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YB

Your Berkhamsted

July 2015

History behind The Hall
in Berkhamsted

Prize winner's short story - Part 1

Support for Fr Pritchard's
270 mile sponsored cycle ride

Fantastic overview on Buddhism



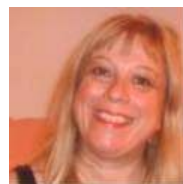
Exploring the past, reflecting the present and looking to the future in Berkhamsted

In this issue...

Welcome to the July 2015 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*

Welcome to the July edition which includes more on the history of Berkhamsted; Jenny Sherwood has covered The Hall this month.

Berkhamsted has such a great history and I hope you enjoy our regular page. We have also introduced Rachel Mcgrath who has written her first novel – a very poignant story. There is our 'Writer's Page': I urge you to write in with a short story or poem that you want to share with the readers. Our 'What's On' page shows events in July in and around Berkhamsted and also look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Please see email 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 consideration.



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Front cover image: Front cover painting kindly supplied by Mitzie Green



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 on cricket, drinking and weekday flat rentals



Never a good idea to mix your drinks, so mix96.co.uk was delighted to report on Berkhamsted's first beer festival on 6th June, hosted by Haresfoot Brewery to mark its first birthday. All-Rounder, their brew to mark the cricket season, is being enjoyed by the Cricket Writers' Club, whilst Wild Boy launched at Easter was given the thumbs up by my drinking companions in the Crown. Cricket and beer, a fine combination perhaps only excelled by cricket and fine wine, as so eloquently shown by the late John Arlott and continued by one of his pupils in matters of the vine, Ian Botham.

Drinking and cricket are fine matches, but never drinking and driving (even on the golf course). However, the road traffic incident that blocked the High Street by Swing Gate School, as reported by hemeltoday.co.uk, was not thought to be caused by alcohol. Fortunately it was not a life threatening incident.

But let's get back to the cricket (as I always do – cricket bore? Moi?). watfordobserver.co.uk always gives a good account of local cricket amidst the various strata of the Saracens Hertfordshire league. Berkhamsted has four elevens competing each week.

Oddly though the *Observer* manages to ignore Northchurch, which though smaller in membership occupies the higher divisions and has won awards for the quality of its pitches.

A rather intriguing classified on flatshareonline.com offers the rental of a bedroom near the station from Mondays to Fridays. What on earth happens on the weekend? Perhaps the weekend occupant is unaware that whilst away on business all week his bedroom has been hired out to complete strangers. Mileage for a farce, as everyone scurries around on a Friday evening to get the room exactly as it looked the previous Sunday. Actually, this sounds rather like disruptive company Airbnb, a website for people to rent out lodging. Apparently it has over 1,000,000 listings in 34,000 cities and 190 countries having been founded in 2008, and has caused consternation amongst companies that normally look after lettings. Cutting out the middle man, a little like Uber.Com which has similarly caused fainting in the streets amongst traditional Hackney Carriage operators in cities worldwide.

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued from page 3)

"Driver, take me to the Chateau of the Day, and don't spare the horses!" An intriguing blog, versaillestovictoria.com, offers "Beautiful Places, landscapes and old-world charm to inspire us", and taking the road north from Berkhamsted discovers Tring Park, one of the imposing mansions in Rothschildshire, or Buckinghamshire to you and me. It as an excellent piece that gives a good overview of the history of the house and the parkland surroundings. I can certainly

recommend a walk around Tring Park, where you can discover such surprising delights as the Summer House and The Obelisk. A fine spot for butterflies too. I'm not sure I have included facebook.com in my column, but it makes its debut to introduce this month's new musical combo, Tailgator! They were to be heard at the Goat, and are influenced by Aerosmith, ZZ Top, AC/DC and Led Zepp. Hardly ground breaking, but like good cuvees at the boundary's edge, no doubt improving with age.



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 12.30pm to 1.15pm
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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;
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:
enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

July
Mon 6th – Sat 11th: Art Exhibition – Work
produced and curated by A Level students
from Berkhamsted School. Upstairs
Gallery, 268 High Street, Berkhamsted.
www.upstairsgallery.co.uk
Thur 9th & 23rd July from 7.30pm: Vine to
Wine – Booking Required. £19pp Guided
tour of the Vineyard & Winery, tutored
tasting of our wines, cheese & charcuterie
sharing platter.
info@frithsdenvineyard.co.uk or call
01442 878 723 [http://](http://www.frithsdenvineyard.co.uk)
www.frithsdenvineyard.co.uk

