

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

YB

Your Berkhamsted

May 2016

RIEX

GRAND OPENING TONIGHT AT 6PM

Canal Consultation: the outcome

Casualty of War: a personal story

The 21st Century Revolution by Bruce Nixon: a review

50p

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

In this issue...

Welcome to the May 2016 edition of *Your Berkhamsted*.

Here we are in May – still waiting for that spring weather with bated breath. When writing this today there has actually been snow and hailstones so what are we meant to wear? Though we now have the bluebells in full bloom – it is worth a visit to Ashridge Woods as spectacular. May 2016 is a very special month as we have Her Majesty the Queen visiting Berkhamsted. YB are planning to do a feature on this next month. It should be a memorable day. We also have some great input from our regular writers including a personal story on the tragedy of war, some great dates for history events locally, another short story from one of our readers Sherry Hostler, who has also done a great book review for the mag. So get that cuppa or glass of wine whether in a t-shirt or wrapped up warm and enjoy! *Our what's on page shows events in May in and around Berkhamsted*, 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.

Jacqueline, Editor



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Front cover: Cover painting by Mary Casserley—www.marycasserley.com Cards and prints available from Berkhamsted Imaging



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

By Julian Dawson



It is about time we had a mention of Graham Greene in this column; I've been sadly remiss lately. So let me guide you to hcbooks.blogspot.co.uk, which amidst a disconcerting array of Chinese typescript directly lifts his Wikipedia entry and neatly inserts it into the blog. So it actually has nothing new to say.

So let me take you to something more current and inspiring. hemeltoday.co.uk reports that Sophie Lee was to run the London Marathon, raising money for Beating Bowel Cancer following her mother's diagnosis with the disease, and successful recovery after an initial mis-diagnosis. Sophie is of course one of many who will be running their heart out for numerous causes.

I believe I have referred you to nb-kantara.blogspot.co.uk before, tales of a canal boat. The writer narrates their Easter trip to Berkhamsted, where the canal rose an amazing eight inches, a rather less desirable Easter rising. The observant amongst you will also have noted the castle moat is once again full. Still, the entry has some nice pictures of St Peters for your enjoyment, complete in its Paschal arraignment.

I give you the debut of the American www.tapinto.net, which provides a local news service. A page entitled Pond

Diplomacy reports on the visit across the Atlantic of the Berkhamsted School Lacrosse team, who were hosted by The Summit High School Girls Freshman Lacrosse Team. Disconcertingly, the next story reports on a rabid racoon. Some supporters think it's more than a game. Now for a blog closer to my heart, thelocalfoodie.wordpress.com, which reports on the Cinnamon Travelling Café. The St Albans based enterprise is literally a moveable feast of Indian and Caribbean food that can provide catering for all occasions, even private dinner parties and reasonable rates. They contribute to the Haresfoot Brewery tasting evenings, providing the archetypal beer and curry night, though with an upmarket twist.

But back to Mr Greene. myinforms.com, which is an aggregator of press releases and the like, picks up on a report from the Catholic Herald that opines that his novels will stand the test of time in a way that Martin Amis' won't. I'm not sure why he picks on Mr Amis. I could have similarly deduced that Graham Green provides a surer touch on the vagaries of existence, than for example, Jackie Collins. Though she probably had a better understanding of backstabbing conceivably. Discuss.

(continue on page 5)

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But what of Bunting Magnetics I hear you cry. Don't worry, foodonline.com has the latest on our local innovative manufacturer. The company "continues to revolutionize magnetic separation with its all-new Metal Detectable Gaskets and Grommets". More cheese? By all means, and your Wensleydale will be free from metal impurities. Eh up lad, good job.

At the time of writing we are getting to the business end of the football season. stalbansreview.co.uk gives a local roundup of the South Midlands League.

Berkhamsted are maintaining their fifth place, and perhaps once again failed to fulfil their full potential. But that surely is the cry of many a sports fan down the ages.



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



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What's on

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

Berkhamsted Artisans, Arts & Crafts
Market (**1st Saturday every month**)
10am to 4pm. The Town Hall, 196 High
Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, HP4 3AP
Through the double doors above
Carluccio's on the High St. Lift access at
back. If you would like a stall contact
Claire - Mob: 07968 627 179; Email:
berkhamstedmarket@hotmail.co.uk;
website: www.greatmarkets@vpweb.co.uk

Tring Farmers Market (**Alternate
Saturdays**)

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

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

enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

**Sat 7th May @ 8pm – Basin Street
Brawlers Jazz concert.** Civic Centre.
www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk SAE to
Berkhamsted Jazz, 6 Longfield Gardens,
Tring, HP23 4DN. Visitors £13, Members
£10. Annual sub: Couples £15, singles
£10. bjazztickets@gmail.com 824173. DC

**Bluebells Galore on the Berkhamsted
Walk!**

Don't forget – the **Berkhamsted Walk** on
Sunday 8 May. Come with your family,
friends and work colleagues for a great

day out in the beautiful bluebell woods of
Ashridge and the surrounding Chiltern
countryside and raise money to support
The Children's Society's work here in the
UK.

