

*the magazine for town and parish since 1872*

**YB**

Your Berkhamsted

March 2017

**Review of Berkeley Wine Bar**

**Interview with  
Olympian Louise Collins**

**Short Story by Sherry Parker**



**50p**

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

# In this issue...



**Welcome to the March 2017 edition of Your Berkhamsted.** This month we are delighted to welcome new faces to the Berkhamsted retail community. Ray and Julia Mead who hail from nearby Bovingdon are opening Halo Hearing Solutions at 3 Lower Kings Road (where Rumbles used to be). Their vision is to offer the highest standards of hearing care expertise to Berkhamsted. It is good to see a locally owned business offering something new. We wish them well (see page 13 for more details). There is also a review of Berkeley Wine Bar (originally the Berkeley Art Gallery and still an art gallery). A great place to meet friends – look out for their events! Also featured is Helen Reeley's visit to Sri Lanka part 2 on the Your Garden page. *Our what's on page shows events in March 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

editor@yourberkhamsted.org.uk

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**Front cover:** Thank you Mary Casserley for the wonderful picture of The Boat.

[www.marycasserley.com](http://www.marycasserley.com) Cards and prints are 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



Following my earlier article quoting [hellenicleague.co.uk](http://hellenicleague.co.uk), many of you will be wishing to know more about the Hellenic Football League. If you couldn't care less, look away now. It was actually established in 1953, its first champions being Didcot Town, and became part of the football league pyramid in 2004. So current champions Kidlington could theoretically work their way up the leagues providing their grounds meets certain criteria. [biggleswadetoday.co.uk](http://biggleswadetoday.co.uk) tells us about some rather more local football, feeling somewhat sympathetic to Berkhamsted's defeat against their local town which features a number of Spanish players apparently. Who'd have thought it? [stalbansreview.co.uk](http://stalbansreview.co.uk) tells us that this match was Steve Bateman's first game in charge of Berkhamsted. A baptism of fire it seems.

Sports fans stay with me, because [creweguardian.co.uk](http://creweguardian.co.uk) reports on school netball, celebrating the success of Grange School under 13s success against our very own Berkhamsted School in the prestigious national knockout. It was sweet revenge for them as Berkhamsted had beaten them in the equivalent fixture last year. Well done though on the achievements of 'our' girls.

OK non-sports fans, you can re-join us now for a spot of archaeology. [commons.wikimedia.org/](http://commons.wikimedia.org/), under the bonnet of Wikipedia if you will, has a somewhat arcane discussion on a copper-alloy

medieval seal matrix. These were anonymous seals apparently, and one has been found locally intriguingly known as BUC-D695D1. Perhaps our history correspondent could delve into this for us. Talking of which Jenny Sherwood is quoted in [berkhamstedtoday.co.uk](http://berkhamstedtoday.co.uk), where she is hopeful that at long last the town will get the museum it deserves providing an application to the Heritage National Lottery Fund meets with approval.

Keeping the history theme, if you are a fan of the Tring Natural History Museum you will be well aware of Lord Rothschild's zebra team. The first man to tame these animals for draught purposes. [berkhamsted-history.org.uk](http://berkhamsted-history.org.uk), the website of the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society, told us of a talk that was to explore the Rothschilds of Bucks and Herts, the former county becoming known as Rothschildshire.

If you are on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com) do take a look at the wonderful exploits of our own Kieran Sandwell, featured previously in this column. He is embarking on a 5,000 mile coastal walk to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. Kieran had donated his own heart to BHF-funded research following his transplant. He aims to raise an astonishing £100,000.

This month's blog is [thameandareatransport.wordpress.com](http://thameandareatransport.wordpress.com), which will tell you

Cont on page 5

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everything you didn't want to know about our local transport network. Route 500 aficionados won't need telling about the Arriva the Shires double-decker service that follows the old A41 from Aylesbury to Watford in a somewhat unattractive blue.

gifts-today.co.uk are in the Wilderness. The Wilderness near the Tesco's car park that is. This Churchgates enterprise is a leading business magazine for suppliers, retailers and buyers of gifts apparently. Thorntons chocolate was featured recently.

But I close with this month's guest featured website modbs.co.uk. The modern building services website reports warmly on Smith's Caspian low-level fan convectors providing the heating solution for the refurbished library of Ashlyns School. The heating is now more efficient, quicker and quieter complete with 'pencil-proof' grills. So no excuse not to do that extra bit of studying now.



Drawings of Berkhamsted by  
Jenni Cator, Art at 88,  
88 High Street,  
Berkhamsted, HP4 2BW Tel.  
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# What's on

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

\*\*\*\*\*

For events at Ashridge please visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge) or contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 [Ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk)

**Sat, 4<sup>th</sup> March @ 7.30 pm - Piano recital -**  
Riyad Nicholas is a young pianist who was born in Aleppo, Syria, but studied in London. He has already won several prizes. He will be playing music by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and others. Civic Centre. [www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk)  
Annual sub: £48; visitors £14 at the door, under 18 free. Tickets: 862798 or [kennedyn@btinternet.com](mailto:kennedyn@btinternet.com)

**Sun, 5<sup>th</sup> March @ 3.30 pm - Orchestral Concert** - To include Bizet "Suite l'Arlesienne", Dvorak "Czech Suite", Piano Concerto tba; conductor Thomas Loten, soloist Martin James Bartlett. Centenary Theatre. [www.dacorumso.org](http://www.dacorumso.org) 01494 727240 Tickets £12, concessions £10,

under 19 free. Season £36, concessions £30, DC. 01494 727240, Luminous & Vogue, 24 Lower Kings Rd.