Sat 11th July - 7.30 pm: Moroccan
Evening - Booking Required. £26pp Olives,
breads & dips, baked vegetables & salads.
Lamb parcels, chicken tagine with
couscous, for desert watermelon sorbet
with rosewater and mint.
info@frithsdenvineyard.co.uk or call
01442 878 723 [http://](http://www.frithsdenvineyard.co.uk)
www.frithsdenvineyard.co.uk
Fri 10th – Sat 11th July: Chilfest – Pendley
Meadow, Cow Lane, Tring
www.chilfest.co.uk

Sat 11th July: Art Workshop with Mitzie
Green at Gadebridge Community Centre.
10am – 4pm 01442 862978 or
www.mitziegreen.co.uk

Sat 18th – 19th July: Big Camp – a chance
to camp on Ashridge Estate. Ashridge
Visitor Centre. 01442 851227
Sat 18th July: 11am – 5pm: Food and Drink
festival at the vineyard. Tastings of our
2014 vintage, Barbeque, home baked
cakes, soft drinks, teas & coffees, some
foodie stalls, gift shop and vine trail – Free
entry. info@frithsdenvineyard.co.uk/
01442 878723/frithsdenvineyard.co.uk

Mon 20th July – Sat 1st Aug: Pots and
Patterns – Paintings by Pete Greening and
Ceramics by Jean Langdon. Upstairs
Gallery, 268 High Street, Berkhamsted.
www.upstairsgallery.co.uk

Wed 22nd July at 8pm: Berkhamsted
Comedy Club – A Pepper event. Greene
Room, Kings Arms, High Street,
Berkhamsted. Tickets £3/£1.50 conc.
Book at Istate@btinternet.com

(Continued on page 11)

The Hall, Berkhamsted

Another contender to build the new cinema for Berkhamsted was a little further to the east of the town. Edward Greene, the wealthy owner of the Hall had plans drawn up to build a fine cinema close to the bottom of Swing Gate Lane. Perhaps it was thought to be too close to the Hall or too far from the centre of the town. So a fine Elizabethan house, Egerton House, was destroyed and in its place the Rex cinema built. The Hall, which stood roughly where Swing Gate School is today, and its extensive grounds, was the largest and most impressive building at the eastern end of the town. From the High Street the Hall looked dour and forbidding: the house was grey and gaunt and high walls surrounded the gardens. Nash in his *Reminiscences* stated that the house “presented no special attraction beyond the suggestion of plenty within.” It was often said it looked like a prison. It was in fact built on the foundations of a prison in which Royalists were kept during the Civil War. The mansion showed its best face to the magnificent gardens, as can be seen by the accompanying photograph.

In its heyday the house and estate gave employment to scores of townspeople. In the High Street the head coachman and bailiff lived in two cottages now much altered. Waverley House next to the Black Horse (Indian restaurant) was the home of the butler and on the other side of the street a number of gardeners and labourers lived.

The house is thought to have been built

towards the end of the 18th century and from the Universal British Directory 1792 we learn that Augustus Pechell, Receiver General of the Post Office, his wife, Sarah, and family lived. The daughter, Mary Isabella, was the second wife of James Smith, whose eldest son was Augustus Smith of the Isles of Scilly. The next resident of any note was Thomas Plumer Halsey, heir to the Halsey estate at Gaddesden Place, who lived at the Hall with his wife Frederica and two sons. T.P. Halsey, his wife and the younger son tragically lost their lives in a collision between two boats near Antibes. The elder son was not with them because of some misdemeanour at Eton. On the death of his father T.F. Halsey went to live at Gaddesden with his grandmother. As an adult he is described in the *Constitutional Magazine* as “a gentleman moderate in politics who steadily adheres to a policy”.

In the archives of the Berkhamsted History Society we have the detailed sales particulars of the Hall when it was put up for sale in 1855. From this we can learn the extent of the rooms in the house and their dimensions and the magnificence of the gardens.

Following on from the Halsey family several generations of the Curtis family lived in the house. Edward Curtis is notable for the decorations he had installed in St John’s Broadway at Bourne End, the Chapel of Ease built by the Reverend, Sir John Hobart Culme-Seymour, Rector of Northchurch. The original church designed by Sir Gilbert Scott was plain and simple. Edward



THE HALL, GT. BERKHAMSTED.

Photo Copyright, J. T. NEWMAN, Berkhamsted.

young wife, Elca Rose died tragically after only nine months of marriage, on 31st July 1889 and Edward had the chancel and sanctuary decorated and a new altar erected in her memory.

The last family to live at the Hall was that of Edward Greene, the wealthy brother of Charles Henry Greene, Headmaster of Berkhamsted School and father of Graham Greene. He had made his wealth in Brazil and owned various properties in and around Berkhamsted, including the Upper Mill, which he subsequently gave to Berkhamsted School and on which the Music School and Fives Court were later built. He also built Londrina Terrace and the shops at Hall Walk, which bear the initials E.G.

