

*the magazine for town and parish since 1872*

YB

Your Berkhamsted

June 2015

Come to the Petertide Fair

800th Anniversary of  
Magna Carta

YB reader's short story

Review of  
Transition Town Event

50p

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

# In this issue...

## Welcome to the June 2015 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

June 2015 marks the 800<sup>th</sup> year of the Magna Carta, on page 8 is the timeline of events, but there is extensive information on the website (also provided). With St Albans being a Magna Carta Town there are many events happening for schools and the public. It is a great opportunity to learn about this significant part of British History.

There is the Petertide Fair on June 13<sup>th</sup>, which is a great day out for all, please support this local event – details on page 11. We have our 'Writer's Page' so please, I urge you to write in with a short story or poem you want to share with the readers. Our 'What's on' page shows events for June in and around Berkhamsted, also look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Please see an email to my address below and get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may have, either to publish or additions/changes to the magazine for future consideration.



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Front cover image: This month's front cover is by Helen Dowley



## *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

This month, Julian Dawson's internet review takes in innovation, infrastructure and football



Firstly, to paraphrase Victoria Wood, we must apologise to the commuters amongst our readers. It must be awful for you. And to rub in the point [mix96.co.uk](http://mix96.co.uk) reminds readers and listeners of the bank holiday timetable alterations affecting London Midland stations. When things go wrong, we blame the train operators, and sometimes Network Rail. And indeed their inefficiencies do not often help. However, what we must really do, together, is to remind our politicians that it is the cumulative lack of infrastructure over the decades that see our transport system in such a parlous state. Those elected to office need to look beyond the five year electoral cycle, and do what is necessary for the country in the strategic long term.

And whilst I am in a ranting mood, I refer you to [independenthead.blogspot.co.uk](http://independenthead.blogspot.co.uk), the blog of Mark Steed the head of Berkhamsted School. Once again he rails against an education system that on the one hand encourages collaborative working using technology that provides a connected learning environment, but then forces pupils to sit exams in an environment unchanged from the 1930s. It is very rare in modern cutting edge firms for individuals to work on their own. In my own employment at an

international design and engineering firm, engineers and designers collaborate either physically, or using sharing technologies that help develop and expand the cutting edge of innovative projects. I myself will expect the documents I write to be contributed to, amended and honed in a way that supports and develops. As Steed writes "No wonder there is scepticism about the value of new technologies in education when the exam system is forcing us to use them with one hand tied behind our back."

Whilst we are discussing innovation and technologies, [hub-4.com](http://hub-4.com) reports on Bunting Magnetics Europe Ltd's appointment of Matthew Swallow as a sales engineer to help develop their Magnetic Assemblies products. Berkhamsted hosts the company's manufacturing design and test facility, showing our town (despite outward appearances) to be at the forefront of Britain's technology revolution. It wasn't made clear whether Swallow's magnetic personality secured him the job, but let us hope that that one swallow is enough to bring them a summer of profitable returns. (See what I did there?)

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

Noodles.com is a website that hosts press releases. I can hear your pulse racing already. However, we must congratulate a Mr Langford of Berkhamsted for winning, according to a release from Wycombe Wanderers FC Ltd, a sum of money in the clubs Blues Cashline. A variation of a lottery to support the development of the Buckinghamshire football team. Staying with football, Ashlyns' U18 football team must be congratulated on their victory in the District Cup, as reported by berkhamstedtoday.co.uk.

Our very own sports correspondent may be too modest to say, but he played his part in a fine performance through the team's season.

However, as Wellington said "the nearest run thing you ever saw in your life", as opponents Cavendish missed two penalties and hit the post and crossbar. Such is the fine line between success and failure.



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# What's on

**Every 2nd Tuesday** at 12.30pm to 1.30pm: 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](mailto:berkhamstedmarket@hotmail.co.uk); website:

[www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk](http://www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk)

Tring Farmers Market (**Alternate Saturdays**)

The Marketplace, Brook Street, Tring 9.00am to 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](mailto:enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk)

## June

**Wed 17th June: Tring Midsummer Fun Run** - Online entries are now open at

[www.tringrunningclub.org.uk/FunRun](http://www.tringrunningclub.org.uk/FunRun). The annual Tring Midsummer Fun Run has been running for many years and Tring Running Club has two aims in putting it on. Firstly to encourage people locally, and especially children, to take part in running, and secondly to raise funds for local charities, including Iain Rennie Hospice at Home and the Chilterns

MS Centre. It would be lovely to see our children participate in this event and bring in their medals for Friday's celebration assembly.

**Sun June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30am** A summer walk. A circular walk with a stop for lunch at 'The Full Moon', Cholesbury. Meet in front of Berkhamsted Station at 10.30am. Leader: Paul Crosland (The walk is undertaken at your own risk) – [www.berkhamstedcitizens.org](http://www.berkhamstedcitizens.org)

**Sat 27th June 11.30am Potten End Church Fete 2015** – The Village Green, Potten End.

**Some of the confirmed activities this year include:** Traditional Stalls such as Bric-a-Brac, Bottle & Chocolate Tombola, Toy Stall, Book Stall & Cake Stall. There will also be Face Painting, Messy Church Crafts, BBQ (provided by Martins Pond), Auction of Promises, Grand Prize Draw, Refreshments in the Church Room supported by Rumlbers Farm, Ice Cream Van, Dog Show, Traditional Children's Games, Bouncy Castle & Slide, Classic Cars, Wood Turning Display, Gardening Club, Live music from Gentle Jazz, Potten End School Choir, Music Concert in Church, Storytelling. All of this coming to an end at 5pm with a Service of Thanksgiving on the Green with the Blessing of Pets before heading to The Plough PH for more live music by **Boozadaddy**. Parking (including Disabled Parking) will be available. Rev Penny Nash. [www.holytrinitypottenend.org.uk/](http://www.holytrinitypottenend.org.uk/) 01442 865217

Did you know it is National Volunteer Week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June.