**Lenten Taizé Service  
Sunday 5 March 2017  
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 Lent. Tea/coffee and cake to be served afterwards. All welcome

**Mon, 6<sup>th</sup> to Tues, 7<sup>th</sup> March @ 8 pm – Trumbo** - A thoroughly entertaining biopic of Oscar-winning screenwriter Dalton Trumbo, one of the "Hollywood Ten" blacklisted in 1947 for their political beliefs. Dir: Jay Roach/2015/USA/Cert 15/124min. Civic Centre. [www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk)  
Annual sub: joint £65, single £35, visitors £5 at door (no conc). 863155

**Weds, 8<sup>th</sup> March @ 8 pm** - Berkhamsted, Tring & Aylesbury: rival market towns Well-known Buckinghamshire historian Julian Hunt will compare the three towns. His talk will be preceded by the AGM. Town Hall. [www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk) Annual sub: joint £12, single £7, visitors £2.50 (no conc); DC. [KSherw9100@aol.com](mailto:KSherw9100@aol.com) 865158

**https://  
[www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/  
things-to-do/east/hertfordshire/  
berkhamsted](http://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/things-to-do/east/hertfordshire/berkhamsted)**

**Sat, 11<sup>th</sup> March @ 8 pm - Billy Thompson**

**Gypsy Jazz** - Billy Thompson (v), Karen Street (acc), Andy Mackenzie (g), Errol Jones (g) Greg Robley (b). Civic Centre.

[www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk)

Visitors £13, members £10. Annual: couples £15, singles £10. DC. SAE to Berkhamsted Jazz,  
6 Longfield Gardens, Tring HP23 4DN.  
[bjazztickets@gmail.com](mailto:bjazztickets@gmail.com) 824173

**Tues, 14<sup>th</sup> March @ 8 pm - Over the**

**Himalayas to paint the Dalai Lama** - An illustrated talk about painting the Dalai Lama by Brigid Marlin. Civic Centre.  
[www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk) Subs £20, visitors £3 on the door, no DC

**Thurs, 16<sup>th</sup> March @ 8 pm - AGM, Environment Award & Surprise Speaker**

The Citizens Association makes its annual presentations for contributions to Berkhamsted's built environment, after a short AGM and before a talk. Town Hall.  
[www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk](http://www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk)  
£5 (your entrance fee will also entitle you to a year's membership). Entrance free to members

**Mon, 20<sup>th</sup> to Tues, 21<sup>st</sup> March @ 8 pm –**

**Julieta** - Almodovar returns to his great subject, the interior lives of women. Julieta explains to her daughter the secrets she's kept over 30 years.  
Dir: Pedro Almodovar/2016/Spain/Cert 15/99min/Subtitles. Civic Centre.

**Berkhamsted Parochial Charities** encompass several smaller non-ecclesiastical charities which provide limited financial help for the benefit of Berkhamsted residents and the community. If you know of anyone or an organisation that could benefit from these charities or you need further information, please contact: The Clerk of the Trustees of Berkhamsted Parochial Charities, Michael Robinson tel: 01442 863559 or e-mail [michaelrobinson95@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelrobinson95@hotmail.com).

**Wed, March 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 8pm:**

**BERKHAMSTED LIVE** with award-winning artists ZOË THORNBURY-PHILLIPS and CHRISTINE ROLLITT demonstrating face & body painting and mixed media & stitch; music from gifted indie/folk duo TINLIN; local journalist DAVID GUEST with his debut novel, *A Pressure of the Hand*. Kings Arms, Berkhamsted, HP43HL £5.00/£3.00 supporting Pepper Nurses. Book at [lstate@btinternet.com](mailto:lstate@btinternet.com)

**Mon, 27<sup>th</sup> March - Hoards: Hidden**

**History** - Dr Eleanor Ghey, Research Assistant, Portable Antiquities Scheme, The British Museum. **Music** Room, B'sted School.

[www.berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedarchaeology.co.uk)

Annual sub £15, Family £17.50, junior £5. Members £1, visitors £3, DC. 254801

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[www.courttheatre.co.uk](http://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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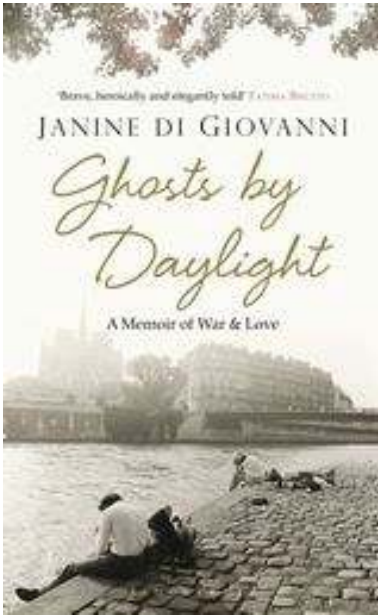
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## Book Review

by Julian Dawson



### Ghosts By Daylight: A Memoir of War and Love Janine di Giovanni

Janine di Giovanni, one time senior foreign correspondent for the *Times* has written a searing memoir of love war and redemption, much of it built around the siege of Sarajevo, the longest siege in the history of modern warfare and perhaps largely forgotten now amidst our current travails. She meets there the flirtatious Mr Girodon, a cameraman for French TV. They fall in love, but only meet irregularly in intense brief encounters. He leaves to be alone in another war zone largely forgotten, only to reappear by chance in Mogadishu, Grozny, Jalalabad. Until over a satellite phone from the killing fields of Kigali he says "Let's have a baby", "Let's get married."