The Hall ended its days as the home of the Preparatory School, as is graphically described by an Old Boy in the July 1928

edition of *The Berkhamstedian*. After a 'Masters' match parents and masters, and wives, were entertained there to tea.' It is really a splendid place for them, the rooms are large and airy, the windows wide and the lawns outside provide ample space for games.....The only fear is that some of the boys might get lost among the numerous rambling passages and staircases.'

Less than ten years later the building was found to have dry rot, which would be costly to treat and in the disregard for history of the thirties the building was demolished in 1937. The only reminder of this large house and extensive grounds are the roads with Hall Park in their name!

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What's on cont

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www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or to
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July cont:

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www.stfrancis.org.uk

Out of Town

The Court Theatre: for information –
www.courttheatre.co.uk
Aylesbury Waterside Theatre: for
information – <http://www.atgtickets.com>
Watford Colosseum: for information –
<https://watfordcolosseum.co.uk>

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purchase.

If you belong to a group dedicated tours
can be arranged for 15 people or more –

new this year is a tour of the Victorian
Farm Buildings which are used extensively
as a film location. In recent years the
Estate has hosted a number of
productions for both TV and the big
screen including: Empire of the Sun,
Gosford Park, Oliver, Four Weddings and a
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Desperate Romantics, War Horse, Call the
Midwife and the World's End.
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tions along the High Street. Any
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Local Author's First Book

New writer Rachel McGrath whose first book *Finding The Rainbow* is out now. This is her writer's journey...



I've always had a passion for writing and, in my early years, I was a high-performing English student often entering short story contests. When I finished school, I had started a lot of projects with the intention of

creating my first 'bestseller', but they tended to go nowhere. Often the story lost its interest, or I felt that it wasn't strong enough to take forward to the end. Unfortunately, growing up, getting a professional career and life in general swayed my focus on writing. Nonetheless, the ambition was always there, nagging me, reminding me that one day my time would come.

With writing, I needed to feel focused on the subject or the story. It needed to be something that would be constantly front-of-mind, building out the paragraphs and chapters in my head, and then translating them into something that others would read. The challenge with it not being my full-time profession is that when work or something else took precedence, the story would disappear from my imagination, and it was difficult to bring it back with the same intensity that it started. Until now.

Finding the Rainbow started as my personal journal. It was initially an escape, something to help me through a very difficult time in my life. In essence, it was a form of therapy, as I dealt with the emotions throughout my early pregnancies, miscarriage and potential infertility. Personally, it was more helpful to document my feelings rather than talk to a counsellor, a stranger.

As my situation progressed, and my miscarriages became multiple occurrences, my story grew. Throughout my experiences, I had searched for books or memoirs about miscarriage. Unfortunately, besides the standard informational books, there were very few published stories out there with actual experiences. I found a lot of women's and baby forums, but these were question and answer boards, and I realised there was not a lot available to women in my situation to share their experiences openly.

It was then I felt inspired to send my work to a few publishers. The first publisher I contacted responded to my work. It was only part finished at the time but they wanted to see the full manuscript – and this was my incentive to make this work into something that would connect with readers.

The book was easy for me to finish, it was a subject that took up my consciousness every hour of every day. It still does. I became passionate about how I wanted to represent my story; I didn't want it to be filled with graphic details, but more about how I coped with each circumstance, my own journey, and what I learned about myself along the way.

The editing and publishing process took around six months, partly because I was so focused on having my work released. I responded very quickly to each request given by my editors. I won't lie, it was incredibly difficult to re-read my story each time, reliving each moment, and scrutinising my emotions over again. At times I relied on my husband, my parents and even my friends to vet my writing, reassuring me that I was about to do the right thing by going public with something so personal.

Now it's on sale, there is no turning back. I'm still daunted by the concept that the general public can now read my story; share such a personally challenging experience. But, I'm also encouraged by such a positive initial response to my

memoir, and congratulations of courage for being so open.

So is there another story in me, another book? I honestly don't know. I hope the answer is 'yes', but it would need to be a story that again sparks my passion to write it through to the end, something I feel will be different, stimulating and worthy of its audience.

[Finding The Rainbow](http://www.findingtherainbow.net) is out now. For more information about Rachel, visit www.findingtherainbow.net.

Look out for Rachel's short story in a future edition



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Short Story

The short story holds an important place in English literature. From Edgar Allan Poe to Kate Mosse, writers down the ages have turned their attention to this form. It's now *Your Berkhamsted's* turn! We are asking our readers to let us publish their work. Don't let inexperience put you off trying. Your subject can be humour, adventure, love, fun, mystery or just an intriguing situation. Around 700 words, and anonymous if you wish.