# Magna Carta 800<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

The Timeline – excerpts taken from  
<http://magnacarta800th.com>

## 1100 – Coronation of Henry I



Coronation oath of Henry I, 1100, affirmed the principles going back to the laws of King Ethelbert of Kent, circa 604, and subsequent laws of the Kings of Kent leading up to the end of the Millenium.

## 1215 – Sealing of Magna Carta



Magna Carta is so much more than a peace treaty between a quarrelsome King and his barons, sealed (not signed) in a meadow on the banks of the Thames on June 19th, 1215. Its lasting iconic value as the foundation of so many world democracies lies in the power of an idea - a principle, which states that nobody, including the King, is above the law of the land.

## 1264 – De Montfort's Parliament



Simon de Montfort, Anglo-Norman rebel noblemen, convened a 'parley' in a field near Kenilworth Castle, Warwickshire on 14th December 1264. It was not only in

defiance of King Henry III, but was radical in having democratically elected knights and borough representatives from throughout the kingdom. The de Montfort Parliament was the first example of its kind in England.

## 1679 – The Habeas Corpus Act



The Habeas Corpus Act of 1679, was passed during the reign of the restored monarchy of Charles II after the English Civil War. It strengthened the ancient and powerful writ which had been a feature of English Common Law since before Magna Carta. It served to safeguard individual liberty, preventing unlawful or arbitrary imprisonment. Habeas Corpus is Latin for "you may have the body" – subject to legal examination before a court, or a judge.

## 1776 – Declaration of Independence

The American Declaration of Independence as penned by Thomas Jefferson was instead an indictment of George III's numerous breaches of English Common Law enshrined within Magna Carta, to which the thirteen colonies were equally bound. It became the legal justification for the American Revolutionary War that had been raging for over a year, by 4th July, 1776.



## 1948 – The Universal Declaration of Human Rights



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 has been described as the Magna Carta of our age. Arising from the ashes of WW2 and the unspeakable barbarity of the conflict, it set out basic freedoms, comprising 30 articles to which all humans are entitled. It is safeguarded and underwritten by the United Nations and adopted into the laws of almost every country in the world.

## 2015 – The 800th Anniversary of the Magna Carta



The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta is an occasion to deepen our understanding of the crucial role it has played in the development of human rights, democracy and liberty. 2015 is a time to commemorate the individual rights we enjoy today and an opportunity to strengthen human rights around the world.

Please see the range of events and information on the website - <http://magnacarta800th.com>

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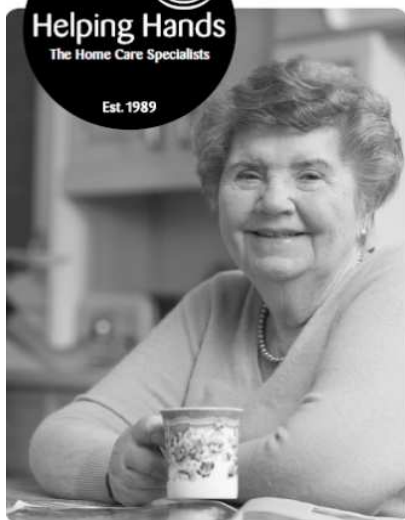
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# What's on cont .....



## Grand Raffle

Please support our Grand Raffle which has many prizes given generously supported by local businesses. These include: A 3 night hotel break, meals at the Gatsby, Kings Arms and Here, champagne from Majestic, haircut at Steve Lupton plus many others. Raffle tickets cost £1. Available from the Parish Office, the market stall on Sat 6 June or on Fair Day.

## Silent Auction

Many lots to bid for on the day including a chance to go up in a light aircraft, climb St Peter's tower, Wimbledon tickets plus a host of other treats!

## Dog Show

If you own a dog, don't forget to enter the Petertide Dog Show! Prizes for hand-somest hound, prettiest bitch, best biscuit catcher plus others! Rosettes for best in class!

## Donate!

We want your unwanted gifts, paper-backs, toys, homeware and bric-a-brac to sell on Fair day. Please leave donations at the back of church.

More details on St Peter's website: [www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk) or on Facebook: PetertideFair.

## Stalls

Vintage and bric-a-brac

Plants	Cakes
Books	Toys

## Sideshows

Miniature Train rides	
Children's Games	China Smash
Beat the Goalie	Face Painting
Tattoos	

## Refreshments

Coffee and cakes	BBQ
Haresfoot Ale	Candy Floss
Elsie's Ices	Pimms!

## Entertainment!

Victoria, Thomas Coram and Ashlyns	
School performances	
Stop and Search	BURP
Punch and Judy	Dog Show

# Review of the National Transition Town Roadshow

On Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup> Berkhamsted hosted the National Transition Town Road Show. This all-day event, with people attending from Berkhamsted, Tring, Chesham, Kings Langley, St Albans, Letchworth and Milton Keynes, offered a wide range of workshops about shaping your local community. They included: saving energy at home, working together in street groups, local planning, developing local businesses, regional currency and growing your own fruit and veg. The emphasis was on getting to know neighbours and working with them to reduce carbon emissions and using the resources we have around us to regenerate local economies.