And out of this domesticity their past catches up with them. The fears and dangers, what they have witnessed, all that they had repressed so that they could do their job; "a good journalist doesn't get killed, otherwise how will we read their story". Janine's childbirth reanimates the fears within her, now that she has a child to protect. Settled in Paris she stores provisions and prepares for an escape as if the city might become like Sarajevo too and suffer. Meanwhile Girodon takes to drink to escape his own ghosts; what really happen in Cote D'Ivoire? He gradually becomes more depressed. Despite their love for one another ultimately they cannot be together.

A difficult book yes, and at times depressing, though ultimately hopeful. Towards the end of the book Janine returns to her beloved Sarajevo and relives the siege in the old haunts. If nothing else this book shows that the war correspondent is our conscience. Retelling the very human tales that arise from the failures of politicians and the inexorable drive of nationalism and tribalism.

**Don't forget it  
is Mother's  
Day - on 26th  
March!**





## Berkhamsted Museum and History Society

### PILKINGTON MANOR REMEMBERED

Many newcomers to Berkhamsted may wonder why Manor Street is so-called, and if they are observant may notice that some comparatively new flats have above the main entrance the title Pilkington Manor. Was there a link between the two?

Pilkington Manor is first mentioned in seventeenth century documents. It was not an ancient manor in the normal sense, which is explained in the Norden and Salter's survey of 1616, which refers to several 'ancient capitall messuages, which were conceived by some of the owners thereof to be manors and to have divers quit rents belonging to them'.

Agreement could be made with the Lord of the Manor of Berkhamsted for further payment or services instead of rents, hence the term 'quit rent'. Such manors within the Manor of Berkhamsted were the Rectory of Northchurch and three capitall messuages, Campions, in the south end of Berkhamsted St. Peter's in the tenure of James Mayne, Pilkington in the tenure of Francis Barker and Combes in the tenure of William Hodson, all property 'lyeing within the several manors of the Burrough and Hallimote.'

Additionally we learn from the survey that 'Francis Barker gentleman likewise holdeth to him and his heirs by tenure and service aforesaid One antient capital Messuage or Mansion house called Pilkington's in Berkhamsted St. Peter's wherein the said Francis now inhabiteth

together with the courtyard and all other Yards, gardens, orchards and Pound Yard thereunto adjoining or belonging. The Quit rent per annum is 1s 4d.' Francis Barker became chief burgess in 1628 under James I's Charter and his two sons became bailiff in 1646 and 1647 respectively.

What is the origin of the name Pilkington?

The name 'Pilkington is thought to have come from John Pilkington who was appointed Constable of the Castle in 1461. On 7<sup>th</sup> July 1461 'John Pilkington Esq. Of our body was appointed for life the Parker of the King's Park at Berkhamsted, County of Hertfordshire and Constable of the Castle'. By 1461 it is probable the Castle was already in a poor state of repair and it is possible the King granted Pilkington some land near Castle Street where he could build a house or purchase one that already existed.

When the house was demolished in 1959 and the site was being developed archaeological investigation revealed material as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century and 16<sup>th</sup> century ashlar and worked stone, which was thought to have come from the Castle. From observation it was clear that the Pilkington Manor demolished in 1959 was an 18<sup>th</sup> century building replacing the original Pilkington Manor House.

The Manor was situated too close to the town centre to compete in prestige terms with the fine houses elsewhere on the slopes of the valley. The estate was, however, extensive. It stretched from Castle Street to Ravens Lane, fronting the High Street and from the High Street as far as White Hill. It was also sufficiently important for a vault and a pew to be reserved

for the incumbent of the Manor House, by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The first occupant of the Manor of any particular note was Joseph Kirkman the Elder of the parish of St. Giles in the Fields in the County of Middlesex, brewer. In his will he bequeathed to his wife, Mary 'all that freehold Messuage or dwelling known by the name Pilkington and all my estate and lands thereunto belonging....' For use in her lifetime. At her death the

property was to pass to her son. It appears that Joseph used Pilkington Manor as a country estate and that he spent most of his time in London while his

wife lived in Berkhamsted. Nevertheless it was in Berkhamsted in the Pilkington Vault in St. Peters, beneath St Catherine's Chapel that Joseph Kirkman of St Giles in the Fields, brewer, in 1803, was buried.

After the Kirkmans the ownership of the Pilkington Estate passed to Charles Gordon who is reputed to have made his fortune in Jamaica, where he had a sugar plantation, probably manned by slaves. The plaque on the south side of the chancel states 'Charles Gordon 1829 of Braco Island of Jamaica and of this place.' R.A. Norris 'comment in his book on St. Peter's denotes him as the 'last owner of the Manor House otherwise Pilkington's before the property was broken up.'

Charles Gordon's eldest son, also Charles, had six children, and detailed financial arrangements were made to meet the provision of his will. As part of this, property was sold to provide annuities, including the sale of the Pilkington Estate in 1852 for £3,250 (£3,200 for the freehold and £50 for the copyhold strip of land in front of the Mansion. The purchaser was Frederick Miller, upholsterer of Berkhamsted St. Peter's. The sale comprised 'all

that capitall messuage Manor House or tenement called Pilkington with coach houses dove houses buildings gardens and fish ponds in the town of Berkhamsted St. Peter abutting on the piece of copyhold



ground adjoining the High Street on the SW and on Castle Street on the NW together with several pieces of meadow and pasture belonging thereto.'

Shortly afterwards the break up of the estate began when in 1853 Frederick Miller sold meadow land in Ravens Lane to William Cooper for £140 so that Cooper could build his first factory to produce sheep dip. How cottages were built for the Congregational Church, Manor Croft was built close to the fishpond further down what was to become Manor Street, and how the entire estate was to be broken up must be considered in further articles on Pilkington Manor.