War and Peace – Part One

By James Dawson

War and Peace are two completely different subjects. War is about conflict and weapons. There have been many deadly wars such as World War 1. Unfortunately there are still wars going on in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. A lot of wars are fought in order to get peace. It is silly that to be able to get peace you have to do something which isn't peaceful at all. There are many words to describe peace such as being calm, listening, forgiving, sharing, trusting and being non-judgemental. Peace is freedom not war. Everybody deserves peace, but we cannot give it to everybody if we keep on creating wars. Peace should be something we should focus on more, not on things such as what our next move could be in an important war. Peace is very important so we should try our best to stop the wars and create peace. Many people don't agree that peace should be created. Many wars are fought to be able to gain land but maybe if we shared, the world would be a peaceful place.

Many people suffer from wars. Soldiers suffer, families suffer and children suffer. Aren't too many people suffering? Many soldiers are lucky enough to come home from places like Afghanistan, but many of those people come home and might not ever be themselves again. These people have seen many people die right in front of their eyes and then go through Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Some people come home without the chance to ever walk again. Unfortunately some people never come home. These people's families then have to go through a tough time because they have lost someone very close to them. Families don't deserve to lose a loved one. It is such a shame that some children might never be able to see their dad or mum again. In Syria people have been forced to leave their country because of war, never to see their home again. Home is important to many people so nobody should be forced to leave a place where they have grown up and lived for years. We are lucky to live in a place where we don't have to suffer from war. We are some of the luckiest people in the world.

Although we see war as a very bad thing, war has actually had benefits on our lives. During World War 1 doctors came up with many ideas to look after patients who had got injured. One of the things doctors came up with was a mechanism which fits a broken bone back into place.

This was a great mechanism as it eventually got soldiers back onto their feet and fighting. Some countries still use this mechanism today! As well as this

great invention many different medicines were created and stopped many soldiers from getting infection. In World War 1 many different weapons were invented and used, many get used in wars today and are a great help to soldiers.

Lastly without World War 1 women would not get votes. Many men went off to fight in the war so their jobs needed covering and the only people who could do that were women. This gave the chance to women to try and convince men that they deserved votes. Many women worked in the factories making bombs and weapons to send off to the front line. Other women

would farm and grow food or make socks and cigarettes to send off to the front line to keep the soldiers in comfort. At the end of World War 1 after many protests from women, in 1918 women over the age of thirty were given the chance to vote. Now all women can vote at the equal age to men. Without World War 1 none of these things would have happened.

James won 3rd prize in the Rotary Club of Berkhamsted Bulbourne Essay Competition 2015.

Look out for Part Two in the August edition

Things to do in the summer holidays

Sportspace has various programmes for different age groups - <http://www.sportspace.co.uk>

Wendover Woods also **Go Ape** – <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wendoverwoods>
<http://goape.co.uk>

Ashridge walking trails

Whipsnade Zoo - <http://www.zsl.org/zsl-whipsnade-zoo>

Tring Museum - <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/tring/index.html>

Butterfly World St Albans - <http://www.butterflyworldproject.com>

Odds Farm Park - <http://www.oddsfarm.co.uk>

Mead Open Park - <http://www.meadopenfarm.co.uk>

Treasure Trails - <http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk>

XC Centre Hemel - <http://www.thexc.co.uk>

Ski Centre Hemel - <http://www.thesnowcentre.com>

Bletchley Park - <http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk>

Walk up near Alpine Meadow (fields up near back of Bridgewater school) to see the unearthed WWI training trenches

Berkhamsted Castle - <http://www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk>

Narrow Gauge Leighton Buzzard - <http://www.buzzrail.co.uk>

College Lake Visitor Centre and Reservoir
<http://www.bbowl.org.uk/collegelake>
<http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/tring-reservoirs>

WarnerBrosStudioTours <http://www.wbstudiotour.co.uk/>

NationalTrust - <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk>

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

Buddhism by Tom Plant



Meditation, peace, monks in saffron robes: perhaps these are among the first images that come to mind when you hear the word "Buddhism." Certainly, they all have their part to play. But

Buddhism is much more than just these things. In fact, it is just as varied as Christianity, with all sorts of different denominations – which is what you would expect from a religion that started in India and spans all the way to East Asia, not to mention its more modern adherents in the western world.

What all Buddhism has in common is the historic Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama, who lived in India sometime between the 6th and 4th centuries BC. He was one of many ascetics known as 'renunciates,' because they renounced the strict caste system which their particular brand of Hindu religion imposed. They had been brought up to believe that existence was a cycle of life, death and rebirth called 'samsara,' and that one gained a better rebirth by fulfilling the role you were born into in society, whatever that role might be. Upward mobility would have to wait until the next life. This was known as karmic causality: the result of your next birth was based on your good or bad actions.