In my first workshop I met Ben Brangwyn from Totnes, Devon, who told me about his two roles as 'Doctor Bike' and local currency organiser. As 'Doctor Bike', Ben repairs pushbikes in the Saturday market in exchange for a hug or a service (anything from music tuition to fixing appliances). The idea of skills exchange is to give something of the self rather than rate everything by its cash value. I also discovered that Ben prints money! This is the local Totnes pound, blessed by the Bank of England and accepted by 150 local businesses. Ben explained that they'd started the currency by surveying local traders and discovering, amongst other things, that they preferred £21 notes to the standard £20.

Another Totnes resident, Fiona Ward, told us about transition-type businesses designed, as she said 'to strengthen community resilience'. She described these as enterprises which meet a local need, are financially viable and offer

social benefits to the community. Often they are owned or part-owned by local people. She gave examples of 20 local enterprises in food, construction, energy and transport, many of them reusing each other's waste products. They included Community-supported Farming Schemes (CFSs) where people take over a patch of land. We heard about a farm in Kings Langley converted into a small business park with CFS planting areas around the workshop-sheds. She also described the ground-breaking 'Atmos' project in Totnes: an old dairy farm being redeveloped by the community in partnership with business.

Fiona's organisation, REconomy, supports 'shop local' campaigns and 'pop up' shops in disused premises (with, she said, 7 out of 20 start-ups being successful). She also described an enterprise forum in Brixton where people pitched ideas for start-ups in front of local residents – and were immediately offered free vans, tools or labour by an audience with limited means but large hearts.

Throughout her presentation Fiona emphasised that plans need to vary according to local conditions. She also presented figures to show that local businesses are good at employing local people and using local suppliers. The workshop on local currencies, which my wife Sue Hampton attended, confirmed some of Fiona's points. For instance, if you spend £100 at Tesco, on average £82 leaves the area. This workshop was led by Robert Mostyn, who is developing the Grand Union Pound, a local currency for Berkhamsted, Tring, Hemel, Kings Langley and Watford.

The outstanding example of a local currency is the Bristol pound. Like all local currencies it depends upon a range of local businesses agreeing to use it – over 650 in this case – along with a larger financial institution (often a credit union) acting as a link to the FSA and exchange points where people can trade UK pounds for the local currency. The only stipulation the Bank of England makes is that local currencies must be withdrawn and reissued every third year. Interestingly, when the Totnes pound was withdrawn they found that only 60% of the local currency was returned. The rest went into the hands of tourists and collectors. This didn't alter the beneficial effects of the currency over the three year period.

These were: keeping the money in the area, giving a psychological and financial boost to the community and creating good customer/retailer relationships. Some firms sold goods at 10% discount to customers using the local currency. Sue and I went to three other workshops. In the Transition Streets sessions the leader described local residents getting together to help each other insulate houses, car-share, garden, show films etc. The benefits were social, practical and

facilitators from Haddenham described how they have developed external thermal imaging which calculates energy usage and a technique for locating and sealing drafts inside houses. I attended a group who discussed how we could bring in the playful element to transition events. Tabitha described an event in Tooting where a closing-down shop was used to offer free community activities. These included sitting on a sofa and telling someone about an incident from life and the listener repeating it back, recording personal/local history on pieces of wood which were then planted in flow-erpots and displayed in the window, and discussing the question "When did you last make someone happy?" Madela described the social benefits of community singing and artwork about friendships/relationships.

The day ended with food, drink and fraternising in the Centenary Theatre, a talk by Rob Hopkins, who co-founded the movement, some poems and a preview of a transition musical.

Transition is fun! *Leslie Tate*

If you want to contact the organisation, go to its Facebook page or website at [www.transitionberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.transitionberkhamsted.org.uk) or ring John Bell at 07811 379938.



## Berkhamsted District Girlguiding Needs You!

Make a difference in your community by volunteering with a Brownie or Guide unit - it's a fun and rewarding hour and a half each week and no experience is necessary. Help our lively volunteer unit leaders continue to offer great opportunities for girls and young women in Berkhamsted where demand for places is very high.

To find out more without obligation, get in touch with guiders in Berkhamsted at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved) or call the local coordinator on 07863599290.



# Short Story

The short story holds an important place in English literature. We are asking readers to let us publish their work. Don't let inexperience put you off. Your subject can be humour, adventure, love, fun, mystery or just an intriguing situation. Around 700 words, and anonymous if you wish.

## **The Amulet – by a YB reader**

The silence was absolute. Nothing. He could see and hear nothing. The blackness was absolute. Wave after wave of panic rolled over him, and when they passed all that was left was cold, dark, claustrophobic terror. He tried to move his arms, his legs, his eyelids. Nothing! There seemed to be a damp, eternal heaviness upon him. What had he done to be here? What had happened to him?.... Suddenly the memories came thundering back, but did nothing at all to reduce his terror.

It had been a hot sunny day back in June when he was circling the Mall deep in thought. Thinking how to get hold of the money and the good life that should, by rights, be his. Since leaving college he had gone through a series of unsatisfactory jobs. Drifting from place to place; a little bit of theft here and there: on the fringes of drugs and alcohol abuse; always the abiding sense that life owed him a slice of the luxury he could see everywhere around him.

It was at that point he had met Julie. Going into a small convenience store on the corner to buy cigarettes. Julie had served him, a petite brown haired girl with an impish smile. He smiled back easily and with interest. A good looking man, he was always on the look-out for attractive girls, and, in this case perhaps the added bonus

of free ciggies from the shop. He was determined to get to know her, and once she accepted his invitation to coffee, began to act out his favourite role. He would claim to be a poet, a free thinker penning works of art to his beliefs, living on patronage, unconcerned with the materialistic nonsense that money brings. Julie felt instant empathy to him; her soul yearned to be as free as his. She had been tied since school to the little convenience store owned by her aged grandmother. Her parents had died in a car crash when she was seven. Some years ago, her gran had become bedridden, so Julie's days were spent between keeping the shop and looking after the invalid. Till now, this had not bothered her; she loved her gran more than she could say. But hearing his tales of freedom and life, she began to yearn for what she had missed, was missing.

