

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

January 2015

New local artist

Recycle your Christmas tree

Appledown Dog Rescue

New Year, New You

50p

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

In this issue...

Welcome to the January 2015 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

Well here we are at the start of a new year and I hope the festive season was all you wished for. In this edition we are featuring another article from Jenny Sherwood who is a mine of information on the history of Berkhamsted; there is also a feature on local artist Faye Mawhood whose amazing painting is our front cover. Also in this edition is a list of local places for a New Year, New You; a Chilterns Walk; a healthy recipe; plus much much more. Please check out the What's on page for events in January in and around Berkhamsted; also look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Please get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may want to share.



Jacqueline Hicks, Editor

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Front cover image: Beautiful picture of deer by Faye Mawhood. Info at www.facebook.com/fayemawhoodartist



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 dredges up speeding canal boats, Henry II, and rambles in this month's internet treasure hunt.



hemeltoday.co.uk give us an insider view of planning applications, so we can get a foretaste of our changing built environment. So it is that we learn that a baker's dozen of new homes are planned for the corner of the High Street and Swing Gate Lane, which will require demolition of former garage buildings. It could well enhance this side of town, but then I haven't seen the architect's drawings.

The letters page of berkhamstedtoday.co.uk, always makes entertaining reading. A random trawl through the correspondence brings us changes to the quality standard of compostable waste, Farage believing women at work are worth less than men, his party's politics of isolationism, improvements to the Marlowes, the effects of fireworks on pets, the Sally Army's annual carol concert and the unnoticed absence of two of the borough's residents.

I have reported on the canal boat blog nbinca.blogspot.co.uk in a previous piece. A recent posting decries the antics of speeding boaters along the waterway, providing visual evidence of its effects in pulling out the mooring pins of vessels. It

is rather as if speeding cars in a built-up neighbourhood had the effect of releasing the handbrake of parked cars. A rather alarming scenario.

This time of year seems more popular than others for a good healthy country walk. aboutmyarea.co.uk revealed details of the Festival of Winter Walks. Run by Hertfordshire County Council's Countryside Management Service, they are running rambles all over our part of the county. "So put on your hat and scarf and join us as we head out to enjoy the season the way we know best, on our feet" exhorts Ramblers chief executive, Benedict Southworth.

watfordobserver.co.uk always brings us comprehensive sports coverage, showing that regional newspapers are the beating heart of sports journalism. It reports with detail on the Herts Senior Cup, Berkhamsted at the time of writing reaching the last eight having defeated Hoddesdon 4-1. Equally thorough reporting on the grassroots of football can be found in getwestlondon.co.uk which details the results of Wembley's Spartan South Midlands Premier Division's campaign including their match against our own home team.

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

The amusingly entitled denofgeek.com/ brings us 51 brilliant independent cinemas in the UK. A somewhat random number that is presumably significant to someone. It won't surprise you to know that our very own Rex is listed. "The best thing about The Rex is the fact that people dress up in their best and you get to sit round cabaret style tables (in swivel chairs) in the stalls." Well, it's not quite Covent Garden darling, but I do find collapsing into a generous arm chair with a large glass of wine extremely civilised. To another blog.

conclarendon.blogspot.co.uk delights in

telling us of the Constitutions of Yes really. This was the statute of Henry II which was eventually to lead to Thomas Becket's martyrdom or murder depending on your standpoint. The blog emphasises the importance of Berkhamsted Castle in this period of history, and provides an excellent plan of the site. I consider myself very lucky that I am able to view it from my windows every day. That's the castle, not the Constitutions.

Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator, Art at 88, 88 High Street, Berkhamsted, HP4 2BW Tel. 01442 769110 info@artat88.co.uk

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What's on

Every 2nd Tuesday at 12.30 to 13.15:
Lunchtime concerts – St Mary's Church,
High Street, Hemel Hempstead.

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts Market (1st Saturday every month)
10am-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

January
Thurs 1st Jan at 10.30 am – Berkhamsted Station: BCA Traditional New Year's Day Ramble. A circular walk with a stop for lunch in Aldbury. Leader Paul Crosland. The walk is undertaken at your own risk. Free. www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk.

Mon 5th/Tues 6th Jan at 8pm – B'sted Film Soc – Cinema Paradiso – Drama. A filmmaker recalls his childhood, his love for the movies and his friendship with the projectionist at his village's theatre.

Dir: Giuseppe Tornatore/1988/Italy/Fr/
Cert PG/124min/Subtitles. Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk
Annual sub: single £35, joint £65 (conc £32 and £60). Visitors £5 at door (no conc). 863155.