Choose between **The Fun Walk** – a 6 mile
stroll suitable for all ages, **The Bluebell
Walk – 12 miles** or **The Challenge – 18
miles**. The 12 and 18 mile walks start
from the Court House between 10 and
11.30 am and the 6 mile walk starts at
Ashridge College between 11am and 2pm.
Pick up a sponsorship form from St
Peter's church, or the Library or download
one from the website

www.berkhamstedwalk.com where you'll
also find lots more information about the
Walk and the work of The Children's
Society. **Join us on 8 May for a great day
out in support of a great cause.**

**Sunday 8th May till Saturday 14th May,
Sun 2pm-4pm, Mon-Sat 9am-5pm.** Spring
Art exhibition of the Berkhamsted Art
Society in the Civic Centre.

Admission free. Pictures, prints,
sculpture, ceramics, cards.
www.berkhamstedartsociety.com

**Sat 8th to Sat 14th May @ 2.30 to 5pm -
Berkhamsted Art Society – Spring Art
Exhibition**

A wide range of members' artwork in all
media, including ceramics, to view and for
sale. Civic Centre.

www.berkhamstedartsociety.com. Free

(Continued on page 8)

What's on, continued

Sat, 21st May @ 7.30 pm - Orchestral Concert. Glinka Russlan and Ludmilla Overture; Rachmaninov Piano Concerto 2; Tchaikovsky Symphony 4. Conductor Thomas Loten, soloist to be confirmed. Centenary Theatre. www.dacorumso.org
Online tickets £12; concessions £10. 18 years and under free. Aitchisons, 63 Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead HX1 2AA. Ticket secretary 01494 727240. DC

Mon 23rd May @ 7.30 pm - Verdi: Requiem With Chorleywood and Leconfield Choral Societies. Royal Festival Hall.
www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk For Info. 07500 431643

Weds, 25th May @ 8pm – Entertainment
Berkhamsted Live/ Pepper Foundation - Local culture show with singer/guitarist Ky Wilkinson, artist Paula Watkins, author Julie Mayhew, actor/director Kimberly Black. Kings Arms. Free. Collection for Pepper Nurses. Book at lstate@btinternet.com

Out of Town

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

14 May 2016 @7.30pm- AMCHOR Concert St. Mary's Church, Old Amersham - Bach: Cantata Gloria in Excelsis Deo; Schubert: Mass in G;

Mozart: Vesperae Solennes de Confessore Amersham and Chesham Bois Choral Society with Soloists: Clare Tunney, Soprano; Carolyn Holt, Alto; Alex Bevan, Tenor; Michael Mofidian, Bass
The Saint Cecilia Orchestra
Conductor: Mark Austin.

Tickets £15, Students £7.50 from the Box Office Tel: 01494 786382 and www.WeGotTickets.com

18th June @ 7.30 pm—Bridgewater Sinfonia in St Peter's Church .
Rossini: Overture: William Tell
R.Strauss: Horn Concerto No 2
Soloist: Andrew Littlemore
Sibelius: Symphony No3 in C major

For Ashridge and a full list of events please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or to book your place contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227.



School News

Berkhamsted School

Her Royal Majesty the Queen is visiting Berkhamsted school. This is to mark 475 years since its foundation in 1541 by John Incent, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral.

Ed Hart has continued the representative success of Old Berkhamstedian rugby players.

The former 1st XV hooker (2011 & 2012) will take on the Combined Services U23 side as part of the Oxbridge squad on Saturday 30th April at Twickenham, kick off 12noon, in the curtain raiser to the annual Army v Navy Match. The 23 man squad features 12 players from Oxford and 11 from Cambridge, with 11 of the 23 having Blues. The day is a sell out with a crowd in excess of 82,000 expected for the main match.

Congratulations to Ed and we wish him the very best of luck.

Twenty five Berkhamsted School cricketers have just returned from a most incredible experience touring Sri Lanka. The junior and senior squads each played five



matches against tough local opposition in Colombo, Kandy and in the iconic test match stadium in Galle.

Ashlyns School

School Sports Festival in Holland

During the Easter Holidays, 43 Year 9 students travelled to Holland to take part in a Schools Sports Festival. The students participated in two days of training; the girls experienced training from an England Regional

Development team and the boys were challenged by the coaches of West Ham United. All students competed in a tournament against other English schools in which the boys came runners up on goal difference and the

girls were the eventual winners of the plate competition. Congratulations and well done to all students involved on the trip, you represented Ashlyns brilliantly!

May Events at Haresfoot Brewery

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- **Thur 05 May [Rachel Bridge – AMBITION \(pre-Fringe show\)](#)**
- **Sun 15 May [Berkhamsted Farmers Market](#)**
- **21-22 May [2nd Berkhamsted Beer Festival](#)**
- **Thur 26 May [Open Mic](#)**



BERKHAMSTED LOCAL HISTORY AND MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 803417

Founded 1950 as Berkhamsted & District Local History Society

Although the Society's indoor meetings have now ceased until September this does not mean that nothing is happening. As has been the case in the last few years we are joining with PROBUS for several all-day outings to places of historic interest. This year we have outings arranged on 2nd June to Cromer windmill and the Henry Moore Foundation, Much Hadham. On 4th August we go a bit further afield to Lullingstone Roman villa and to Chartwell, with Churchill associations. On September 20th we visit Strawberry Hill and Ham House. For further details and bookings contact Bill Willett on 01442 863760.