So it was that Julie began to fall under his spell, confiding in him her hopes and fears, even the secret history of her gran. Her gran had been raised in the Nevada outback by a group of Navajo Indians. No-one knew where she had come from. She herself was not Indian, but had quickly picked up the ways of the Navajo, working with the tribal witch doctors to cure illnesses with herbs and, sometimes, spells. Her reputation as someone who "could make things happen" grew and grew.

One day when she had reached the age of thirty, there was a visit from a nearby town. It was then she met the man who was to persuade her to leave her adopted people and become his wife. Their only son had been Julie's father.

Julie had told nobody this story before,

and certainly not the last piece of the story; that the Navajo had given her Gran a dowry in the form of a gold amulet that was supposed to have magical powers. Julie did not know what those powers were, nor did her gran enlighten her, only saying that the amulet would never cause harm as long as it was in the hands of its rightful owner or her descendants.

As he listened to the description of the amulet, its thick gold stem encrusted with diamonds, he started talking about a future together, a family, living a free romantic life devoted to love and poetry.

It wasn't long before he was invited to stay in the little cabin behind the store, before he was sharing meals with Julie and her grandmother. It was on one of these occasions that he first cast his eyes on the amulet. It was even more astonishing than its description. His mercenary mind calculated its value. Here was the life he had promised himself. He had to have it. It was easy for him to volunteer to look after the store whilst Julie took the long trip to the nearest town for supplies. It was just as easy to force his way into the grandmother's room. She sat silently in her chair staring straight at him with unblinking eyes. He couldn't see the amulet, opened drawers, moved books, undid boxes, still no sign of the amulet. Still those silent unblinking eyes. "If you want to live, you'll tell me where you've hidden it." Still those eyes from deep in the skull, unfathomable, unblinking. Instinctively he knew it wouldn't work; this old feeble woman was too strong for him. He changed tack viciously. "Let's see how tough you really are when I hurt Julie in front of you. Do you want to be responsible for your granddaughter's death?" Did he see a change in her eyes? As though a spark of gold had leapt into the deep azure of the

old woman's pupils. Without a word, and without taking her eyes from his, the old woman peeled back her long and elaborately woven shawl to reveal the amulet around her neck.

With greedy eyes he snatched it brutally from her and made for the door. As he left he looked back: the old woman was still staring at him in exactly the same way, but was there a slight upward curve on her lips? Imagination, he told himself as he emptied the stores till, filled his pockets with cigarettes and ran out of the door. In his mind he was already spending the fruits of his ill-gotten gains.

He'd run some twenty yards when he felt his right leg go rigid. He stopped to massage it. Cramp of all things at this time! Then his left leg stiffened, he fell to the ground. Suddenly he couldn't move his arms, couldn't turn his head, couldn't even blink. He felt nothing, no pain, nothing. He lay on his back in the sun, trying to call for help. No sound came from his lips. He was fully aware of Julie's return as she unloaded the supplies into the rear of the store, her visit to see her grandmother, her footsteps as she came outside to find him. Tears from her sobs landed on his cheeks as she looked down, taking in the amulet, the money and the cigarettes. She was gentle as she carefully removed the amulet, sorrowful as she called for people to take him away. Then time for him seemed to standstill until he reached this place of silence.

Above the ground the two sextons were putting away their shovels. Another one successfully consigned to the soil. As they looked back there seemed to them to be a slight tremor in the newly dug earth. Then all was still. They turned away. It was time for tea.

# The Listener: podcast review

## Snap Judgment

In this new monthly column Ian Skillicorn continues to recommend interesting podcasts from around the English speaking world – ideal listening for commuting or doing jobs around the house or garden.

This month I have been listening to a US podcast from NPR (National Public Radio) called 'Snap Judgment' (US spelling). The programme describes itself as 'the smoking-hot new public radio show [that] straps audiences into an audio rollercoaster', but don't let that put you off. In essence, 'Snap Judgement' invites listeners to put themselves in the shoes of someone else. It tells the extraordinary stories of ordinary folk, often in their own words, accompanied by sound effects and music.

The narrators and stories vary enormously, which means you never know quite what you are going to get. This is one of the programmes strengths, as the eclectic mix can be both surprising and enlightening. The sound production is fairly experimental, and as such, some items succeed better than others for me; sometimes the sound effects can distract from the story and I am reminded of the saying 'less is more'. But overall the compelling tales make you feel it was very worthwhile having 'tuned in'.

Each week follows a theme, such as 'To the Brink: it's not just one thing, it's several things, back to back, that leave you in a place you never expected to be' or 'Second Skin: amazing stories from people realizing the person they thought they

knew – they may not know at all'.

The most recent episode, 'Unforgiven', includes an exploration of what happened when a woman received a letter from her husband's killer, and the story of twin girls arrested for arson who hadn't spoken to anyone except each other for their whole lives until a *Sunday Times* journalist met them.

An older episode I listened to this week involved a miner whose decision to keep working during the Miners' Strike had a devastating effect on his close relationship with his father, who was also a miner. It will bring back many memories of that highly emotional period for those old enough to recall it, and should also be of interest to younger listeners who may not appreciate just how the politics of the 1980s polarised families, communities and the country.

'Snap Judgment', engagingly hosted by Glynn Washington, is a programme that not only entertains, it will also make you think.