12th Jan–30th March at 10.30am to 12.30 pm – WEA B'sted – Ripe for Rediscovery: some neglected authors of the 20th century Literature course: rediscover more authors with Michael King. Friends' Meeting House. www.weaberhamsted.co.uk
£77 for 11 sessions. Pre-book by phone or on the door. 872432.

Weds 14th Jan at 8pm to 10pm – B'sted Lcl Hist & Mus Soc – De Havilland Aircraft You've never Heard Of. Robin Webb is a former de Havilland and British Aerospace engineer. Town Hall. www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk. Annual sub: joint £12, single £7. Visitors £2.50 at door (no conc), DC £1.

Sat 17th Jan at 7.30pm-9.30pm – Music Dacorum Symphony Orchestra – Orchestral Concert
Programme to include Tchaikovsky Symphony 5; Piano Concerto to be announced. Soloist Martin James Bartlett (BBC Young Musician of the Year). Centenary Theatre. www.dacorumso.org
Claire Lloyd Properties, High Street
879996, Aitchison's 63 Marlowes Hemel Hempstead 213446. Reserved seats available. £12, Concessions £10, 18 years and under £5.

(Continued on page 11)

Looking Back – the Weather

I read recently that 2014 could turn out to be the hottest year on record.

Additionally we had a very wet spring, which led to flooding at the Castle, then an extremely dry September and in other years recently we have spoken of unseasonably warm or wet weather. Although meteorologists can now fairly predict changes in the weather we are still no better at coping with unexpected changes and extremes in our weather patterns, which nowadays are said to be caused by global warming. Looking back at earlier newspaper articles or the records of early meteorologists we can equally find instances of unusually, dry, wet, cold or hot weather.

By all accounts July 1825 was an extremely hot and dry month, 'Wheat was in shief on Thursday se'night fully a fortnight earlier than the last, and more forward than the general average and since then it has been extensively reaped under the Chiltern Hills, and about Berkhamstead Heat and the want of rain is much felt in the Kitchen Garden .

Gardeners say if this weather continues a fortnight longer, vegetables will not be brought to market but in very small quantities and those which are made to grow by excess of labour (watering) will fetch a remarkably high price... Apricot trees have seldom been so productive Potatoes in some grounds, are almost baked by solar heat.' *The Morning Post* August 1825. Reports on the weather are probably more prone to exaggeration than on any other topic!

Those who remember the strong winds and storms in which our ancient yew tree suffered some damage a few years ago will be glad to hear that no one was injured or killed in the storm of March 1860. 'On Monday and Tuesday last this town and neighbourhood was visited by a great storm of wind. Immense havoc was committed in the parks and hedges and no one could barely walk a quarter of a mile along the roads without seeing prostrate trees torn up by the roots. The end wall of the National School at Wigginton was blown in and both chimneys of the school lately erected at Potten End thrown down. A stack of chimneys at Rose Cottage, the residence of Mr W Holland was thrown down, but we haven't heard of any injury to man or beast.' *Hertfordshire Mercury & Reformer* Mar 1860.

The Bucks Herald reported another storm in February 1877 in which trees were blown down and the London Road between Berkhamsted and Northchurch blocked for a while. Damage was also done at Ashridge.

From 1885 until 1916 Berkhamsted had its own expert meteorologist, Edward Mawley who set up an observatory in the garden of his house 'Rosebank', said to be 'the most complete private meteorological station in the country' It had standard and continuously recording instruments and also a soil percolation gauge. He regularly contributed weather notes to the *Rosarian* and a weekly column to the *Gardeners' Chronicle*.

The *Hertfordshire Mercury* reported a severe summer thunderstorm in July 1866 when Mr Haddon of Rossway lost 18 sheep and 1 cow. Mr Crawley of Wiginton lost 1 sheep. In Berkhamsted Mr Prudames the ironmonger, experienced damage to his house when it was struck by lightning. An iron gate was torn from its hinges.

Long before global warming was ever suggested as a cause of extreme changes in the weather possible explanations were put forward, as in the *Bucks Herald* of December 1874 when it

was suggested that perhaps it was caused by the transit of the planet Venus across the sun's disc. 'The variations from frost to mildness and rain, and from rain and wind again to strong frost have been striking and remarkable.' Then follow temperature, air pressure, wind speed and rainfall figures to back up his article.