After a rather chilly and not altogether dry Easter weekend when the Visitor Room at the Castle was open, we are opening now for the summer season on 30th April until the last Sunday in September, on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 10am-6pm. The Visitor Room is manned by volunteers from the Society, with the help of members from BDAS, NADFAS and Rotary and other interested people! The Castle grounds are open throughout the

year, with the exception of Christmas Day and New Years Day, during the winter months closing at 4pm.

History Society members offer guided tours of the castle including the Visitor Room throughout the year for school parties and adult groups.

These can be combined with tours of the historic town centre. Adult groups are charged a modest fee and donations are requested from school groups, Beavers, Rainbows, Cubs and Brownies etc.

Every year the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society gives two Percy Birtchnell Memorial prizes of £20 each to Year 4 children in the town. When the prizes were first established almost twenty years ago they were awarded to children at Victoria First School. Percy Birtchnell who, was a pupil at Chapel Street Infants' School and then Victoria Boys' School, gained his interest in the history of our ancient town as a teenager. He will be well remembered by older residents of the town. Although a printer by trade he wrote several books on the history of Berkhamsted and was a founder member of the History Society, being its Secretary for very many years.

Since the reorganisation of Berkhamsted's education system the prizes have been offered to Year 4 children at Thomas Coram Church of England Primary School. The prizes for 2016 will be launched later this week, when the topic for this year will be 'The Foundling Hospital in Berkhamsted.' The prizes will be awarded at the end of this term in July.

Another annual Society event is Berkhamsted's Heritage Open Days, organised every year by the History Society and which take place this year from 8th-11th September. This year there are eight different events arranged, all free. Final details will be published and bookings available from mid July. If you don't know anything of life in the Foundling Hospital from 1935-1955, or even where it was, now is your chance. Come on one of the tours on Sunday 11th September led by former foundlings and you will find out. Do you know where Berkhamsted Place was and why we call it 'Successor to the Castle? Come on a tour on Friday or Saturday, 9th and 10th September and find out. Make a lantern for the lantern procession on Sunday evening from St Peter's Church to Rectory Lane Cemetery and see what else is happening there. There are many more events besides.

Several members of the Society are working on a book detailing

Berkhamsted's Home Front in WWI- the War and its aftermath. We are hoping to publish it by 2018. There will be no event at the Castle to commemorate the Siege of 1216 this year but the Battlefield Trust is keen to arrange some sort of event with us for next year, possibly including 'A Living History' feature. To commemorate 1066 the Alderney Tapestry Finale will be on show in the town for a few days in November, providing all the intricate details can be sorted out and we can gain the necessary financing. It will be published as soon as possible. Finally, the latest volume of the Society's annual research journal, *the Chronicle*, was published in March. This included, among others, an article on the Victorian soup kitchen at the Castle, a little-known Old Boy who provided the first maps of Bermuda, an article on the Swan and very much more. This volume and earlier ones are available for non-members price £3. For further details of the Society see www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk and www.berkhamsted-castle.org.uk There is much of interest.

Jenny Sherwood
Berkhamsted Museum and History Society



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. Let's write lots of stories and enjoy the reads. Over to you all!"

NEW HORIZONS

By Sherry Hostler

By the time the rain eventually stopped, it was dusk. Children were trudging home from school through the damp soil in the park, the smaller ones escorted by parents, the older ones travelling in packs.

Jacob heard his tormentors coming before he even saw them. They were one down in number this afternoon, but those present certainly didn't let the side down with their taunting. Jacob bowed his head in defeat and let them assault him with their words, all of which had a tedious regularity, but still hurt as badly as the first time.

What right had they to comment on him? Jacob thought to himself. They didn't know his story, and if they did, they probably wouldn't even care. As the teenagers slowly meandered past, Jacob let his mind wander back to the

day his life had turned around. The day he had lost his beloved Margaret and their baby.

The truck had come hurtling out of nowhere, skidding on wet tarmac to crash into their car. In one second it shattered the lives of his wife and her unborn child, and also shattered any hope left in Jacob's heart. Desolate with grief, Jacob buried himself, and his life had deteriorated to a park bench for a bed, and a litter bin for a larder.

The remaining light had almost vanished from the sky when the lad who had been missing from the group of hecklers finally walked past Jacob, bringing him out of his reverie. Detention had obviously claimed his last hour of daylight. He dawdled towards the muddy edge of the lake, the wind whipping a too-long fringe around his eyes. He stopped and proceeded to flip stones in the water, trying to make them skip across the surface.

Without much luck, the boy appeared to rapidly lose his patience. Faster and faster he bent to search for flat stones, and threw them with even less skill each time. He seemed angry, no doubt due to his being kept at school for so long, so when unexpectedly, a small piece of paper was whisked from his jacket pocket by

the thieving wind, the boy swore loudly.