Jenny Sherwood

## HEMEL HEMPSTEAD SEVENTY YEARS YOUNG

*Hemel Hempstead* – In 1947, Hemel Hempstead was identified as a Mark One New Town, earmarked for expansion, with inspired designs by Geoffrey Jellicoe – providing much needed homes and jobs for Londoners from slum housing or for those whose homes had been bombed during the Second World War. As the town celebrates its platinum anniversary, the Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors are looking ahead to the future.

The aim of the Business Ambassadors is clear. Promote Hemel Hempstead and the surrounding areas, strengthen the reputation of the area as the prime choice for business, attract key people to work and live in the area, create new jobs, attract top talent and persuade investors and developers to see the area as the perfect place to invest.

Inward investment to the area is already high, driven in part by an ambitious regeneration programme by the local authority, Dacorum Borough Council. The aims of this are clear: to facilitate the regeneration of the town centre over the next 10 years through phased



redevelopment of key sites to strengthen and diversify the town centre economy and create a quality environment that generates community pride.

However, the regeneration project is not without its challenges, Gary Stringer, Ambassador Place Manager recognises: "There is still much to do in changing local perceptions and raising aspirations for the future of the town, which is why the Business Ambassadors are so central to this project. But with over 50 local businesses signing on and pledging their commitment to raising the profile of the area, we're firmly established in promoting Hemel Hempstead and the opportunities it offers businesses, developers and institutions."

The Business Ambassadors include many high profile companies including Sopra Steria, Henkel, Hightown Housing Association, Barclays, RBS, Gyron, Bourne Leisure and McDonalds to name just a few.

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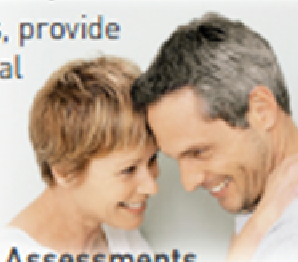
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12 High Street  
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WD4 8BH

## Short Story/Poem

### AS TIME GOES BY

An assortment of outfits lay strewn across the bed as Lorraine deliberated over which to wear. It was pointless asking for Richard's opinion. He found it almost too hard to raise his eyes from the TV set these days, as he sat slumped in an armchair, can of beer in one hand, remote control in the other.

Ever since her husband had been made redundant six months before, he had become morose and sullen, taking the blow as if it were a personal dig at him. Instead of getting out of the house and trying to find work, he had become a couch potato. A miserable, beer swilling, unshaven layabout.

Of course Lorraine had tried everything she could to bring Richard back to his feet, but all to no avail. It seemed to her that the wonderful man that she had married over twenty two years ago had been swallowed up by this stranger who sat constantly in the same position in the lounge, day in and day out.

With a sigh, she chose the emerald green dress which brought out the colour in her eyes, or so Richard used to tell her. She struggled briefly with the zipper, and once in place, looked at herself in the mirror.

Not quite the figure I used to have in my twenties, she thought, but still at fifty two that's nothing to be ashamed of.

Carefully, she applied her make-up, all the time wondering what point there was in staying with Richard. Yes, she supposed she still loved him; well, the ghost of him anyway, but was that enough?

Face done and hair finally styled the way that her husband used to like it, she slipped into her heeled black shoes and fastened a gold chain around her neck. Her twentieth anniversary present from Richard. He used to care then.

With a heavy heart, Lorraine left the sanctity of the bedroom to tell Richard that she was about to go. There he was, as usual, slouched in the armchair, beer can in hand, watching the evening news.

"I'll be off soon" she ventured. "As soon as Christine toots her horn." His gaze didn't waver from the lighted screen. "Are you sure you don't mind me having a night out with the girls love?" She tried her hardest to coax an answer from him.

"No, no of course not." Richard muttered more to himself than anyone else.

A noisy slurp from his can, "Fine."



From outside came the tinny rasp of a car horn. Lorraine picked up her purse and made for the door. Turning back, she could have sworn that she saw a lone tear rolling down Richard's cheek before being angrily wiped away. He must know that he was losing her. That much was certain. It was a shame that he refused to do anything about it. Not bothering say goodbye, she closed the front door behind her. She could live without him. She had done fine before he came along and she could do just as well now...she hoped.

Decision made, she fought desperately to hold back her tears as she climbed into the front seat of her friend's car, and she forced a bright smile on her face so that she wouldn't have to explain herself to the other three women all looking forward to a night out on the tiles.

By the time the four of them arrived at the cocktail bar the place was already filling up with a fine assortment of people. They managed to find a small table against a wall and seated themselves around it, just before the house band started their first number.

Lorraine tried her hardest to contribute to the conversation. Talk of husbands, children, decorating, all the subjects that she was familiar with, but least wanted to discuss. She found her thoughts drifting away. She still heard the dulled hubbub of

conversation, but it sounded as though it was coming from another world.

In her mind she could see Richard's face as it was all those years ago, on their wedding day. Eager, joyful and full of life. She could envisage him at the birth of their beautiful baby girl, so adoring, caring and protecting. She pictured him breezing in through their front door after work, always a smile on his face no matter how awful his day had been.

Finally she pictured him as he was when she left the house earlier that evening. Unshaven, sweaty, lazy, mean. She felt tears prick at her eyes once more, so she dragged herself back into the meaningless conversation continuing around her.

Her friends were now pointing out various attractive men to each other, and saying "Oooh, if only I weren't married!". The way things were going, thought Lorraine, I soon wont be. She couldn't help that notice though that every man they pointed out already had a woman holding on to their arm. She supposed she would have to start looking for someone else too. The thought filled her with fear, and why bother anyway, as no-one could replace the man she had married, and too many were the same as the man she was about to leave.