Although his reports were technical he was also able to adapt them to a wider public. He sent monthly reports to the *Hertfordshire Constitutional Magazine*. This one of July 1888 will be familiar to many. 'One of the coldest, wettest and most dreary Julys ever known. There was

also less sunshine recorded than in any July since observations were first made at Greenwich twelve years ago.' Dreary, dull days without sunshine are the worst features of the English weather!

What sort of weather will Christmas bring? I hope not one like that in December 1878, as reported in the *Bucks Herald*.

'Christmas at Berkhamstead was observed by the customary services in the Parish Church, which on that day are always particularly hearty and interesting. The fine old church had been elaborately

decorated with holly, evergreens and flowers. There was no other religious service in the town. On the canal about twenty boats were locked in the ice ... At other places on the canal skating and sliding were all the rage, teams of sliders passing and repassing each other like trains on the railway running parallel.'

Jenny Sherwood.



The attached picture's caption 'The Observatory at 'Rosebank'. From the collection of the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society.

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What's on continued from page 7

Mon 26th Jan at 7.45pm - B'sted and Dist Arch Soc - The Frome Hoard of 52,501 Roman Coins

Dr Sam Moorhead, FSA. Department of Portable Antiquities & Treasure, The British Museum. Music Rm, B'sted School. www.berkhamstedarchaeo.org.uk
Annual sub: £15, family £17.50, junior £5. Members £1, visitors £3. 254801.

Out of Town

Sat 27th Dec - Sun 4th Jan - The Court Theatre presents Aladdin. Tickets £10 children (16 and under) £6. For info www.courttheatre.co.uk

Future dates

Mon 2nd and Tue 3rd Feb at 8pm - B'sted Film Soc - Tracks. Drama. True story of a woman's 1700-mile trek across the Australian outback with only her dog and four unpredictable camels for company. Dir: John Curran/2014/Australia/Cert

12A/113min. Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk
Annual sub: single £35, joint £65 (conc £32 and £60). Visitors £5 at door (no conc). 863155.

Tue 10th Feb 8pm to 10 pm - B'sted Art Soc-Painting with Watercolour Pencils
Dmonstration by David Lewry. Civic Centre:

www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk
Visitors on the door £3.

Wed 11th Feb 8pm to 10 pm - B'sted Lcl Hist & Mus Soc - Halseys of Gaddesden: A Hertfordshire family. This is by Nicholas Halsey of the ancient Halsey family of Gaddesden Place and is not yet fully confirmed. Town Hall.
www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk
Annual sub: joint £12, single £7. Visitors £2.50 at door (no conc), DC £1.



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We weren't looking for dogs. I couldn't resist keeping tabs on the local rescues, but my husband and I didn't have enough time for a dog. So, of course, we went straight past one dog and rescued two... Now that I can look back and think about what a life-changing moment it was, I feel I should remember more of the day we first saw Ralph and Sybil. I honestly don't. It's a blurred memory of seeing them with Kim Hutchinson, an Appledown Rescue employee. At that point, they were just two seriously scruffy, silvery-grey balls of fluff that bore a vague resemblance to schnauzers, but I suddenly found myself internally concocting plans that involved MAKING time for dogs.

In almost no time at all, my husband and I decided to restructure our lives to make room for two middle-age dogs who didn't know how to live in a house...!!! Luckily, Julie Shelton at Appledown knows her stuff – she knew what questions to ask of us, and it was obvious that she was as interested in protecting the dogs from an inappropriate home as protecting us from accidentally adopting a pair we couldn't handle. We worked through the adoption process together, and put her on speed-dial for the day we took them home. I have to say we have used that number a time or two!

Honestly, it's been messy. And fun. And sometimes stressful. My pups are super sweet, but they do bear the scars of what came before.

They were 6 and 7 when we adopted them; all we know is that they were owned by a breeder, and were dumped at some point. We didn't have trust issues,

but those sweet, innocent things one expects from a modern dog were slightly skewed or missing altogether: Sybil didn't play, and Ralph just barely understood it. We couldn't find toys that interested them. Children confused them. Noisy trucks caused near bedlam on walks.

Now that we're (mostly!) on the other side of that, after invaluable advice and support from Julie, I know what people mean when they say their hearts are full. Watching them prance down the pavements on-lead, seeing Ralph bound around in the fields like an antelope, or hearing Sybil happy-growling to the antler she's gnawing... well, I can barely type that without welling up!

So, yes, rescue can be hard. But so can puppies – we had to work on the same things. Toilet manners, food manners, and please-don't-eat-the-cats manners – you name it, we did it, and they exceeded our expectations by miles. They are no less intelligent, no less willing or able to learn, no less eager to please. You may need patience and understanding to dissolve the walls they've put up, but you'll see that old dogs can indeed learn new tricks.