These renunciates came up with all sorts of ways to break free from the rigid class

structures, but the Buddha's way was unique. He realised that all existence is characterised by suffering, and that the only way to end suffering is to escape from samsara, this cycle of death and rebirth, altogether. He taught that one could be liberated from the endless chains of karmic causality by removing oneself from the desires which inevitably lead to suffering. This, it is said, he learnt by personal experience, culminating in his enlightenment— that is, attaining nirvana, which is not a place or a heaven or even a state of mind, but simply freedom from samsara.

On this, the Buddhist schools are pretty much agreed: Buddhism is about liberation from rebirth. But the precise details of *how* one goes about this lead to the varieties of Buddhism we have today.

In classical Theravadan ('elder') Buddhism, sadly wiped out in India but found mostly now in South East Asia and characterised by the saffron-robed monks, it's a matter of meditation: you support the monks hoping in some later rebirth to be born as one of them, and carry on along the steady path through many rebirths towards nirvana.

In Zen, on the other hand, which despite its great influence is actually a very small sect in Japan, monks and laity alike take the "hard path" of meditation in the hope of realising nirvana here and now, in this lifetime: or more accurately, to know the paradox that samsara is nirvana.

Then there are the Pure Land schools, which teach that all you need is absolute trust in the name of Amitabha Buddha, the Buddha of wisdom and light, and his store of good karma will bring you to realisation either now or at the end of your present incarnation.

This is all simplification, of course, and we could talk about the Tibetan Buddhists, the Nichiren School and the international Soka Gakkai movement that has come from it, or the tantric school of Shingon, for example, but YB is short...

Orthodox Christianity, of course, does not share the Buddhist presupposition of reincarnation. But there is still much that Christians can learn from Buddhism in its many different kinds. Buddhist philosophy is fiercely iconoclastic, for example, reluctant to speak too freely of that

ultimate reality which is beyond the limits of human words and thoughts. It is experiential, more concerned with insight than proclamations of doctrine. The Pure Land tradition also gives plenty to think about to those of us who seek to place faith and trust in the unspeakable reality that we, for want of any better word, call "God."

Fr Tom Plant took a PhD in Buddhist and Christian Thought at Cambridge University, and is now in negotiation with publishers for his first book on the subject.
Fr Tom Plant, Assistant Curate
St Peter's, Great Berkhamsted, T01442 382633.

Father John Pritchard's 270 mile sponsored cycle ride

For 5 days in August Fr. John Pritchard with a few members from St John the Evangelist Church, Upper Norwood, Nicky Burchnall (daughter of David and Liz Pearce) and Bev Julien, will be doing a sponsored cycle ride – London - Chichester – Brighton – Hastings – Canterbury – London (270 miles)

We are hoping to raise **£10,000 for Cancer Research UK** and for **Fr. John's Church** which is in need of extensive repair.

Please help us by donating to this enterprise –
By using the link <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/pedallingpilgrims/225731>
or by contacting David or Liz Pearce Many thanks, Nicky Burchnall



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

Sun 12th July at 3:00pm: Rachel Gordon PIANO PUPIL CONCERT in the Lady Chapel, St Peter's Church.

Sat 1st Aug at 2:30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church, Lady Chapel – Sounds-tastic...bring a bear concert. A fun and informal introduction to classical music for the whole family with Ben, violin, and Rebecca, piano; free refreshments. Adults £7.50, children & bears free. Book via www.soundstastic.co.uk

All Saints'

5th: Fifth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Morning Worship (Action for Children), Revd Rachael Hawkins,

12th: Sixth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins and Messy Church Team

19th: Seventh Sunday after Trinity, 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins, 10am, Morning Worship, Ruth Treves Brown

26th: Eighth Sunday after Trinity, 10am Holy Communion, Revd Penny Nash, Penny O'Neill, 4pm, Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Audrey Cox, and Tracy Robinson

Registers:

St Peters

Baptisms

31st May: Matilda Ivy Hamer, Zakk Morgan, Edward Clayton-Jones

Weddings

2nd May: Adam Nigel Brunetti and Michelle King

8th May: Remilekun Temitayo Benson and Tina Ola Yinka Olowookere

23rd May: Edward John Maguire and Tara Kirsten McCartney

Funerals

1st May: Jean Evelyn Bray

5th May: Michael James McKenna

All Saints:

Baptisms:

17th May: Edward John Horace Perks

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



Rain Doesn't Stop Play at Garden Party

Nearly 2,000 people braved the elements to help us raise £22k at our popular annual Garden Party in the beautiful gardens of



Ashridge House on Sunday 31st May. Despite showers and cooler than hoped-for temperatures, families from across Herts, Bucks, Beds and beyond streamed through the gates to attend the biggest community event in our fundraising calendar.