Cont page 16

"Courtesy of the man in the blue suit standing at the end of the bar." He informed her gleefully.

Her friends all oohed and ached and stretched their necks out in an effort to see Lorraine's romantic admirer.

"Can't see anyone Lorraine. He must of gotten embarrassed and left" stated Christine. "Oh what a shame."

"Won't Richard be jealous!" they scandalised. "A secret admirer!"

Lorraine pressed the small petals to her nose and breathed in their scent, before turning towards the bar. Her friends were right. There was absolutely no-one in a blue suit.

Wait a minute though, she caught a glimpse of a smoky blue colour behind a young man who stood at the bar with his friends. As he moved away a fraction, she saw him, her admirer, and her heart caught in her throat. He was well dressed with slicked back hair, clean shaven with the most wonderful smile, and to top it off, he didn't have his wife hanging on his arm like all the other men in the bar.

He met her gaze and rose from his stool. He walked several paces towards her, but stopped as he must have noticed the uncertain look on her face. Lorraine had forgotten what it was like to be admired, and a deep blush filled her cheeks.

Hesitancy forgotten, the man continued to cross the crowded floor, and upon reaching Lorraine he asked politely if he would care to dance with him. Her friends all eagerly answered for her "Yes! Yes! She'd love to" and pushed her to her feet. Lorraine was too surprised to protest.

They danced without speaking, and he held her tightly in his arms as though he never wanted to let her go again. When the song ended Lorraine looked into his eyes, smiled and said "Welcome back Richard. I missed you so much."

Sherry Parker

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!"

## Your Berkhamsted Clergy

As I write this there is a week and a half before lent begins, those 40 days before Easter that are often used as a time of fasting or reflection. In the past, I have always been quite bad at thinking about lent in time and usually end up reflecting on what to give up or take on at about midday on Ash Wednesday, probably having already given in to all of my vices at least once! So, this year I am determined to put some thought into lent before it actually begins.

You may never have observed lent before or thought of it simply as time when people abstain from chocolate in order to fully appreciate their Easter indulgence. However, it doesn't just have to be a time of giving up a bad habit, food or drink that we enjoy a little too much. It can also be a time when people take something extra on, many partaking in acts of kindness for 40 days. Trying to make the world that little bit kinder and better surely can't be a bad thing at the moment.

The thing, however, that I think Lent gives us the best opportunity for, is a time to take stock of our lives again; reflecting on what works, and what doesn't, what do we wish to keep and what could do with being given up. The promise of spring is just around the corner; those evenings are just

starting to get a little longer, and new life is on the horizon. So this time of lent could be a time when we too usher in something new in our lives.

At St Peter's we have started a new initiative with our third Sunday all age service moving to a new time and format. We meet at 4pm every third Sunday and now share food together at the end of our short, child friendly service. It is still in the early stages and is evolving, but we are using this time to reflect on what works and what doesn't. Perhaps your Lenten observance could be to join us in March.

There will be plenty of things happening elsewhere at St Peter's throughout the lead up to Easter; from lent talks, to many very special services during Holy Week- there really will be something for all the family. We hope to see you there.

Lex  
Parish Assistant



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## Regular Church Activities

- 3rd Mon Pastoral Network, 7:45pm, The Court House. Contact Philippa Seldon 871534.
- 1st Tues Tuesday Club, 7:30pm A lively women's group with guest speaker. The Court House. Contact Rosslyn Laidler: tel 01442 879992
- Tues Chuckles Parent & Toddler Group, 10–11:30am. All Saints' Church Hall. Song Time or short service as announced. Contact Kate Spall 873470 .
- 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. 120 Valley Road. Tell us if anyone needs your prayers. Contact Margaret Burbidge 862139
- 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. Carolynne Charman 869003

## 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)

Evening Prayer Monday – Friday 5.00pm – Saturday 6:00pm (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.

Simon Vivian, Assistant Curate

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

# This Month's Diary

## Your Berkhamsted March 2017 edition

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

Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 7.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Bridgewater Sinfonia, Director Adrian Davis. Beethoven Overture: Egmont; Beethoven Symphony No 7, Brahms Piano Concerto No 2, soloist Dinara Klinton. Tickets: [www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk](http://www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk) £15 in advance or £16 on the door. U18s free. Aitchison's High St; 873205.

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Mar 8.00pm: TALK in the Court House. Cowper Society Winter Talk 3 – Adrian Davis, Director of Music, St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted. 'Getting a handle on Handel'. Free Entry. Retiring Collection.

Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Apr 6.30pm: CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Chiltern Chamber Choir with Bridgewater Sinfonietta (Leader Philip Aird) and Tenor (Evangelist) Phillip Conway-Brown, Bass (Christus) Stewart Kempster, Soprano Kathryn Jenkin, Alto Jeanette Ager, Tenor Harry Bagnall, Bass Christopher Foster. Director Adrian Davis. Tickets in advance £15, £13 seniors, U18s free from Brown & Merry, 124 High St, Berkhamsted or [www.chilternchamberchoir.com](http://www.chilternchamberchoir.com); or on the door £16 & £14, U18s free

### St Peters

Baptisms - None

Weddings - None

### Funerals

16<sup>th</sup> January Hilda Margaret Dell

26<sup>th</sup> January Dorothy Jean Watson

### All Saints

**1st** Ash Wednesday

12.30 am Simple service of Holy Communion within the Day of Prayer - Revd Rachael Hawkins

**5th** First Sunday of Lent

10am Morning Worship - Revd Rachael Hawkins

**12th** Second Sunday of Lent

10am Holy Communion - Revd John Kirkby

4pm Messy Church - Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Team

**19th** Third Sunday of Lent

10am Morning Worship - Anthony Archer

4pm Healing Service - Revd Rachael Hawkins, Audrey Cox & Tracy Robinson

**26th** Mothering Sunday

10am All Age Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkins

### Further information available from our church websites:

[www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk) and [www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk](http://www.allsaintsberkhamsted.org.uk).