If you are interested in offering a home to a rescue dog please visit Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray LU6 1QY any day between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. or call 01525 220383. Please note there are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children less than 7 years. Please ask for details.



Holmer Green Stile-Free Walk

This walk, all on the flat apart from passing through a small steep valley begins across open fields but the second half of the walk passes through some more intricate landscape.

Distance: 2.5 miles (1 1/4 hours)

Start: Park at Beamond End.

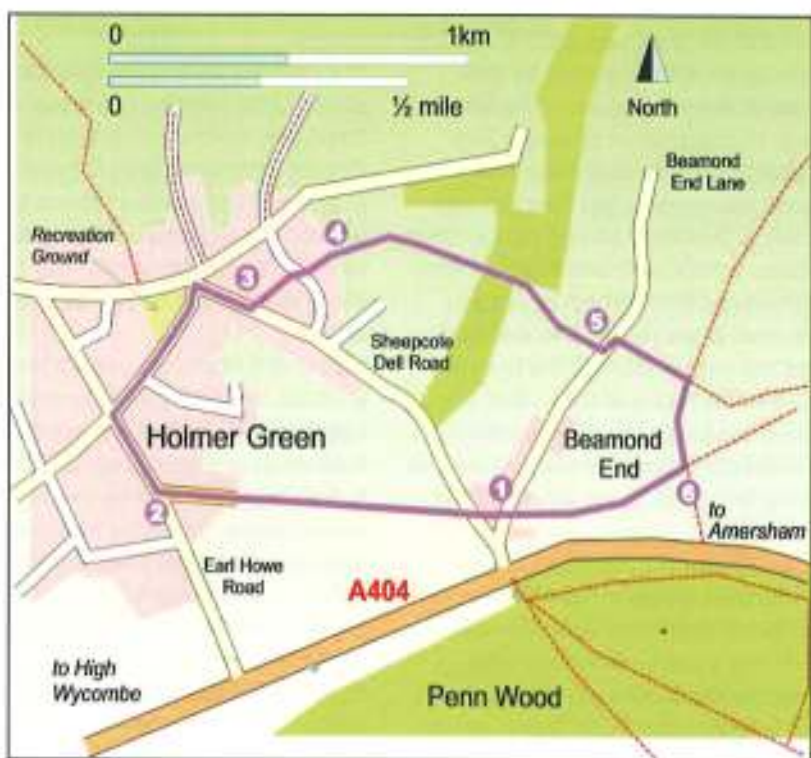
Access Information: An easy-going walk with some gentle slopes.

The section from 5-6 can get very muddy in wet weather.

Refreshments: There are a number of pubs and a cafe in Holmer Green.



We care for the Chilterns



(Continued on page 14)

Fifty yards from the beginning of Beamond End Lane there is a footpath, adjacent to the white wooden gates of Beamond Lodge 1. Follow this path, cross carefully where it emerges abruptly onto the road. Cross to Blairavon Farm; follow the hedge on the right towards the gate ahead. Go into the farmyard, keeping to the right and pass between hedge and farm building.

This section can get very muddy in wet weather. Follow the hedge towards Holmer Green through wide fields with the whisper of traffic and the song of skylarks. Walk along by the allotments on your left.

At the end of the road turn right 2, then turn right again at the junction by the village pond; the road bears to the left alongside the Recreation Ground. Turn right down Sheepcote Dell Road. Keep going until you come to the footpath sign on the left 3. Turn here and go right behind the houses, cross a path and bear left then right following a fence which brings you out at a road. Cross the road to the right and take the path in front of the houses towards a white house at the end of the road. Here the footpath takes you left then right behind the house and you will see the path going left, leading you back into the countryside 4.

Follow this path alongside stables and through horse paddocks. The path now descends into a small steeply wooded valley and up the other side, along a field edge. Passing Beamond End Ranch on the left you come out onto Beamond End Lane 5, which you cross to the left and at Oaklands Farm find the footpath directed down the right hand side. The path, muddy

when wet, comes out onto Toby's Lane.

Turn right and follow the lane in which deep pools form in wet weather; unless you are wearing wellingtons you will need to skirt them using the slippery edges. After about 200 yards watch out for the metal gate on the right where a footpath crosses this track 6.

Follow a raised path across the field towards a cream coloured bungalow. Go through the gate and follow the path into the hamlet of Beamond End. The path opens out onto a rough road, finally returning you to the road by the white wooden gates of Beamond Lodge.

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.

New Year, New you!