Jacob watched with some amusement as the wind joyfully tossed the paper, recognisable as a ten pound note, far enough over the water for the lad not to be able to reach it. Without being able to stop, he chuckled out loud. The boy turned in surprise.

Jacob couldn't resist it... "Scared of the water are you boy?" his guffaws filling the empty park.

The youngster's eyes filled with frustration and anger as he looked at Jacob. Immediately he bent and removed his expensive trainers and socks, rolled up his school trousers and started to edge his way into the icy looking lake, mud oozing through his toes. Jacob looked on, thoroughly enjoying the scene before him.

The water was now past the boy's knees as he reached forward to get a grip on the sodden money which still eluded him. Suddenly, he seemed to lose his balance on the unsure foundations of the lake and he waved his arms maniacally in the air, before slipping down until Jacob could no longer even see the top of his head.

Serves him right! thought Jacob to himself. *Maybe that'll teach him a lesson.*

The boy did not come thrashing his way back to the surface of the water however, and another few seconds later, there was still not even a ripple, other than that caused by the mischievous wind.

Jacob got to his feet, and toes numb from days and nights of winter, stumbled his way to the edge of the lake. He looked down and there was the boy, floating face down in the water, a bloody mess on the back of his head where he had hit it as he fell.

Seeing little point in removing his long ago ruined shoes and socks, Jacob waded right into the water. Upon reaching the limp boy, Jacob turned him over and grasped him firmly beneath his armpits, before pulling him towards the edge, stumbling a little himself, as he progressed on the slippery ground.

He carefully laid the boy down on the damp grass which bordered the lake, and turn his head to one side in an effort to stop him choking on any water he may have swallowed. Feeling the lad's wrist, he felt life still in him, and sighed with relief.

Jacob sat back and waited, too scared to leave him alone while he searched for a phone, and the cold breeze stuck his wet clothes to his skin. He had no knowledge of life saving techniques,

(continued on page 14)

Short Story cont..

so he hoped and prayed that he had done the right thing.

beauty of the stars that he had slept beneath for so long.

Eventually, after what seemed like a lifetime, the boy started to cough and water spluttered from his mouth. When his eyes opened, they registered shock. Whether in surprise to see Jacob leaning over him, or the astonishment of still being alive, Jacob didn't know. Finally daring to leave him, Jacob set off to the boundaries of the park and called for an ambulance. The operator assured him of their haste, and with their promise he returned to the boy, who had managed to prop himself up on his left elbow. Eyes huge with remorse, he turned to Jacob "I'm sorry" he whispered.

By the time the ambulance had whisked the boy off to hospital, Jacob's well weathered clothes were first time in many months he actually felt refreshed. Dirty though the water was, he felt cleansed. He felt *alive*. He looked down at his shabby clothing and wondered how he had managed to fall to such depths of despair. He had saved a life, he realised, and life was truly precious. The time had come for his life to start again and he intended to grasp hold of it with both hands. Slowly he raised his eyes to the night sky and noticed for what seemed to be the first time, the



Did you know?

Queen Elizabeth 1st stayed at Ashridge House

After Henry VIII's death, Princess Elizabeth, the future queen, was staying at Ashridge when her sister Queen Mary had her dramatically arrested on suspicion of conspiracy. Elizabeth was taken from Ashridge under armed guard, ill and in fear for her life, to imprisonment in London.

Quote from Chilternsaonb.org

A Casualty Of War- A Personal Story

My grandfather's cousin, John Leonard Dawson, died on 6th May 1916. That much we knew, but that was about all. He was a casualty of the Great War, yet far from the western front, and not injured by enemy action. Nevertheless he as much a victim of that murderous conflict. I discovered that he was a 2nd Lieutenant of the 1/5th Bedfordshire Regiment, attached to the 10th Battalion. His membership of that regiment enabled me to make contact with an individual who collates the history of all their officers, and in his work he kindly shared with me what he had found at the Luton archives.

Through the archives we are able to piece together the story of John, from his enlistment through to his death and in the correspondence with his mother following it. The records include a casualty form, records of telegrams, and a list of the effects that John owned. Together they give a full background of the life of an officer.

His medical inspection report of 4th November 1914 tells us that he was 19 years and one month old, was five feet and eight and a half inches tall, and had a chest measurement of 35 inches, with a range of expansion of five inches. He was passed fit to join the reserve battalion of the London Scottish. In common with all territorials, he had to formally agree to serve overseas, which he did as a private on January 24th 1915. Then we learn from another document of his commissioning as an officer in the Bedfordshire Regiment on 5th May. His character was termed as "good".



We are not sure of his activities, but we do know that his regiment was transferred to Egypt, where the Ottomans were threatening the highly strategic Suez Canal. It was there that John sadly died. His Field Service record states that he died in the Government Hospital, Suez, of a cerebral haemorrhage on 6th May 1916.

A Casualty Of War- A Personal Story cont..

