a good school.

If you would like to see what Ashlyns has to offer, please do get in contact.

James Shapland, Headteacher.

Copy Dates:	6 June 2014	4 July 2014	4 August 2014
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