"Tomorrow, is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one."

Brad Paisley

Get Fit

Yoga

<http://www.bayogastudio.co.uk>

<http://www.berkhamstedyoga.com>

<http://www.sorayayoga.co.uk>

Sport

<http://www.sportspace.co.uk>

<http://www.ashridgegolfclub.ltd.uk>

<http://www.bltsrc.co.uk>

BLT&SRC is your friendly, local tennis, squash and racketball Club with some of the best facilities in the region.

<http://www.berkhamstedcc.com> (Cricket Club)

We are looking for new adult players for all our Saturday teams, all abilities welcome

If you would like to join our club (or have a no obligation try-out) then why not come along to our Winter nets which are on Sunday evenings at the School's Knox-Johnston sports hall, starting in January. Full details will be posted here shortly.

New Hobby

<http://www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk>

Berkhamsted Art Society welcomes artists of all abilities as well as those who



have an interest in the arts. We welcome painters in any media and craftspeople who are interested in pottery, sculpting or wood-carving.

<http://www.berkhamstedartstrust.org.uk>
Berkhamsted Arts Trust was formed to encourage and promote the arts in Berkhamsted. It comprises over twenty Arts Organisations based in the local area which promote arts events open to members of the public.

<http://www.weaberhamsted.co.uk>
The WEA (Workers' Educational Association) is Britain's major voluntary adult education organisation. It exists to provide high quality learning opportunities for adults of all ages and from all walks of life.

Your Recipe

Pumpkin Soup



Perfect winter warmer!

Easy to prepare

Prep time: 10 minutes.

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Ingredients (serves 4-6 people)

2kg fresh pumpkin, peeled and cut into chunks

2 medium onions chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp allspice

1 tsp butter

Directions

1. Heat the butter in a large pot.

2. Melt the onions for about 5 minutes over a medium heat, until golden.

3. Add the pumpkin. Add enough water to the pan so the pumpkin is half covered, close the pot and cook for 20 minutes.

4. When it's cooked through, add the allspice and blend it into a soup using a liquidiser or hand blender.

TIP: If you're serving this soup for guests, add a rich swirl of cream and finely chopped chives to each serving.

If you have a favourite recipe that you'd like us to print we'd love to hear from you. Please email:

editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk.

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

By Father Tim Pilkington



How was your Christmas? Was it the perfect occasion you planned & worked so hard to achieve, or did it not live up to expectations? As we are about to begin a new civic year (the

Church Year begins with the First Sunday of Advent) how do you view the forthcoming 2015? We do not know what it has in store for the world, our country, for our friends or for ourselves. We should be foolish to be pessimistic & to imagine all sorts of possible misfortunes & so lose heart before the end of January. Yet it would be putting ourselves into a dream world to think that the year ahead will inevitably be an easy one, with no difficulties to overcome & no hard tasks to tackle.

More to the point than either fearing or hoping about 2015 is to ask ourselves how we are going to encounter both its pleasant or unpleasant things. Upon what or whom are we going to rely? Shall we place all our trust in good friends, or in material possessions? Or might we have the humility to recognise the need for higher help & put our trust in God. At this point I think that I must make one thing absolutely clear: faith does not mean the absence of doubt. 2013 was an awful year for us as my mother died after a grim form of cancer within seven weeks; seven weeks later, to the day, my father died.

I had to conduct two funerals in a very short time & it certainly made me ask some questions I can tell you, & I let God know just how I felt!!!

Life has been likened to a journey & on the first Sunday this month we recall the journey of the Wise Men to find the infant Jesus. It may well have taken them a couple of years, during which they had to encounter that megalomaniac ruler, King Herod. Yet their faith kept them going & their trust in God was rewarded when they laid their gifts before the infant Jesus.

We have celebrated a wonderful first Christmas with you in Berkhamsted & are beginning to enjoy the town & the fabulous countryside around, so thank you for your welcome. In the year ahead we need not start in a spirit of despondency, fearing the worst, nor in a spirit of wild optimism without plans or purpose, but with that element of trust & some faith in God to which we must hold no matter might befall us in the months ahead.