# News from the Hospice of St Francis



**March  
2017**

The Hospice  
of St Francis  
in Berkham-

sted is a charity that cares for people from across West Hertfordshire and the Chiltern area of Bucks with life-limiting illnesses and supports their loved ones. One of the patients we're helping at the moment is 88-year-old Kathy, who has a progressive lung condition which causes severe breathlessness.

Kathy, who has been married for 59 years to 91-year-old Fred, has had a short stay in one of our Hospice beds and has now gone to stay in a care home. She has been



supported at home by the Hospice for a while, particularly by Caroline in our Community Nursing team, coming to our Pulmonary Fibrosis Support Group, Knit & Natter, pilates and benefitting from relaxing reflexology. One of our carer support volunteers has also spent a few hours a week supporting Kathy at home so Fred can run errands.

Fred said some lovely words about the Hospice which we feel humbled to share – "I'm embarrassed by the number of

pairs of hands that have reached out to help me. I feel really held. You stand here for two minutes and someone says 'Can I help you?' and they mean it. What they've done for Kathy has been marvellous. There's so much love here - I'm just amazed. I always thought our hospitals were wonderful but this is quite different."

## **Film Forum**

Our Film Forum takes place on the first Wednesday of the month, showing a Hollywood blockbuster, thought-provoking art-house title, or cinema classic.

Anyone is welcome to come along to the viewing in The Spring Centre; you can see the year's programme of titles by visiting [stfrancis.org.uk/filmforum](http://stfrancis.org.uk/filmforum). Each month the film begins promptly at 7pm and a recommended donation of £5 for refreshments is suggested.

## **Make a Will Month**

If making a Will has been on your to-do list for a while, why not resolve to make yours during our dedicated Make a Will Month this March?

12 local solicitors will write a standard Will with no charge for their service, instead kindly asking you to make a donation that will go directly towards the work of the Hospice. For a list of participating solicitors, please visit [stfrancis.org.uk/maw](http://stfrancis.org.uk/maw)

There is no obligation to leave a gift to the Hospice in your Will, but if you decide to leave a legacy it will help fund future care for local people.

Last year, over 100 people made their Wills in March and donated their legal

fees to the Hospice, raising just over £16,000.



### Join the Bubble Rush!

Our Bubble Rush is back for 2017 and this year it's coming to Bucks too! It's bubbles of fun for all the family as you walk, dance or jog through masses of frothy bubbles on a 5 km course – all to raise money for our Hospice. (Last year's event raised a staggering £132k!)

Join us on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at Gade-bridge Park, Hemel Hempstead or on

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July at Lowndes Park, Chesham. Register now at [stfrancis.org.uk/bubblerush](http://stfrancis.org.uk/bubblerush)

### Other dates for your Diaries

**Berkhamsted Golf Day** – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Berkhamsted Golf Club. Join us on the fairway for a fun day followed by gala dinner and auction!

**The Markyate Plant Sale** – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May, from 10am. 64 High Street, Markyate, AL3 8HZ.

**The Hospice of St Francis Garden Party** at Ashridge House – Sun 11th June 1-5pm

**Dacorum Steam and Country Fayre** – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July, Green Croft Farm, Potten End, Near Hemel Hempstead.

Further details at: [www.stfrancis.org.uk/events](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/events) or call 01442 869555

**Facebook**/TheHospiceofStFrancis **Twitter**:hospicstfrancis



### Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

Handsome rottweiler Kayto was born in July 2015. This big, proud young man was a sad case of neglect when he came to us. He is doing well now and in spite of his start in life he is a very friendly dog. He will need owners with experience of his breed, who are committed to carrying on with his training and have the time to give him the exercise he needs. He may be able to live with another dogs pending introductions.

If you can offer Kayto or any of our other dogs a forever home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 am and 4 pm, or phone for more details. Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming 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: [appledown.kennels@btinternet.com](mailto:appledown.kennels@btinternet.com)

Website: [www.appledownrescue.co.uk](http://www.appledownrescue.co.uk)

**Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!**

The Hemel Hempstead Town Centre Masterplan 2011-2021 which was adopted in January 2013, provides a vision through to 2031 and will guide the town centre's regeneration over the next ten years. The extensive area of approximately 62.5 hectares (154.5 acres) has been broken down into six zones - as identified in the Masterplan – and each one is being regenerated in turn. The six zones include: The Old Town, Gade and the Marlowes, Jellicoe Water Gardens, the Hospital, Marlowes Shopping Centre, and the Plough – more fondly known as the Magic Roundabout.

Cllr Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council, reflects: "Hemel Hempstead's 70th 'new town' anniversary coincides with the start of a new chapter in our history. We're just completing our Hemel Evolution regeneration of Hemel Hempstead, which has transformed the town centre and taken it to the finals of the Great British High Street Awards 2016.

"Staying true to our roots, we're also fulfilling an ambitious £50 million programme to build 300 new homes by 2020. And as a newly designated Enterprise Zone, Maylands will continue to provide major employment opportunities for our residents as they have since the first factory was built there in 1950."

Investment and growth in the area has already been significant, with Capital & Regional acquiring Marlowes Shopping Centre, Edmunds Parade and Fareham House for a total of £53.8 million. Furthermore, there have been offers for land of over 600,000 square foot on Maylands,

while a planning application to regenerate the Bourne End Mills business area was granted during the latter part of 2016. Dacorum Borough Council is nearing completion of its £30 million investment project regenerating the town centre – including The Forum shared services hub, which opened on Monday 16 January 2017, Marlowes shopping area transformation and the Jellicoe Water Gardens restoration.