To listen to the latest and archived episodes of 'Snap Judgment', search on iTunes or [www.stitcher.com](http://www.stitcher.com), or go to [www.snapjudgment.org](http://www.snapjudgment.org)



# Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Whatever your politics, there was one good result from the General Elections: the gap that it revealed between the real world and the shadowy demi-monde of social media – though "antisocial media" might be nearer the mark. The squawking predictions of the Twitterati, to whom our media and politicians gave such ample ear, simply did not translate into political reality. Social media users proved not to be representative of the British people at large, which is just as well, given the sheer hatred they have been spewing at each other since. If people behaved to one another on the streets the same as they do on screen, I'd be afraid to go out.

Perhaps the screen is part of the problem. The nastiest bullying that happens at boarding school is after the lights go out, because it's much easier to say hurtful things to someone when you can't see their face. How much easier, then, when you've got a plastic display dividing you from the reality of a person who may be on the other side of the world, whom you know only by avatar or name and by the comments that they make, and whom you're highly unlikely ever to meet in the flesh?

Social media is supposed to be about connecting people, and I certainly found Facebook useful for keeping up with friends when I lived in Japan. But just as often, it seems to cause disconnect. There is an illusion of togetherness, but actually you lose channels of communication that most of us can take for granted: body language, facial expression and tone of voice, for example. You can't tell if

somebody is knackered and narky at the end of a tough day, or see that they're going through a tough time, which might explain some late-night angry outbursts of stubbornness or idiocy. All you've got is bare text.

And the text stays forever. Sure, you can delete what you've said on some online fora within a short time of posting, but all it takes is for someone to take a screenshot and repost it, and your own tired, angry, idiotic outburst is out there for good - or long enough, at any rate, for someone to seize on it and release the virtual hounds.

At the core of the Christian faith is the Word who was not made text, but flesh: the Divine who descended among us as a human man, Jesus Christ. The Christian's relationship with God is not with a static text, not even the text of the Bible, and definitely not with words like those set in the lamentable "Ed stone." It is with a real person, whom we know through other real people who have followed Him through the ages, and through the real action of breaking and sharing bread. Centuries and continents stand between us and the historic person of Jesus, and yet we know Him as the one who did not return anger for anger, but gave His life in love even for those who hated Him, and indeed who hate Him now. Wouldn't the world be a better place if we related to one another more like that?

Fr Tom Plant  
Assistant Curate

## 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 Rosslyn Laidler: tel 01442 879992
- 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**

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Chiltern Chamber Choir. "Faire is the Heaven": A selection of music from 16<sup>th</sup> century to present day directed by Adrian Davis. Tickets: £15, seniors £13, U18s free from Brown & Merry, 124 High St, Berkhamsted or [www.chilternchamberchoir.com](http://www.chilternchamberchoir.com)

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jun at 7:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia directed by Adrian Davis. Bach Brandenburg Concerto No1, Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor, Op.64, Dvorak Symphony No 7 in D minor, Op. 70.

Tickets: £15, U18s free from Aitchisons or [www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk](http://www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk)

### **St Peter's**

7<sup>th</sup> June Corpus Christi, 8am Eucharist, 9.30am Sung Eucharist, 6.00 pm Choral Evensong

14<sup>th</sup> June Second after Trinity, 8am Eucharist, 9.30am Sung Eucharist, 6.00 pm Evening Prayer

21<sup>st</sup> June Third after Trinity, 8am Eucharist, 9.30am Sung Eucharist with confirmation, 6.00 pm Evening Prayer

28<sup>th</sup> June Patronal Festival, 8am Eucharist, 9.30am Sung Eucharist followed by Patronal picnic lunch in Court House, 6.00 pm Evening Prayer

### **All Saints'**

7th First Sunday after Trinity, 10am Morning Worship, Revd Rachael Hawkins

14th Second Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Barrie Allcott, 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins and Messy Church Team

21st Third Sunday after Trinity, 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am Morning Worship, Karen Noble and Malcolm Lindo

28th Fourth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

### **Registers:**

#### **St Peters**

#### **Baptisms:**

19<sup>th</sup> April: Violetaida HODSON, Kristian James NEEDHAM, Woody Maxwell PINNOCK

26<sup>th</sup> April: Matilda Ivy HAMER, Zakk MORGAN, Edward CLAYTON-JONES

#### **Funerals:**

20<sup>th</sup> April: Adela MILRATH

### **Further information available from our church websites:**

#### **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.

The Revd. Rachael Hawkins, All Saints' 01442 866324.

# News from the Hospice of St Francis



## **Glow for It!**

Come and support your local Hospice by taking part in our Midnight

'Glow' Walk around Hemel Hempstead on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, starting at 9pm. Open to all over 10s, there's a choice of a 5 or 10 mile walk along a new route. Register online for just £20 at [www.stfrancis.org.uk/midnightwalk!](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/midnightwalk!)

## **Buy a Leaf on our Memory Tree**

Bereaved families and friends have a new way to display a lasting tribute to their loved-ones following the launch of a



unique Memory Tree at the Hospice, made up of 450 autumnal

coloured leaves that can be dedicated to a special person who has died.

For a minimum donation of £120, each leaf will be engraved with the name of a loved one and once dedicated, will remain in place for a year, at the end of which it can either be renewed or sent to its owners in a special keepsake box.

Leaves can be purchased by anyone wishing to create a memorial, not just those touched by Hospice care.

Application forms are available from the Hospice or Hospice shops.

## **Design event and Paint Workshops**

Make sure you arrive early to secure designer furniture and furnishings at a snip at Returned to Glory's exciting Summer Design Weekend on the

Saturday 6.10 – 5.00pm and Sunday 10.30 – 4.30pm.