We actually have a copy of a moving telegram from his mother, Annie Florence. She asks that the matron pass on a message of comfort to her son, but by then it was already too late as John's mother had received the telegram informing her of the desperately sad news of his death. Annie would have had to cope with the shock alone, because her husband was in Peru, prospecting for minerals. Even today we have many distant cousins in Latin America descended from those who had travelled out in the 19th century.

Amongst the final documents in the archive, John's father writes from Cerro de Pasco in Peru requesting that the estate of his son, a sum of

£92.19.2 be paid to Annie Dawson of Cardigan Road in Richmond. She may also have received the contents of his kitbag, including we are told (amongst other possessions) 3 shirts, 1 pair of slippers, 1 Sam Brown, 1 gas helmet, 1 water bottle, 1 metal mirror, 1 pair of field glasses and 1 pocket torch. This list of apparent mundane items, quite apart from being a valuable historic record of the effects of an officer, is somehow extremely moving in its austere record of a young man whose life was cut short at a desperately young age.

By Julian Dawson

Pentecost Taizé Service



Sunday 15 May 2016 at 6.00 pm

St Mary's Church, High Street, Northchurch,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 3QW

A quiet meditation service with chants and silence to celebrate Pentecost.

Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome

Your Berkhamsted Clergy

It barely seems possible that I have now been living and working in Berkhamsted for almost eight months. The time has flown. Now we are into the summer term I feel like I have my feet properly under the table and just about know what's going on most of the time (!) The weeks continue to be jam packed with activities in church, local schools and the community. One particular high point for me is a lunchtime club I've started in Thomas Coram school. We meet for half an hour of some pretty loud fun on a Wednesday lunchtime; playing games and even managing to have time to discuss that week's theme for collective worship. It's something that I know I look forward to each week.

The all age congregation which I mentioned last time I wrote here has now been meeting for six months and continues to grow. This short service held every third Sunday at 11am provides a place for all members of the family, both young and old, to worship in an informal way and share fellowship. We have shared communion together, had a special child friendly liturgy on Good Friday and we are really looking forward to May's third Sunday service where we will meet together for a bring and share BBQ after the service. If this service sounds like something that you and your family would like to try, you'd be most welcome.

Obviously the excitement on the horizon is the visit of Her Majesty the Queen. If someone had told me when I moved here in September that in a few month's time

the Queen would be coming to visit, I'd have been even more keen to get here. We will be hosting Her Royal Highness in St Peters during her visit to Berkhamsted. Many representatives from across the community have been invited to share in this special visit with us at St Peters, but I'm sure you can appreciate it's impossible for us to invite everyone! It will be wonderful for there to be a spiritual element to the visit, especially as her personal Christian faith is so important to our Queen. And in this the year of her 90th birthday, we will be taking an opportunity to thank God for her and her many years of service to the country. As a Christian it is a wonderful thing and indeed a personal inspiration to see our Queen often speaking of her Christian faith and what it means to her. There has been a special book published by Scripture Union on this very subject, called 'The Servant Queen and the King she serves', which I think is a beautiful phrase to summarise a long and faithful life and reign.

Yours in Christ,
Lex Bradley
Parish Assistant



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.
- 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 David Burbidge 862139.
- 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 and Sunday School

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, (St Peter's)

Key Church contacts:

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

Fr. Tim Pilkington, 01442 879739, (day off Friday), Team Rector, St Peter's.

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

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

This Month's Diary

Your Berkhamsted May 2016 edition

Events at St Peter's Church or the Court House, Berkhamsted, presented by The Cow-per Society supported by the Friends of St Peter's

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

Sat 14th May 9.00am – 5.00pm: BERKHAMSTED FESTIVAL OF MUSIC in St Peter's Church. Classes for strings, piano, voice. Apply www.berkhamstedfestivalofmusic.co.uk

Sat 14th May 7.30pm: BERKHAMSTED FESTIVAL OF MUSIC in St Peter's Church. Chamber Music CONCERT. Tickets £15 www.berkhamstedfestivalofmusic.co.uk

Sat 21st May 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

St Peter's - May

Baptisms

10th April Montgomery Nicolas Joseph BRIGNALL

24th April Sophia Elizabeth Anne ROLLINGS, Oliver Michael AUSTIN-WARD,
Joseph Paul George FOX, Samuel John FOX

Weddings

17th April Duncan Malcolm Richardson and Helen Ann Little

Funerals

6th April Patricia Lidden

7th April Beryl Smith

All Saints – May

1st: Sixth Sunday of Easter, 10am Morning Worship, Richard Hackworth

5th: Ascension Day (Thursday), 8pm Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

8th: Seventh Sunday of Easter, 8am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

10am Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

15th: Pentecost, 10am All Age Holy Communion, Revd Rachael Hawkins

4pm Messy Church, Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Group

22nd: Trinity Sunday, 10am Holy Communion, Revd John Kirkby

4pm Healing Service, Revd Rachael Hawkins, Jenny Wells, Audrey Cox and Tracy Robinson

29th: First Sunday after Trinity, Morning Worship, Stephen Fletcher & Malcolm Lindo

Funeral

1 April Erica Mohr

Further information available from our church websites:

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

News from the Hospice of St Francis



May 2016

As the blossom opens and the Bluebells appear, Spring is definitely in the air and we have a host of outdoor activities planned to help raise the £4.8m we need every year to transform the quality of life for people living with life-limiting illnesses across Herts and Bucks and provide support for those close to them. Here's a taster!