I wish you joy on your journey in the knowledge that no matter what we may have done, good or ill, God never gives up on us, even with a certain priest who gives God a hard time now & again.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Tim

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, 3 Sherwood Mews Park Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HX
- 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, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am (St Peter's), Tuesday 9am (All Saints' Shrublands Road)

Eucharist – Tuesday 9:30am (All Saints'); Wednesday 8:30am, Thursday 9.30am (St Peter's)

Evening Prayer Monday – Friday 5.00pm, – Saturday 6:00pm (St Peter's)

This Month's Diary

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

Mon 5 Jan 8pm Cowper Society Winter Talk in the Court House: Icons by Derek Bird

Mon 12 Jan 8pm Cowper Society presents: Organ Recital – Richard Dunster–Sigtermans

Mon 26 Jan 8pm Cowper Society presents: Organ Recital – Julian Larkin

Mon 16 Feb 8pm Cowper Society Winter Talk in the Court House: International Economic Diplomacy by Creon Butler, Advisor to the Treasury (erstwhile Deputy High Commissioner of India)

All Saints'

4th Epiphany, 10am Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

11th First Sunday of Epiphany, Baptism of Christ, 10am Covenant Service (with Holy Communion), Revd Rachael Hawkins

18th Second Sunday of Epiphany (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity), 10am Morning Worship, David Williamson, 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

25th Conversion of Paul or Third Sunday of Epiphany, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Brian Tebbutt; 4pm Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Tracy Robinson, and Audrey Cox

Further information available from our church websites:

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

Key Church contacts:

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

Fr. Tim Pilkington, 01442 879739, Team Rector, St Peter's

Fr. Tom Plant, 01442 382633 (day off Fri), Curate, St Peter's

News from the Hospice of St Francis

Fundraising News and Dates For Your Diary

Happy New Year from everyone at the Hospice!

We look after people with life-shortening illnesses providing medical care, practical advice and emotional support to help them manage their condition and maintain their quality of life. Care is provided wherever a person needs it: in one of our 14

Hospice beds, in their own home or care home, in hospital or via our health and wellbeing outpatient hub, The Spring Centre.

Thank you to everyone in the local community

who supports us by giving up their time as a volunteer, donating to us or participating in a fundraising event; all of which helps us to raise £4.7 million every year to fund our care.

New Prostate Cancer Course

In February, we are running a new Prostate Cancer Wellbeing course designed to support men, and those close to them, move forward with their life following prostate cancer treatment. The six week, two hour course starts on Tuesday 10th February at 2pm.

Topics will include dealing with potential side effects of the disease, coping with stress and fatigue, recommended diet and exercise regimes plus managing

relationships and intimacy. The last session will be devoted to moving forward following a diagnosis to give men the confidence to get on with their everyday lives.

Retired self-employed company director, Roger Petts, 78 from Berkhamsted comments, "I was diagnosed with prostate cancer early in 2014 and my GP

suggested I went to the Hospice to access the support services in the Spring Centre as I was struggling with the side effects

of radiotherapy.

"I meet the specialist Prostate Cancer nurse, Tina Smith regularly. She is fantastic and, after my visits, I come home feeling rejuvenated and full of positivity. The support really has been invaluable. The Hospice is helping me maintain my quality of life and ensuring I'm able to manage my diagnosis and look forward to the future."

Find out more by calling Tina on 01442 869550 or email springcentre@stfrancis.org.uk. The Hospice of St Francis has ample parking available and the Spring Centre is on the ground floor and accessible to all.



New Year, New challenge?



Is 2015 the year you want to embark on a new challenge? Why not take part in one of the Hospice's fundraising events and do something for yourself and to support a local cause at the same time?

The Hospice has places available on its 12 day Trek to Nepal next autumn. The challenge includes walking through alpine forests and the Annapurna region with its panoramic views across the Himalayas.

The group will also spend two days volunteering at a hospice in Kathmandu. The Hospice's Medical Director & Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Dr Sharon Chadwick, from Potten End has already signed up and says "This is a once-in-a-life time opportunity for me to help make a difference. I'm so proud to work for The Hospice of St Francis. It's a wonderful organisation, which delivers the best possible care to people living with life-limiting illnesses, supporting their families and carers wherever they are across our catchment."

The Hospice also has places available on a number of fundraising cycling events including Land's End to John O'Groats, Three Cities cycle race and Ride London next summer. In addition there are four charity golf days planned starting with the popular Berkhamsted Golf Club Stableford competition on Friday 17 April 2015.

Find out more about participating in our 2015 events on our website: www.stfrancis.org.uk/events or call 01442 869555.
Facebook: TheHospiceofStFrancis



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Scouting solution to Christmas tree disposal

With no December or January green bin collections this year you may be wondering what to do with the tree, post Xmas festivities. 1st Berkhamsted Scouts Group is again running their tree-collection service, saving you a needle-infested car journey to the recycling centre and burnishing your eco-credentials at the same time.