The event, at the pre-loved furniture showroom on the Northbridge Road in Berkhamsted (HP4 1EH), will see one-off designer pieces and upcycled furniture together with soft furnishings in an array of beautiful on-trend botanic and floral designs, being sold. The knowledgeable shop team will also be on hand to offer advice on latest interior trends.

The shop is also running its popular



'Learn the Basics' specialist paint workshops during the summer. Come and learn the art of shabby chic, wax and crackle using Autentico chalk paint to liven up furniture pieces.

The workshops run from 10am – 1pm on Sat 12<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June and Fri 26<sup>th</sup> June. July dates are Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July and Sat 18<sup>th</sup> July. The cost is £75, which includes all materials, refreshments and a completed painted item to take home.

To book call 01442 874356 /email: [returnedtoglory@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:returnedtoglory@stfrancis.org.uk)

## **Local Carers Invited to Pamper Afternoon!**

Carers in Hertfordshire are invited to a special **Carers Pamper Afternoon** in the beautiful grounds of the Hospice on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015 2 – 4:30pm. Taking place in Carers Week (8th-14th June), the Pamper afternoon is free and open to all carers who support a relative or friend. There's a chance to enjoy treats like tea

and cakes on the lawns, relaxation sessions, mini-manicures and a haircut or browse the craft and gift stalls, whilst listening to the sound of live entertainment from The Jolly Jazzers. To reserve a place 01442 869550 or e: [springcentre@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:springcentre@stfrancis.org.uk).

We still have places on our **Golf Day** on 10 June at Harpenden Golf Club and for our Challenge Trophy event at Stocks on Friday 3 July. Find out more: [www.stfrancis.org.uk/golf](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/golf).

### **Herts Neighbour Network**

Can you volunteer for our new project befriending people living at home with a life limiting illness? Support could include help with shopping, cleaning or driving or enabling people to use social media to connect with their loved ones. [www.hertsneighbours.org.uk](http://www.hertsneighbours.org.uk) .

### **Community Say**

If you would like to share your thoughts and experiences on local healthcare provision, you can now email CEO Steve Jamieson on [ceo@stfrancis.org.uk](mailto:ceo@stfrancis.org.uk). Mr Jamieson is keen to hear local people's opinions on what community services they'd like to see, particularly in relation to end of life care, plus stories about caring for a friend or relative with an advancing or terminal illness. "I'm passionate about involving the community in shaping the future of Hospice care in our patch and want to get to the heart of the issues which touch all those affected by a terminal illness," explains Steve Jamieson who has recently joined the Hospice from The Royal College of Nursing. [www.stfrancis.org.uk/](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/) Tel: 01442 869555/ Facebook: TheHospiceofStFrancis/Twitter: hospicstfrancis

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# Berkhamsted School News

A snapshot of news from our local schools

## Ashlyns School

Congratulations to Harry Hutchings (Y7) whose short story "A World Away" has been selected as one of the Top 50 entries in BBC Radio 2's 500 Words Competition. Harry's story has been recorded by the Radio Drama Company and can be heard and read on the BBC's website [www.bbc.co.uk/500words](http://www.bbc.co.uk/500words).

Students and staff marked the 70th anniversary of VE Day with a minute's silence after which each class watched Churchill's VE Day speech to commemorate the occasion.

Election Fever – Ashlyns held a mock election after several days of campaigning by 6th Form Politics volunteers. There was unprecedented demand for ballot papers and after the count the Conservative Party were victorious (just like the real thing!). The aim of the Politics Department was to raise awareness amongst our younger students – mission accomplished!

## Westfield Primary School

(WPS) Westfield Primary School would like to once again thank everyone who supported their Auction of Promises last Friday, either by offering donations, or by placing bids. The total from the Auction reached an amazing £4,020, surpassing all of their expectations! Together with the Promise Chart money, the grand total is £4,345!

WPS are now getting ready for their Summer Fair on 20th June. If you are able to help in any way, get in contact via

[w1spa@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk](mailto:w1spa@westfieldprimary.herts.sch.uk) or speak to a committee member. There are many jobs, big and small, that need to be done in the next few weeks to make the Fair a huge success. WPS will also be holding a raffle, so if you know any local business who may offer a prize, please get in touch. Finally, if you, or someone you know, are interested in having a stall at the Summer Fair, please contact [bexplendy@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bexplendy@hotmail.co.uk). £10 per pitch.

## Thomas Coram

Please Come To Our Book Fair – (TC) Thomas Coram is hosting a children's Book Fair from Travelling Books. TC school receives an excellent commission on all sales. This will be spent on new books for their library. Location – Library Date – Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June Time – 3.25pm until 4.00pm

## Berkhamsted School

A 46-strong Guard of Honour marched on to the Grass Quad, supported by the Band of the Parachute Regiment. 24 Awards were presented – please see their website for details.

## For eSafety advice & training visit:

<http://www.thegrid.org.uk/eservices/safety/training/index.shtml>





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# Your Charities

## OXFAM AND PEEPOWER

What do a Students' Union bar and a refugee camp have in common? The answer is Pee-power. Research by the University of the West of England and backed by Oxfam is testing a new source of power fuelled by urine. A prototype toilet suitable for use in a refugee camp has been set up. Microbial fuel cells convert urine into electricity or urinetricity. Women are often afraid to visit the toilet blocks after dark for fear of violence and rape. This new technology could provide the answer. Cells cost just £1 each and the potential is huge. Converting waste products into power is certainly sustainable and there is a guaranteed supply of the raw materials.

## Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



This is Ramsey, he is a handsome chocolate Labrador who was born in August 2013. Ramsey has a very

affectionate nature and is house-trained. He walks well on the lead and is good with other dogs. He was handed in to us so we have information about his history. Ramsey cannot live in Hemel Hempstead.

If you feel you could offer Ramsey, or any of our other dogs, a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any

day between 10am and 4pm. Our staff will be happy to offer advice and information. Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website or call the kennels.

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY 01525 220383 e-mail: [appledown.kennels@btinternet.com](mailto:appledown.kennels@btinternet.com) Website: [www.appledownrescue.co.uk](http://www.appledownrescue.co.uk) Join us on Facebook.

The Cowper Society and the Friends of St Peter's present

# Chiltern Chamber Choir

## Faire is the Heaven

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Director Adrian Davis  
Organ Jon Lee

St Peter's Church Berkhamsted  
Saturday 6th June 7:30pm

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[www.chilternchamberchoir.com](http://www.chilternchamberchoir.com)  
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The Cowper Society & Chiltern Chamber Choir are members of the Berkhamsted Arts Trust

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# Your Legal Advice

**Pre-Nuptial** Agreements, Cohabitation Agreements, Deeds of Separation and Consent Orders – what are they and why are they important?

In the area of family law, there are many forms of agreements and orders that can be put in place to regulate financial arrangements between spouses and cohabitants both during their relationship, and in the case of their divorce or separation. This can often lead to confusion for the family law client, with parties regularly being left unsure about the type of agreement or order they require and the purpose for needing such a document.

We will outline the different types of agreements and orders and will explain when and why such documents should be created. Agreements and Orders required during your relationship:

**Cohabitation Agreement** – This is an agreement created between an unmarried couple and it is used to regulate certain parts of their relationship, mainly in relation to financial and children matters. It can be created at any time during the relationship and can be reviewed throughout the relationship to take account for any changes in the couple's situation.

**Pre-Nuptial or Post-Nuptial Agreement** – These agreements are entered into between couples who are planning to get married (pre-nuptial) or married couples (post-nuptial), and are used to set out the financial arrangements between them during the marriage and in the case of a future divorce, and to try and protect certain assets that are important to each individual spouse. Agreements and Orders made at the end of your relationship:

**Deed of Separation** – This is a document entered into by married or unmarried couples at the end of their relationship and it is used to set out the financial arrangements reached between them following separation.

**Consent Order** – A Consent Order is a legally binding and enforceable Court Order which is created between spouses in the course of divorce proceedings. It is used to set out the terms of the financial agreement reached between them after their separation and eventual divorce, and acts in full and final satisfaction of all financial claims that either may be able to make against the other in the future.

## **Key Case – *Wyatt v. Vince***

In March 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that an ex-wife was entitled to bring a financial claim against her ex-husband even though their divorce was finalised over 20 years ago. The Court held that as the parties had failed to finalise their financial arrangements when they divorced back in 1992 and as no Consent Order had been sealed within the divorce proceedings, the ex-wife was entitled to have financial matters reviewed by the Court and to seek a Financial Order against her ex-husband, who is now very wealthy after setting up a multi-million pound renewal energy company several years after the parties divorce.

## **Importance of this case:**

The above case shows the importance of dealing with financial matters at the time of your divorce to ensure that you are protected from future financial claims against your ex-spouse and that do not run the risk of “losing” some of your assets, even those that you have acquired post your divorce. This article is written for general information only and should not be relied on without specific advice. For further advice on any aspects of family law, please contact Lorna Barry on 01442 872311.

Sumner and Tabor also offer free 30 minute consultations on family law on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 5pm-8pm. Please contact 01442 872311 or [admin@sumtab.co.uk](mailto:admin@sumtab.co.uk) to make an appointment.

# Your Garden

by Helen Reeley

Spring is romping away with the warmer temperatures and much prayed for rainfall and everything is back on track growth wise including the weeds. In the greenhouse the annuals are coming along great guns; I've had a 100% germination success rate with all my seedlings.

However that's the easy bit, now I have to get them to thrive outside against

mice,  
rabbits,  
pigeons and  
slugs. I'm  
hoping my  
allotment  
neighbours  
will have far  
tastier  
morsels on  
offer and my  
plot's pests  
will

therefore be

distracted...sounds like a plan.

In last month's column I mentioned I was about to visit the first 'Rare Plant Finder Fair' at Kew Gardens. My chauffeur dropped me at the garden gates after a hearty breakfast and I met up with usual garden visiting chums. The event was rather well organised in that the plant stalls were well set out and a good selection (about 40 plants people) were exhibiting. It was a small event (being its first year) but perfectly formed. In particular, I was interested in the herbs and **Pepperpot Herbs** didn't disappoint...

who knew there could be so many flavours of mint? The organisers have some small teething problems to sort out

but I'm expecting a bigger event next year with fairer admission fees.

The grounds of Kew of course were in immaculate condition especially the '**Kew on a Plate**' kitchen gardens, the site and subject of a four part BBC television series which I've yet to watch. When I last visited this area in Kew, parts of it were well tended and parts were most



*Even Kew Gardens can't keep out the rabble...Canada goose on eggs.*

certainly  
not. This  
has  
changed  
and all of  
the  
kitchen  
gardens  
are a  
total joy  
to  
discover  
with the

added

bonus that the verges which run parallel with the main busy road are full of wild flowers and pollinating insects.

Chelsea Flower Show is upon us and I have spies and contacts visiting tomorrow on press day (18<sup>th</sup>) before the judging commences on Tuesday. Dan Pearson who is building the Laurent-Perrier garden is odds on 3-1 to win 'Best in Show' according to the Torygraph. If the photo is anything to go by it looks a lot like my wild flower allotment up at Sunnyside.