Garden Party at Ashridge House – Sunday 22nd May 1-5pm

Our annual Garden Party in the stunning grounds of Ashridge House is just a few weeks away, kindly sponsored by Home and Abroad Rentals. Bring the family and join us for cream teas and Pimms on the lawn before browsing the stalls, enjoying hot and cold lunches, live jazz, children's entertainment and a shopping village. Advance tickets available now from our shops, priced £5, or £6 on the day. Children under 16 enter FREE!

Forget-Me-Not-Garden

We'll be opening our new Forget-Me-Not Garden in May and there are just a few weeks left to reserve your special Forget-Me-Not flower to remember a loved one in a unique way.

Priced £25 each, anyone is welcome to buy a flower - with or without a connection to the Hospice - and 1,500 beautiful handcrafted Forget-Me-Nots, produced by the team who brought a sea of poppies to the Tower of London, will be on display from mid-May to mid-June.

Reserve your Forget-Me-Not online www.stfrancis.org.uk/forgetmenot.

Join our 10th anniversary Midnight Walk!

Snap up Early Bird registration to celebrate 10 years of night-time walking for hospice care on Saturday 25th June, from 10pm at Hemel Hempstead School!

Get your friends and family together, party along our 5 or 10-mile route and experience our new neon UV pods and extra-special reflective zone. Whether you're walking for fun, fitness or in memory of a loved one, we promise a night to remember! Early Bird prices are £15 for adults and £10 for 11-18's, just visit: www.stfrancis.org.uk/midnightwalk



National Volunteers' Week – 31st May-6th June

We'll be saying a big thank you to our 1,000-plus volunteers during National Volunteers' Week, giving them certificates and badges for long service to the Hospice. We're currently looking for morning volunteers to support patients staying in our beds, Monday eBay packers, people to help at our summer events and both weekday/weekend volunteers for our three Berkhamsted shops. Call Gillian Austin to find out more - 01442 869550.

Markyate Plant Sale

The 19th annual Markyate Plant Sale in aid of the Hospice opens at 10am on Saturday 21st May in the gardens of 64 High Street, Markyate. A selection of colourful bedding plants, perennials, herbs, vegetables and hanging baskets will be on sale plus teas, lunches, music and entertainment!

To pre-order a hanging basket or container, call Ian Bradley before 10th May on 01582 943133 or email him at ie.bradley@talktalk.net

Art for Wellbeing

We continue to use creative therapies to promote patient wellbeing and widen access to the therapeutic power of the arts for everyone in our local community. Every first Monday of the month, we host an Open Studios afternoon (open to all) at our Spring Centre, focusing on a different art task each month, alongside a visit from a local artist.

We've just completed our inaugural Art Bag Project, a collaborative initiative with Peace Hospice Care and Macmillan, inviting the public to take a moment out of their day to complete a simple weaving project, the results of which will be displayed at Watford Museum (WD17 2DT) throughout May and June.

We also run one-to-one and group art psychotherapy sessions for patients, carers, and people who have been bereaved, supporting them to use artwork to explore and process difficult emotions. For more information, please call the Spring Centre team on 01442 869550.

Designer Sale at Returned to Glory

Home enthusiasts should pop along to Returned to Glory, our pre-loved furniture showroom on the Northbridge Road in Berkhamsted for a Designer Weekend on Saturday 7/Sunday 8 May where there will be lots of upcycled pieces and designer soft furnishings available to buy.



Further details at: www.stfrancis.org.uk/events or call 01442 869555

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Hertfordshire Year of Walking is set to culminate in an exciting, quirky and diverse Walking Festival for the month of May, 2016! The county-wide festival will showcase the best that Hertfordshire has to offer from nature trails, singing jaunts, pub history walks and bird walks.

Welcome to our Walks & More programme. It lists a variety of outdoor activities aimed at inspiring you to explore the Hertfordshire countryside. Activities include walks, cycle rides and family events led by someone familiar with the area who can help you get the most out of your local countryside. It's the [Hertfordshire Year of Walking](http://www.hertslink.org/cms/getactive/walksandmore/), so what better time to explore you local countryside?

<http://www.hertslink.org/cms/getactive/walksandmore/>

Canal Consultation – Mooring Time Limits - Outcome

The South East visitor moorings consultation Jan & Feb 2016 was to consider shortening current mooring time limits of 14 days at Berkhamsted, Marsworth and Rickmansworth. Rickmansworth was withdrawn from the consultation by 6th January as some errors had been made by Canal & River Trust in the information provided.

To begin with, it seemed there was very little awareness that everyone from the remaining areas had the opportunity to put their views forward. A rather unfortunate article was then published by an Association which was partnering with Canal & River Trust, encouraging locals to support a 2 day only stay and making derogatory remarks about the boating community who have previously been able to stay on winter mooring permits from November – April and up to 14 day periods throughout the rest of the year.