For a small donation, volunteers will collect trees from outside your door on Sunday 11th January. The trees are taken to the council shredder which, for that day, will be parked at the Water Lane car park behind Tesco. The natural chippings are then used on flower beds across the borough.

'We've been running this service for more than 5 years now and it has really taken off', says Geoff Halls, 1st Berkhamsted Group Scout Leader. 'We collected over 800 trees last year.'



The Scout group suggests a minimum donation of £3 per tree collected, which can mean significantly more if a Gift Aid form is also completed. The funds raised go towards the maintenance of the Scout Hut in Chapel Street, equipment and activities for the children and financial support for trips and expeditions.

The service is available for addresses in the Berkhamsted town area. You can book a collection by emailing 1stberkotrees@googlemail.com or calling 07825 032157 with your name, address and phone number. Trees will be taken away at some point between 8.30am-4pm on the 11th January.

'It is a significant group effort with many volunteers and local businesses providing support, but we are proud of the community service we provide', says Geoff.

If you're looking for a way for your son or daughter to join the 1st Berkhamsted Scout Group, we have a solution. To find out about available adult volunteering vacancies (no previous experience required), email Geoff at geoff.halls@yahoo.com

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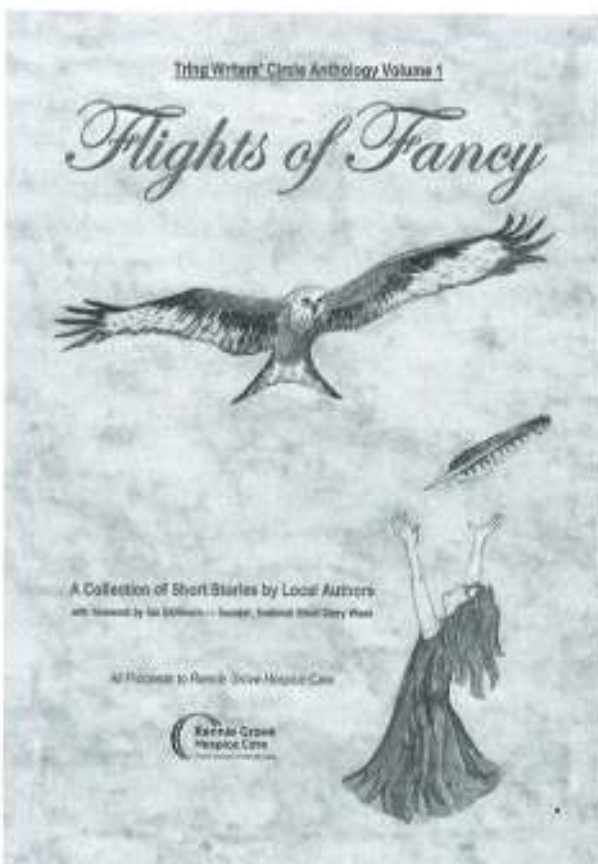
Tring Writers Circle



"Tring Writers Circle – a diverse group of Hertfordshire writers – launched its first anthology of short stories during National Short Story Week 2014. The

There are a limited number still available at £5 per copy from Waterstones and Dar Papillon in Berkhamsted and Fancy That in Tring. If you can't get hold of a copy before they're all sold out you can order it from Amazon for £10 with all profits (approximately £5 per copy) going to Rennie Grove Hospice Care.

limited-edition book, titled *Flights of Fancy*, contains 23 stories by 14 writers, in a range of styles and genres. With an introduction by Ian Skillicorn, founder and director of National Short Story Week, it is priced at just £5, with the entire purchase price being donated to a local charity (Rennie Grove Hospice Care) thanks to the kind sponsorship of Baxter & Lindley Financial Services and John Lambert Car Sales of Tring, and Slightly Mad Studios of London.



Tring Writers Circle, whose numbers include published novelists, poets and short story writers, hope that *Flights of Fancy* is their first venture into print together. New members interested in writing in whatever form are always welcome.

For further information, please take a look at:

www.tringwriters.org.uk or
contact: tringwriters@hotmail.co.uk."

Introduction to Faye Mawhood

Local Artist

I have lived in Hemel Hempstead all my life and my official art related qualification was to study Fine Art A level at what was then Cassio Campus at West Herts College. A thorough grounding in perspective which involved drawing cubes for weeks on end as well as the importance of structure, and establishing a good relationship with acrylic paint were valuable lessons I learnt there. After completing the course I did not paint again for many years and went on to do a degree in Equine Studies fuelled by a lifelong passion for horses. I have also worked as a bookseller in Hemel Hempstead and transferred to Berkhamsted and worked for a few years as a children's bookseller in Ottakars, staying on when it was taken over by

Waterstones, on Berkhamsted High Street. My fondest memories there were creating props and games for the Harry Potter book releases; we had a fantastic time doing those! I have a passion for books, particularly children's stories, animal adventures as well as the fantastical.