"We're thrilled that so many people turned out to help us create such a fantastic event with a wonderful atmosphere in support of their local hospice," said Sarah Ajder, Hospice Community Fundraiser and event organiser.

"It was brilliant to see so many people dodging the showers undeterred and enjoying all the stalls, the entertainment and the plentiful food and drink that was on offer in such a fantastic setting."

Sun shines on Dedicated Hospice Volunteers

More than 250 of our dedicated volunteers enjoyed a special thank you

tea party on Sunday 7th June, held in our beautiful gardens in the glorious sunshine at the end of National Volunteers' Week. Our new CEO Steve Jamieson gave a short speech thanking the volunteers – who work across all departments, from our shops and patient care to our gardening and fundraising teams – for the valuable contribution they make to the care we provide for patients and their families. If you'd like to see our beautiful gardens, don't forget to come along to our NGS Open Gardens Day from 2-5pm on Sunday 6th September.

Family Fun at the Steam Fayre!

Enjoy a packed weekend of family fun at the Dacorum Steam and Country Fayre from 10am – 5pm on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July with everything from heavy horse, blacksmithing and birds of



prey displays to glass blowing, archery, vintage tractors and fire and military vehicles.

There's fun for the children too, with circus skills, Thomas the Tank Engine rides and lots more. Adults £7; Concessions/Children £4; Family £15 – all proceeds to the Hospice. The action takes place at Green Croft Farm, Potten End, HP1 2SG. Free parking is available.

The Mud Pack Challenge is Back – Bigger and Muddier!

Registration has officially opened for The Hospice of St Francis' Mud Pack Challenge II, which promises to be bigger and muddier than ever!

The adrenalin-fuelled obstacle course, set in the beautiful grounds of Ashridge House, takes place on Sunday 18th October and involves crawling, wading and climbing through the 190-acre gardens and woodland of the historic country estate, negotiating wet and muddy obstacles along the way.

The event is open to anyone with a basic level of fitness, it's perfect for

individuals over 15 and also fantastic fun for friends, teams and work colleagues. All that's needed is a sense of adventure and a willingness to get muddy! Places are limited so don't delay, get your 'pack' together and sign up now at www.stfrancis.org.uk/mudpack.

Participants are asked to raise a minimum sponsorship of £50 to help the Hospice raise the £4.7m it costs every year to fund its free care for people living with life-shortening illnesses – 80% of which it relies on from voluntary donations.

Hospice chef is guest at Queens's Garden Party

Our chef, Chris Took, enjoyed a "magical" day as a guest at the Queen's Garden

Party at the end of May, after being nominated for the way he changes patient's and their families' lives with his caring approach in the kitchen. Chris, 55, attended the prestigious gathering alongside his wife Bernadette Grimer, coming within feet of the Queen



and enjoying sandwiches, tea, cakes and a stroll around the beautiful Buckingham Palace gardens. He was nominated for the accolade by hospice volunteer of 27 years, Jeni Henderson, for his attention to detail in the kitchen and the innovative cookery courses he runs for bereaved adults and teenagers.

www.stfrancis.org.uk/Tel: 01442 869555

Facebook at: TheHospiceofStFrancis
Twitter: hospicstfrancis

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Berkhamsted School News

Introducing a page to give a snapshot of news from our local schools

Ashlyns School

Second in the UK!

Ashlyns Sports Leaders Honoured at House of Lords.

Mr Shapland and Mr Jones attended the Sports Leaders UK award ceremony hosted by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson in the House of Lords. As one of ten schools shortlisted across the country, Ashlyns took second place – a significant achievement in the school's first year of applying. The team was praised for their dedication to enhancing the school and improving the lives of other students. "We'll be back next year to go one better", quipped Mr Jones. Ashlyns and Britain's First Children's Charity this year Coram celebrates the 275th anniversary of the creation of the Foundling Hospital; an institution which saved tens of thousands of children's lives. The original Foundling Hospital in London was built in 1740 following Thomas Coram's charter to save abandoned infants in the city. In 1926 a new Foundling Hospital was built on the Ashlyns site, closely modelled on the original Georgian building (a chapel flanked by two wings). The school was home to hundreds of children until 1954 when our building became a secondary school. For more information about Coram and Ashlyns' heritage, please visit www.coram.org.uk/about-us/our-heritagefoundling-hospital or catch up on Radio 4's recent programme: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05wnb7g>

Westfield Primary School

On Thursday 11th June the Summer Choir visited Shaftesbury Court to entertain the residents during their afternoon tea. All of the children brought smiles to their faces as they sang a variety of their favourite songs and then enjoyed talking to the residents. A very big thank you to Miss Nice and Mrs Lambert for all of their hard work with the choir this year, the children did you proud!