This article whilst causing much upset, also led to just the awareness and consideration of the issue which prompted locals to support their boating community. Hundreds completed the survey in opposition to these changes which would have made the Town a no go zone for any boaters with commitments, such as work, not allowing them the luxury of being able to move every 2 days.

Everyone held their breath when the survey closed, Matthew Symonds - Strategy and Engagement Manager (Boating) confirmed that over 800 responses had been received to the survey, all of which would be considered.

The South East Boating Sub Group meeting took place the evening of Monday 21st March where the survey outcomes were discussed and a final decision was referred to the Local Waterways Manager Vicky Martin.

On Tuesday 5th April the results of the consultation were announced and the 14 day moorings remain in place, with just a few boat lengths reserved for a shopping stop directly outside Waitrose, during opening hours. Berkhamsted keeps its Boating Community, the Boating Community are overwhelmed by the support from the Town and as usual the full variety of Liveaboard boats, Private holidaying boats and Hire boats will all be sharing the space this summer (and fingers crossed forever more).

The Boating Community and its supporters would like to be more proactive in keeping everyone informed about any issues which arise as well as engaging with local initiatives and good causes so suggestions are welcome and we are more than happy to answer any queries. We even have a Berkhamsted Boating Community Face Book Page now, which you are welcome to join.

Thank You for taking the time to read this article and to the editor for publishing. Would be delighted to share more about boating life with you, when getting a feel for what is of particular interest.

Samantha Elgar

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Your Charities

Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month



Ruby is a collie cross whippet and is less than one year old. If you look very carefully at her photo you will see that she has only three legs. One of her hind legs was removed due to an injury but she copes brilliantly and it really doesn't hold her back! She is a real little bundle of joy, bright and affectionate. Ruby cannot live in Milton Keynes.

If you could offer Ruby or any of our other dogs a loving and secure home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or give us a call. Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming adult dogs to families with children under seven years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website or please contact the kennels.

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming

Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY 01525 220383

e-mail: appleown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

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OXFAM AND THE ROYAL VISIT

The Oxfam Berkhamsted Books and Music shop will feature a special display of books on a royal theme to coincide with the Queen's visit to Berkhamsted to mark the 475th anniversary of Berkhamsted School on May 6th. Books about the school will also be available.

Students from the school regularly volunteer at the shop as part of their sixth form community service programme.



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Book Review

The 21st Century Revolution - A Call to Greatness

by Bruce Nixon

In all honesty, I picked up this book with a little trepidation in respect to the impending seriousness of its political content, but was delighted and immediately gripped by the opening statement made by the nameless sixth form pupil “It’s OK for you. We and our children will have to face your generation’s irresponsibility way beyond 2050.” And this is what Bruce Nixon used as his starting point.

This book delves into the various ways that our current leaders may be letting us down, and how we are allowing ourselves to be conned by both politicians and media alike; and quotes George Orwell “Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable”.

It is suggested that in the current climate society is hit hard by austerity and neoliberalism. Mental health care is underfunded, as is health care, the arts, schools, hospitals and more. As a nation we are cutting on welfare and adding more tax - does that really put us in economic recovery? particularly when there is such economic inequality?

Mr Nixon also tells us about our environmental failings. Our planet as a whole is facing extinction, we are told; and we are contributing to this ourselves by ‘heating up and destroying our habitat’ We exploit our beautiful planet instead of living in harmony with it. As a race we are very good at placing the blame elsewhere, but in reality, we have to accept responsibility ourselves.

Mr Nixon does indeed paint a fairly bleak picture initially, but what I particularly liked about this book, is that he has a clear vision about how we can make things right.

Mr Nixon suggests that we need to introduce a different agenda. One based on generosity of spirit and respect of our planet’s resources as opposed to short term fixes. Indeed, Mr Nixon puts forward the need for systems thinking “an approach to problem solving in which problems are seen as parts of an overall system”. “We need to see the whole system, identify the fundamental issues, and create a coherent strategic vision”. It suggests the need for more early intervention of potential problems as opposed to locking the gates once the horse has bolted.

Book Review

The 21st Century Revolution - A Call to Greatness by Bruce Nixon cont....

It seems that Mr Nixon is aiming for a holistic approach to leadership, taking advice from all relevant bodies; the possibility of great leadership from women; and leaders with such revered stature as Churchill. Personally, I couldn't agree more, particularly when faced with the terrifying prospect of Donald Trump coming into power.

Mr Nixon's ideology certainly hits a chord with a layperson like myself, although I fear there will be a fine line as to whether all will comprehend it. For every person who wants to plant a tree, there is another, without conscience who wants to cut it down.

Are we too far entrenched in the Jeremy Kyle viewing, calorie consuming, sofa sitting lifestyle to want to make a difference? Do we want to get off our collective backsides to help the revolution, or do we still want to be told what to do, only to then complain about it anyway? Can our next generation show the strength of spirit to turn things around or are we our own worst enemy?