The regeneration and evolution of the town centre will emphasise its natural and cultural assets, and have a knock-on effect on the surrounding areas, all important to its history and rich heritage. Hemel Hempstead Town Centre will evolve into a vibrant place where people want to shop, work, live, learn and visit.

Cllr Williams continues: "Looking back over our New Town heritage shows us just how far we've come. The Forum opened just a few weeks ago, putting the public at the heart of council and voluntary services, and revolutionising the way we work. I'm confident that Hemel Hempstead is in the best possible position to welcome in the next 70 years, allowing the communities of Dacorum to thrive and prosper."

For further information, visit [www.hhba.work](http://www.hhba.work) or contact Gary Stringer, Ambassador Place Manager, on tel: 01442 228808.



Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors was formed to help shape and influence the place of Hemel Hempstead and the wider Dacorum Borough, with a view to attracting inward investment, business and visitors to create a more successful economy for the benefit of everyone.

The Borough of Dacorum is a local government district in Hertfordshire, that includes the towns of Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted, Tring and the western part of Kings Langley.

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# Your Garden

## Adventures in Boots by Helen Reeley

During the latter part of our travels around Sri Lanka in January we visited Geoffrey Bawa's garden 'Lunuganga' in Bentota. Mr Bawa was an (mostly) English educated Sri Lankan architect - the most



Geoffrey Bawa House Interior

famous architect in Sri Lanka, who died in 2003.

Born into a privileged family in 1919 he didn't really do very much according to my research & also according to the guide who showed us round his garden. It would appear he spent most of his life dilly-dallying around studying various subjects, traveling & planning to buy various villas in Europe. He eventually settled back in Sri Lanka & bought an abandoned rubber estate with a view to creating an



Geoffrey Bawa House Interior

Italianate tropical garden. His ideas never came to fruition due to lack of technical expertise - who would've known?

Eventually a magnificent garden was built and since Mr Bawa's death a group of people manage the gardens & the estate through a trust. It's open to the general public every day & the entrance price includes a guided tour.

Lunuganga estate & garden covers fifteen acres and sits on the bank of the Ded-duwa Lake. It was an abandoned jungle wilderness when Mr Bawa purchased the place but he soon set about building small houses surrounded by landscaped gardens. Rubber trees were cleared & vast swathes of lawn were installed. Stagnant ponds were drained & reshaped to grow beautiful pond lilies. The slight gradient of



Lunuganga afforded Mr Bawa the opportunity to create terraces in the gardens, each one having its own distinct style. The Red Terrace pictured here allowed a partial view down to the lake from one of the houses that now act as holiday lets.

I had a strange feeling I'd seen all this before. Which of course I had...the garden has been styled on an English

Cont page 27

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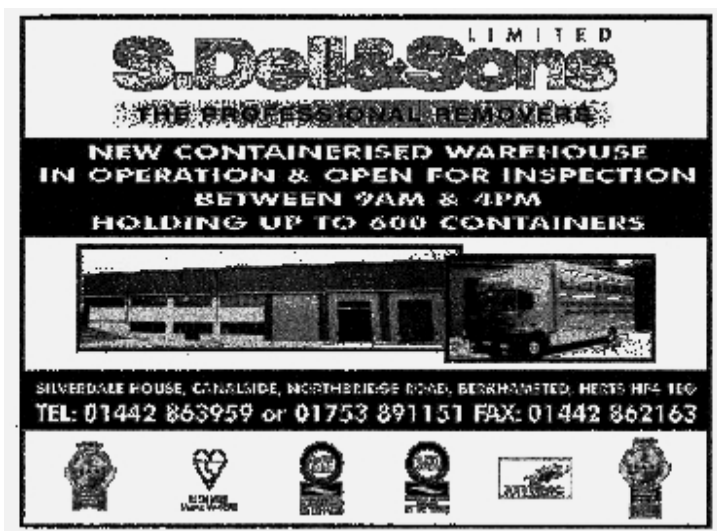
Landscape-I wonder which gardens had influenced him whilst he was studying in England before he finally settled back in Sri Lanka? Stowe maybe? Various pieces of garden paraphernalia were carefully placed around the garden to draw the eye to some view of this or that. In particular, I counted 18 magnificent antique chinese pots, very large & round shaped yet empty; the pots were beautiful enough to stand alone to be admired-no foliage required.

Our brief tour (alas we weren't allowed to wander without the guide on account of

the holiday lets) was supplemented with wildlife. A water monitor popped from under one of the pond bridges & scores of monkeys hacked through the trees on one of their daily forages. The morning was supposed to end with tea, which we had ordered in advance but like so many things in Sri Lanka, that was all a bit too difficult. Next time maybe...

TTFN do drop me a line with any garden design queries [helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk](mailto:helen@reeleylandscapes.co.uk)

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# Something New and Different in Berkhamsted

## A visit to the Berkeley Wine Bar and Gallery in Lower Kings Road

The Berkeley Art Gallery has been part of Berkhamsted for 20 years, displaying and selling a collection of limited edition prints to a widespread group of collectors. No more! A complete transformation has taken place. In place of the gallery is a very different type of wine bar, and, in place of the limited editions the walls of the wine bar are hung with impressive original works of art.

The result is the brain-child of Paul Rozelaar who had long dreamt of bringing wine and art to Berkhamsted in an original, rather theatrical way.

So, what is different about the Berkeley? Of course there is the artistic ambience.