While pregnant with my third daughter I seemed to have a resurgence in creativity and began making jewellery and after a request from my brother for a piece of artwork for his home in California I picked up a paintbrush again. It was a large piece on canvas of a galloping horse and it worked out so well that it seemed I should carry on with painting! With my brother's support I rented studio space for a time at The Stables Studios in





Bourne End where I was fortunate to have far more space and room to experiment with different styles. During this time, encouraged by fellow local artist, Julie Wrathall who I shared a studio with, I took part in Herts Open Studios where I exhibited both my jewellery and artwork and received a lot of positive feedback as well as some sales.

A few months afterwards towards the end of 2013 the opportunity arose for my family to move back to the village where my husband had grown up, Little Gaddesden. Following the house move my studio has now become a summer house in the back garden, which is wonderfully peaceful and very inspiring with the nature that is all around in this beautiful area. It is very handy having the Berkhamsted Arts and Crafts shop so

nearby that I can visit for any last minute paint and materials I run low on. At the same time as shopping there I often stop by the back of the Town Hall to the second hand book stalls. I love to have a look through, seeking out vintage poetry volumes which contain many inspiring and now unknown poems, as well as always keeping an eye out for any old horse and pony story books. Something I could never get enough of as a pony mad youngster, and another craze I just simply haven't outgrown!

I love the English countryside and wildlife and I am so very lucky that the Ashridge estate is right on my doorstep. I love to go walking through the golden valley, if ever artistic inspiration is lacking, a walk here and a glimpse of the deer, a fox, a badger and comical squirrels, is often enough to be able to put paint to canvas again. It is British wildlife that inspires my

country life, rustic style paintings of animals on a natural coloured linen background. I love the earthy tones of the canvas which is left as is for an interesting negative space and subjects such as stags and horses just seem to work so well on them.

On the other side of the scale I am very happy with my more abstract almost, 'Rainbow horses' as I fondly call them that I was inspired to paint at first while sharing a studio with Julie Wrathall. I was surrounded by her vibrant, bright, encaustic wax work and woke one morning wanting to incorporate those colours with a natural subject. The

result was these rainbow horses which are more expressive in style than the wildlife canvases. I studied in depth at college the Impressionists and I feel that has influenced the way in which I paint, the brushstrokes

and the importance of light and dark to build structure. In contrast to the Impressionists, I also love the romantic, ethereal work of the Pre-Raphaelites and the depictions of women by Alfonse

Mucha. I love the rich colours, the legend and the imagery that surrounds this type of work and while I don't paint in this style I do feel they influence my jewellery making. I currently have work at Boxmoor Framers in Hemel Hempstead

as well as being resident artist in the Copper Beech Gallery in Hitchin. When time allows I do take commissions painting people's animals. I am often asked for portraits of horses and dogs but have also painted pet rabbits for clients before! The smallest size I start work at is A3 and prices start at £120 for an A3 portrait of one subject, acrylic on paper. I currently have a rather large, at least 80cm by 100cm,



natural linen canvas that I can't wait to use! I am having trouble deciding whether a horse or a stag will be coming to life on there! My aims for 2015 are to get producing more work, join Little Gaddesden Art Club and I hope to exhibit in more galleries and shops locally throughout the year. An ultimate dream of mine would be to exhibit at various equine events, maybe Badminton, Olympia and Horse of the Year show, maybe one day!

Your Community

Oxfam

Oxfam has helped 11 million people in the past 12 months. The needs met range from providing clean water and sanitation in refugee camps in South Sudan, the Syrian region and other places to supplying protective clothing and health education to combat the Ebola crisis. Oxfam also has an ongoing programme of development work.

The Oxfam shops have many and varied tasks to cover – not only at the till but also behind scenes, sorting and preparing donated stock for sale and many others.

Why not make it your New Year resolution – to become an Oxfam volunteer? Call in for an application form and talk to one of the managers.

But it cannot be done without funds and to raise funds it needs volunteers. The income from shops is one vital source of income and shops depend on volunteers.



OXFAM



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If this sounds like you please contact Jacqueline Hicks editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk or Richard Hackworth (r.d.hackworth@gmail.com) who can tell you more.

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11 March

Your Berkhamsted Team

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