Thomas Coram

Recently at 'Drop-in week', when our school Governors sat in on lessons to experience life at Thomas Coram for themselves. They looked in particular at how writing is taught across the whole curriculum. Chair of Governors Nick Heath commented, "I was impressed by the friendly atmosphere and the politeness of the children, and how this created such a wonderful learning environment. "Julie Griffiths learnt all about Sikhism on our RE day which she said, "really inspired the children. The school worship at the end of the day when all year groups shared their learning was an excellent example of our children being able to present confidently." Rob Barham watched a play written and acted by "highly engaged" Year 5 pupils investigating how speech reveals characters' personalities, while English link Governor Luisa Clarke's grammar was polished during Mrs Cutler's parent workshop.

(Contd on page 25)

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(Contd from page 23)

Berkhamsted School

The Prep School U11 Rounder's Team have been crowned National Champions having won the IAPS tournament in West Sussex. A total of 64 teams around the country entered the competition; the girls played regional matches during the summer term and beat Milton Keynes, Bedford Modern and Bishop's Stortford in each of the first three rounds. After a long trip to Leeds Grammar School for their quarter final match, they overcame the hosts Windlesham House in the semi-final before beating Millfield by an innings in the final.

Victoria School Governor Vacancies:

We are looking for people who might be interested in becoming a governor for Victoria School, to fill a number of vacancies. Governors are volunteers from the parent body, church and community, and are involved in the long term vision for Victoria, helping the Head and staff to deliver on the overall plan. They don't need to be an expert in education or have specific business skills (although we are looking for someone with finance experience to fill one of the spaces). For more information about the role, please contact Jenny Jenkins, Governor, on jdj2@hotmail.com

Your Charities

Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



This is Ozzie, he is a Labrador cross aged 7 years. Ozzie is a friendly happy dog who is great with people, other dogs and cats. He is house-trained and can be left for short periods. He

was handed in to us so we know some of his history. If you feel you could offer Ozzie, or any of our other dogs a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any day between 10am and 4pm. Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7.

Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website or call the kennels. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter! Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, LU6 1QY (Reg Charity No 1116848) 01525 220383 appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

OXFAM and Education

Notebooks in Lebanon may seem far removed from the Oxfam Bookshop in Berkhamsted but buying your holiday reading from their comprehensive and varied selection enables Oxfam to help young Syrian refugees coming to terms with exile in camps in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon and Jordan. One 12-year-old girl from a school for gifted children was able to express her feelings and experiences in poetry using a notebook and pencil supplied by the charity.

The popular children's section provides an excellent choice of reading for children and grandchildren during the summer holidays.

And of course there is plenty for adults too.



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Your Garden

Adventures in Boots by Helen Reeley

At the Chelsea Flower show Dan Pearson won the coveted 'Best in Show' award and of course a gold medal. One of my clients who visited the show on a non-rainy day said the boulders the designer had used were just terrific and 'looked as though they had been there forever'. I don't think we had any public hissy fits this year over the judging and subsequent medal bestowal but my well connected garden pal says one or two were not happy... don't believe all you see on the telly, the designers may say they're happy with their medals but actually they're not.

In particular, one garden I noticed stood out and that was the RHS People's Choice Best Fresh Garden. The designer Ruth Willmot had used a splendid choice of trees and planting based around a DNA helix model represented on the ground by a stone path. Ruth had designed the garden for Breakthrough Breast Cancer and won a silver gilt medal.

Since I last wrote I've been adventuring, not in boots but in flip-flops, around Tuscany and in particular two historic gardens near the ancient town of Lucca. Villa Reale di Marlia and Villa Torrigiani di Campannori were the two estates I subjected my companions to, however they enjoyed the visits as much as I did even though it was a tad on the warm side. One stark difference I noticed (apart from the design) between historic gardens in Tuscany and UK was the sheer lack of people in Tuscany – there was just

a handful of folk visiting on the days we selected. If we'd opted for a similar trip in the UK we'd have been plagued with coaches, cafes, gift shops and a cornucopia of other money making 'attractions'. What a pleasure it was to experience something other than that in Italy.



Tuscan Hills

At home, I'm knuckling down with the design and installation of a new herb garden. There'll be twenty two different herbs including shrub herbs such as roses, rosemary, lavender and cistus planted in a cirlet that forms the raised boundary of a sunken patio. Colour, scent, flowers, bees and butterflies...what more could you wish to be surrounded by on a summer's day in an English garden.