Do drop me a line if you have any queries  
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643313 [www.reeleylandscapes.co.uk](http://www.reeleylandscapes.co.uk).



# Art Review

Julian Dawson

## Inventing Impressionism: Paul Durand Ruel and the Modern Art Market



On a chilly May Day evening I was privileged to have a rare opportunity to view a collection of Impressionist artworks in the Sainsbury Wing of the National Gallery, brought together from private and public art collections around the world. In their time, Impressionist paintings were extremely controversial, but are now amongst the most-loved of the art movements. However, their global successes are due to one man, a Parisian art dealer by the name of Paul Durand-Ruel (1831-1922). He championed painters and their works that had otherwise been rejected by the art establishment. He exhibited and created new markets for these otherwise rejected artists throughout his life. More than that he can be credited with inventing the modern art dealing profession, setting up international networks of galleries, and introducing practices we now take for granted such as gallery lectures,

illustrated art reviews and exhibitions by solo artists.

Claude Monet believes that without Durand-Riel “we wouldn’t have survived”. It was the art dealer’s conviction, imagination and determination that ensured that Impressionism became the phenomenon it still is today. The exhibition is an essentially chronological display of 85 works with incisive and illuminating texts on the wall (or handy pocket-sized leaflet). Together they invoke a fascinating compelling and exciting narrative of the development of Impressionism and Durand-Riel’s place in it.

Some of the work is extremely familiar, but when we see it in its original size and understand the reality of the brushwork, our breath is taken away and we can truly see the genius of artists such as Monet, Renoir and Degas. We owe a huge debt to Durand-Riel for being driven enough to believe in the artists. And thankful to the National Gallery for giving us the opportunity to see such art in one single place.

*Inventing Impressionism* closed on 31<sup>st</sup> May, but you can view an interesting discussion of the art and see some of the pictures themselves on Passion Palette: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Esq6DJqjFlc>

# Your Sport

Matthew Dawson

## **Women's Tour of Britain comes to Herts!**

After the excitement of a high class field of cyclists coming through Berkhamsted last year during the Tour of Britain, the women's tour will pass near us again in June this year.

The Aviva Women's Tour of Britain starts on Wednesday 17th June in Bury St Edmunds before finishing on Sunday 21st at Gadebridge Park in Hemel Hempstead. The men's race last year finished in London, but this year the women's event will finish in Hemel, at the same spot the men's stage which passed through Berkhamsted finished last year.

The Women's tour however will not actually pass directly through Berkhamsted itself. Instead the final stage of the tour will pass through the Chiltern Hills, into Buckinghamshire, and then into Tring, through Aldbury and Ashridge and then briefly passing through Potten End and into the closing stages in Hemel Hempstead. It'll be a challenging final stage, with a total ascent of 1,400 metres predominantly through the Chilterns ending with a sprint finish in the climax of the final stage which could well determine the winner of the Tour.

The winner last year was London 2012 gold medallist, Marianne Vos, who took the crown after winning the final three stages of the tour. It'll be a race this year that will consist of 16 of the world's top teams who will form the line-up of the Women's Tour. Each team will meanwhile consist of 6 riders.

Aside from Olympic Champion Vos, another cyclist to look out for on the course is Great British rider Dani King. King is also a gold medallist from London 2012, after winning the team pursuit inside the Velodrome at the Olympic Park. Track cycling is usually her forte but she'll be hoping to improve on her 26th placed finish in last year's tour on the roads of Britain for her team 'Wiggle Honda'.

Also amongst the competitors is likely to be Team GB's first medallist of the London games 3 years ago, Lizzie Armistead, who was beaten by Vos in the same race. Laura Trott, a double Olympic champion from London is likely to race too. Among the 16 teams competing, seven will be making their debut in the race with London 2012 gold medallists Dame Sarah Storey and Joanna Rowsell among those racing. Meanwhile Germany and the United States of America, both among the top four nations in world cycling, will be riding too.







# Acrobat Document

<b>Copy Dates:</b>	11 June	11 July	11 August
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### *Personal Training*

Come and train with me in my Private Studio in Berkhamsted town centre, we can train indoors and out in the garden area to get some Sun on your back. I cater my training to my clients with the goal to make sessions safe, fun, pain free and most importantly effective for every individual. My additional knowledge as a sports therapist enable me to set realistic and safe programmes. For you nutrition I can assess your current diet and give you as much guidance as you need to help you achieve whatever it is you are aiming for.

### **Specialities:**

- Training Over 50s, Pre & Post Natal Certified trainer, Sport Specific Training (I.e. Ski, golf, SAQs), Strength training and Toning

### *Lucy's Story*



On 9th April I had my first session with Jeremy and from there I was hooked. I hadn't realised how having encouragement and direction was the kick that I needed. Within 18 Months I have lost 7 Stone 12lbs as well as many inches everywhere (going from a size 24 to a 12. I have far surpassed my personal expectation and can honestly say that I don't feel I would have made as much progress had I gone it alone.

Lucy (Read more of Lucy's story at [www.limitlessuk.org](http://www.limitlessuk.org))

### *Sports Massage with Hot Stone Therapy*

I have seen first-hand the benefits of massage and muscular release on performance, pain relief and general wellbeing. I can help optimise your range of motion through your joints and help you to be able to train pain free and at your full potential. The use of Hot stones in additional to traditional sports therapy gives you double the benefit. I describe it as like having a massage and hot bath simultaneously.



Limitless, Waterside Place, 44 Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 2AA

For more information and to book visit [Limitlessuk.org](http://Limitlessuk.org) or call 01442732015 or email [info@limitlessuk.org](mailto:info@limitlessuk.org)