But the star of the show is the wine and the way it is offered. Within the bar, after you have been welcomed and offered a plate of nibbles, you will be shown 4 cabinets on the walls, each containing 8 different bottles of wine. The wines embrace types to suit

all tastes and all pockets, and the exciting difference is that you can taste any or all of them.

The trick is in the modern and innovative method of dispensing the wine. You will have a pre-paid card that you insert into a slot above your chosen wine; you then decide whether you want to push the sampler button which will deliver you a very adequate

sampling mouthful for around a £1 or whether you will go straight for a full glass (either small or large). If you need advice on the

wines, Jamie, the sommelier is a mine of information.

Julian Dawson says *"I for one had a taste of a very attractive South African Bon Courage Gewurtzraminer; enjoyed a small glass of classically refined Babich Riesling with the tell tale petrol on the nose; and finished with a large glass of very reasonably priced Chilean Carmenere which completed the evening nicely"*.



For those who want to make an evening of it, food platters are available.



The Wine Bar opened in last October and Paul is the first to say that it has taken him a month or two to get it right; the original range of wines has been extended and now includes some very classy tastes; the lighting has been softened to suit the ambience, and the sommelier has been appointed.

We found it an excellent watering hole offering good value drinking whether you want to stick to the old favourites or to try some of the more eclectic offerings.

Further developments are planned. A membership club has started whereby members can obtain various benefits, a Business Partner scheme will allow local businesses to be associated and offer a variety of offers and discounts to members.

However, you do not need to be a member to drink ( and eat ) at the Berkeley , and we would strongly suggest that it is worth a try.

Hours:

Monday	11am–11pm
Tuesday	11am–11pm
Wednesday	11am–11pm
Thursday	11am–11pm
Friday	11am–12am
Saturday	11am–12am
Sunday	11am–11pm



Address: 41-43 Lower Kings Rd, Berkhamsted HP4 2AB

Phone: 01442 878300

[berkeley-galleries.com](http://berkeley-galleries.com)

## Your Sports by Matthew Dawson

### Interview with Olympian Louise Collins

Louise Collins, now a Berkhamsted resident and governor at Greenway School has an interesting story to share. During her career in athletics, she competed for Great Britain in the 200m at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. It was an experience that was an undoubted career highlight, and I was able to speak to her about those experiences of going to an Olympics.

Collins was one of the organisers for the Berkhamsted Games, which happened in 2012, but that was a far cry from the Olympics of 1988. Sport has always been in Collins' family, as her grandfather, Bobby Stuart, played football for Middlesbrough and England. He was once dubbed the fastest full-back in the country so it is clear to see where Collins got her speed from. Falling into athletics and sport in general didn't happen by mistake though, as she recalls something she wrote as a child, *"I found that my mum has an exercise book from when I was at school when I was probably about nine, where I've written 'when I grow up I am going to be in the Olympics,' but I can't think what really inspired me to say that. I feel as though I fell in love with it, it wasn't an accident,"* she said. Little did Collins know that when she wrote those words she would actually get to race at the Olympics.

Before the 1988 games though, she went to the European Athletics Junior Championships in Cottbus, in 1985, after impressing during events for her club in the North East where she grew up. It was a competition that proved to be the spring board as Collins went on to win a silver medal in the 200m. *"It really was magical, and it got me that year the British Sports Writers Junior Female Athlete of the Year which was a real accolade. It's one of the highlights of my career still,"* she said.

What Collins achieved back then came as a massive surprise, so much so that her family, who hadn't travelled out to watch her compete, thought she had finished seventh. *"I rang home to tell my folks how I'd done and leave a message with one of my brothers, a message which my parents just didn't believe. So for a couple of days everybody thought I'd made the final, and they were very proud of me, but they actually thought I was seventh, not second,"* Collins said.

Although that was a high, the weeks leading up to the 1988 Olympics were incredibly tough for Collins. She was lucky enough to be selected through the Great British trials, but during the holding camp in Japan before the trip to Seoul, she suffered from a bad wisdom tooth infection, and the painkillers she subsequently took made her



incredibly ill. It was hardly the ideal preparation, but the Games themselves were an incredible experience for Collins. *"I just found it the most amazing country. It was lovely, I loved the City, the people, and the atmosphere was very friendly. They really embraced having an Olympics there,"* she said. Collins made it into the second round in Seoul, before being knocked out. As a young athlete at the time, she hadn't expected to be among the medals. Instead Collins wanted to use it as a platform for greater things. *"I remember just trying to think that it would be the first of lots of Olympics for me, I tried to embrace absolutely as much as I could. My plan for Seoul was to gain experience from it, then for four years after that in Barcelona was to make a final and then four years after that, to get a medal,"* she recalls. Unfortunately for her, her career was cut short in 1992 through a cruel injury she sustained on a night out clubbing, something that was to ruin those plans for future Olympic campaigns. She described how a group of lads were chasing each other and used her to pivot round a corner.

They knocked her to the floor and in the process Collins ruptured ligaments in her ankle, *"That was just a freak accident,"* she says. However the injury was to put an end to her career just as it looked to be taking off. *"I would have probably tried even harder [in Seoul] if I knew it was going to be the only one I went to,"* Collins exclaimed. *"I had just come back from warm weather training and I'd been posting amazing times out there so I knew I was doing really well, but by the end of the season I just decided to stop and focus on my studies instead. I had surgery to try and shore it up, but it became evident to me that it just wasn't going to work,"* she said. Despite her career ending in injury, Collins has been able to use the experience she went through to give back to the sport and offer a helping hand based on attributes she gained during her career. She is now on the board of the Olympians Association, a voluntary organisation which does work to support transition for athletes moving away from their careers, something Collins didn't have the benefit of when she retired.

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