In summary, I found Mr Nixon's style of writing easy to read. The book

flows well and raises some very interesting and relatable points, all written in plain English. His concepts are well defined, and the language he uses is clear and convincing with well developed ideas. The book allows the reader to think about the possibility of long term, sustainable options to make our world a better place, and I would finally, also like to quote Nelson Mandela "It always seems impossible until it is done"



Review by Sherry Hostler

Your Garden

Adventures in Boots-by Helen Reeley

The National Garden Scheme

www.ngs.org.uk is a charity that raises funds for beneficiaries connected with care & nursing charities. In the last ten years, among others, Macmillan, Marie Curie, Perennial & (for 2016) Horatio's Garden have received £23 million in donations which makes the NGS the largest cumulative donor in the history of these charities.

At the weekend I visited Ulting Wick a garden in Essex owned by Philippa Burrough which was open as part of the NGS 2016 programme. Philippa is renowned for her tulips-quite

simply they are breathtaking. Despite the cold the tulips put on a brave display, some of them kept their petals closed but nonetheless were still standing tall & proud. There were formal arrangements in blocks of colours in the parterre gardens & groups of blooms in the less formal parts of the gardens around the river banks. The river bank plantings were neatly protected with stakes & chicken wire as the garden is subject to invasions of Muntjac deer & rabbits.

The whole eleven-acre space is designed around three huge listed black Essex barns which provide really creative props for all the planting in the gardens. One of the barns acts as a tea

room but there are other outdoor areas where you can sit with refreshments.

Large, graceful weeping willows line the pond & there is wild flower meadow which no doubt adds much interest later in the season.

After the tulips have finished Philippa replants the parterre beds &

borders with a magnificent display of Dahlias, bananas, Cosmos, sun-flowers & other annuals ornamental grasses.

I had a chat with Philippa whilst I was there & she

mentioned how concerned she was with the tulip viruses so prevalent these days due to the winters being warmer. To be honest my untrained eye didn't notice any imperfections in the plants but I can understand how frustrating it must be for a specialist like Philippa to see impurities in her carefully chosen planting designs.

September is also a good month to visit- all the late summer flowers will be out in full bloom. Two NGS days have been set aside that month, the 11th & the 16th & it's less than an hour's drive early on a Sunday morning from Berkhamsted.

TTFN, more next month-Helen
helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk



Your Sports

Matthew Dawson

Interview with Wasps Academy player

James Haskell, Joe Launchbury and Elliot Daly are three current England internationals that have all rose up from the Wasps Academy to become established names in rugby. However one of Wasps current young talents Conor Dolan, who I used to go to school with, is one of the latest in line to look out for as potentially mirroring the success of the aforementioned figures.

For the Wasps centre though, it hasn't all been as straight forward as simply walking into the first team, as he looks to make his way in the game at the tender age of 19. It's been a period of struggle for Dolan, who has had a tough season just as he hoped to impress and really push on into the senior side.

After moving on loan to Blackheath Rugby Club at the start of the season he fell ill straight after his debut with glandular fever, and then suffered from tonsillitis so missed the opening months of the campaign. "I lost a lot of weight and all my fitness so couldn't play any rugby for three months," he said, before explaining that it's put him "really far behind" in his development.

Add that setback to a mixture of injuries and it has been a season which the centre described as "pretty horrendous" after only playing around 12 games this season.

Despite that Dolan is in good spirits about his future "I've got another year at Wasps so I'd like to push for the first team a little bit more and try and get off the bench."

He's a player that has featured often among senior figures in rugby sevens, but is yet to make his debut for the first team. However he has been lucky enough to be named as a substitute for the senior side, which happened for the first time back in November 2014 when Wasps took on Sale in the LV Cup shortly after he turned 18.

It's that same competition which the former Harlequins player has targeted as one he could make his breakthrough in, describing one of his aims as to "get a few starts in the LV Cup in the year coming up, and hopefully get a contract again with Wasps." With a potential new contract then, and increased exposure to the senior side, Dolan wants to begin to really establish himself as a good Premiership player, "that's the main goal," he said.

Dolan, who is previously capped at Under 18 level for England, spent a lot of time over pre-season training with the first team and it's the attributes gained from that which he hopes will be able to drive him on. "Training with the first team gets you used to that whole professional environment, especially when you're learning from England boys like Joe Launchbury."

It's those capped at international level then that really serve as inspiration for Dolan who hopes to emulate their success in the game.

His experiences of being involved with the senior side have been a massive challenge for him "it's completely different to the academy," he said, "There's so much

pressure and you get told off pretty badly if you make a mistake." However the mental gains from being around the more senior players have been invaluable for him, "I've become more mature a player and a person, on and off the field. You compare yourself to men rather than your own age group. "Rugby is a brutal game, not just when the tackles are flying in but for a young player trying to make a name for themselves, Dolan said that "It's every man for himself, that's a part of being professional."

"He's a young player who explained that rugby "was always going to be the pinnacle," so he certainly deserves his place in the academy, and is definitely one to watch out for in the future of English rugby.



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