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TTFN

Restaurant Review

Porters Berkhamsted by Jacqueline Hicks

With a warm welcome was the arrival of Porters Restaurant to our High Street. Doors opened in May and with eager anticipation I wanted to review this much talked about establishment. And an establishment it is.

Porters history started in Covent Garden

36 years ago and gained a reputation for its wonderful selection of pies and a great place to go for a pre-theatre meal. Porters has been a small business with one restaurant but has had a

great following. When the owner of the property wanted to redevelop the building, it was with great sadness the management team decided to find a new location for their much loved venue. After looking at 50 odd potential sites in and around London they came across the Berkhamsted location, which was previously a site for our old post office and with redevelopment had produced an empty lot. There was a lot of speculation of what the building would be – there was even a playful poster saying acquired by ‘Hooters’, which raised a few eyebrows.

So once it was set in stone it would be Porters we eagerly awaited the opening for the much-loved English cuisine it is renowned for.

We spoke to Neil who is the MD and he talked with pride of the place he has managed for 25 years. He also mentioned

the dedicated pie maker Mr Huss who joined Porters in July 1979, just a month after Porters opened, and has been lovingly making these pies since. The

relocation was an opportunity for him to hang up his apron and take on retirement, but loves his job so much that he wanted to stay and continue making the pies for the new restaurant.

On arrival, my colleague Helen and I were guided to a corner round table which gave us a wonderful view of the whole restaurant. This was a very stylish view with stunning yellow real leather seating taking pride in the centre of the restaurant. I also noticed the unusual antler light decoration and a wonderful glass enclosed fire which I imagine will be visually fantastic in the winter.



For starters I had the Heirloom tomato salad, which consisted of goat's curd, capers and bloody mary sauce –sharp and tangy with the cushioning of the soft cheese also suitable for Vegetarians. I then proceeded to have the 8oz fillet steak. This was Aberdeen Angus, aged for a minimum of 28 days and served with roasted tomato, bone marrow butter, mushroom ketchup, and triple cooked chips – (best chips ever). I can only say the knife went through the steak like butter – you cannot cheat on steak and this was definitely the best steak I have had for a long long time.



I wanted a dessert but knew I could not eat a whole one so Helen and I decided to share and Eton Mess which was so refreshing but light enough not to make

you feel too uncomfortable. I forgot to mention this was all washed down with a lovely glass of processco. A perfect lunch and one I would love to repeat again very soon.



Please go along and try the varied menu for yourself you will not be disappointed.
Porters Restaurant
Unit 3, 300 High Street
Berkhamsted
Herts HP4 1ZZ
Phone: 01442 876666
Reservations Email :
bookings@porters.uk.com

Your Sport

Matthew Dawson

Women's Tour of Britain

Following up on last month's article, here is a review of the Women's Tour of Britain which passed through the surrounding areas of Berkhamsted. It saw the climax to the Tour which came to a conclusion in Hemel Hempstead.

Last year the cyclists came directly through Berkhamsted in the Men's Tour of Britain but this time it was the turn of the women in an equally thrilling contest last month. As it was with the men,

Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire witnessed the final stage for the women which was won by British rider Hannah Barnes who also finished as the Best Young

Rider and Best British Rider for the whole competition as she finished in fifth place overall.

However the winner of the overall race was German Lisa Brennauer who finished ahead of Jolien D'Horre of Belgium in second and Christine Majerus of the Netherlands in third place. Brennauer did enough to win the competition by winning the fourth stage and coming second in stages one and two as she rounded off her triumph with a fourth place finish in the final stage.

From the vantage point I was watching from, there were hundreds of people who had gathered to watch the second Queen of the Mountains section of stage 5 on Tom's Hill Road. It was the final real

test before the riders headed into Potten End and Hemel Hempstead for the final part of the race. I was stationed at the back end of the Queen of the Mountains section as another German, Claudia Lichtenberg was the fastest up the hill. However the overall winner of the Polka dot jersey which is worn by the Queen of the Mountains and the fastest climber of the race was New Zealander Melissa Hoskins.

Great Britain's Lizzie Armistead was one of the favourites for the Women's Tour but injury on day one put an end to the Olympic silver medallists' chances this year. Armistead had just won stage one before colliding with photographers

which resulted in a nasty crash that would rule her out for the rest of the race. Other British interests were of course Barnes, and also Olympic/Paralympic medallists Laura Trott, Dani King and Dame Sarah Storey who finished 17th, 49th and 76th respectively. Meanwhile double world junior champion Lucy Garner finished in 33rd place.

Last year's winner and Olympic gold medallist Marianne Vos wasn't directly involved in proceedings due to injury but had a PR role within the race. Her lack of involvement though meant the field significantly opened up for other riders to impress, which could be seen with the eventual winner, Lisa Brennauer.



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