

the magazine for town and parish since 1872

yB

Your Berkhamsted

AUGUST 2017

Berkhamsted in the News

Donna Francis discusses pointy noses and jelly legs in the name of charity

Friends of St Peters secures 'Parks for People' lottery investment



**Celebrating Berkhamsted's Brian Bennett
Ashridge in Autumn - one of his 90
paintings being exhibited**

50p

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

In this issue...

Welcome to the August 2017 edition of Your Berkhamsted. School holidays have started and I am still including things to do with your family – most are local and definitely worth the visit. Donna Francis has written two articles for Your Berkhamsted, such as her challenging China Trek planned in September and also her role as a volunteer for rescue lurchers and greyhounds, which is very close to her heart. Please note places get filled up fast for the Heritage Open Days – the details and dates are featured on page 12. And last but not least, there is a celebration for Brian Bennett being 90 years young with an exhibition at Berkhamsted School – his is a wonderful life story through art and much more. I still would like to send a plea out - this magazine needs more volunteers – could this be you? Learn new skills and be part of a team - please contact me if you feel you could help. *Our what's on page shows events in August 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 Brian Bennett for the front cover, which is a painting of Ashridge in the autumn— Brian is doing an exhibition in August. See page 5 for further information.

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



The Hospice of St Francis is featured on ehospice.com, and in particular focusses on one of the many heroes of that institution, in this case Chris Took, chef and catering manager. In 2009 he won the National Dignity Council's Peoples Award for Dignity in Care. He took on the role after spending time in a volunteer capacity. "My whole team and I take great pride in every plate we send out because we only have one chance to get it right." He also runs a Cooking with Chris course which teaches how to promote cooking and food therapeutically.

bathchronicle.co.uk reports on the spreading tentacles of the Giggling Squid empire. The Thai food chain, which we featured in an earlier issue of YB, is about to open a new restaurant in Saw Close in the wonderful city of Bath. The restaurant site used to be a school and is built in the "Northern renaissance style". A new one on me, but apparently this was the Renaissance that took place north of the Alps, and was particularly linked with the Protestant Reformation. It was also associated with the work of Dutch and Flemish artists, and a style known as Northern

Mannerism. A style later expressed in the tales of Wallace and Gromit I believe.

This month's guest blog is kir-styes.co.uk, which features literary reviews. Their latest posting focusses on Stewart Ross. Educated in Berkhamsted he has prize winning books to his credit and has recently published such works as *The Soterion Mission* and *Revenge of the Zeds* and the Salvation Project, all of which are reviewed here.

Alice Hewson, our star local golfer, once again is featured on the interweb. In this case womenandgolf.com reports on the Vagliano Trophy, which is competed for by foursomes and will be hosted by Bogogno Golf Club. The Great Britain and Ireland team which includes Alice, are underdogs, but the team manager is nevertheless confident of victory.

The green belt invokes considerable passion for those who believe it should be protected at all costs. inews.co.uk, the essential daily briefing apparently, makes a contrast between Berkhamsted where "crickets buzz, butterflies engage in chaotic amorous pursuit and cockchafer beetles rise from untamed meadows", with Birmingham where "the inner edge of the green belt

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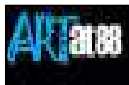
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around Birmingham [is] fly-tipped, forlorn and abandoned, as farmers retreat from the urban fringe.” It is a fact that much of the green belt is far from attractive and is no sanctuary for either wildlife or humans. In those instances sympathetic housing developments could enhance the area ecologically, economically and indeed aesthetically. Perhaps time to address the knee jerk reactions to green belt development and tackle the deplorable lack of housing that politicians seem incapable of solving.

Marriage often features in this column, and this month it is rockmywedding.co.uk. This features case histories of marriages in what seems an increasingly rarefied world of consumer excess and abandon. Well, I suppose it keeps the economy limping along. So thank you Brides of Berkhamsted for your role in drawing a veil over the whole affair. In this case a shorter and very simple one.



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

BRIAN BENNETT AT 90

A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF OIL PAINTINGS OF THE CHILTERN

**BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
28TH AUGUST TO 2ND SEPTEMBER 2017
10AM—5PM DAILY : FREE ADMISSION**

**THE CHADWICK CENTRE
BERKHAMSTED SCHOOL
CASTLE STREET**

What's on

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

Tring Farmers Market (**Alternate Saturdays**). The Marketplace, Brook Street, Tring 9.00am - 12.15pm. Tring Farmers Market promotes local food for local people For more info email: enquiries@tringfarmersmarket.co.uk



Herts Open Studios is Herts Visual Arts annual flagship event, when artists open their doors to visitors. Details of participating venues and artists will be available online and in print from Summer 2017.

The dates for 2017 are 9th September to 1st October

<https://www.hvaf.org.uk/Open-Studios/About-Open-Studios>

Twitter: @HVAF #HertsOpenStudios
#HVAFMbr Facebook: @HertsVisualArts

Thursday 3rd Aug - Ashridge House & Garden Private Tour
Ashridge House, 10am-12.30pm, £20. The Chiltern Society organises a tour of the house and gardens, accompanied by a talk and ending with tea and cakes
chilternsociety.org.uk

Saturday 5 Aug — Book Fair
Court House, Berkhamsted, 10am-4pm. Nine book dealers offering plenty of choice, from valuable first editions and prints to discounted paperbacks. Also 7 Oct and 2 Dec.

[01442 862011](tel:01442862011)

Sunday 13 Aug—Sunnyside Allotments Open Day
Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted, 11am-5pm. All welcome, with refreshments, produce, plants and preserves for sale.
www.sunnysideallotments.org.uk

For events at Ashridge please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 Ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Friday 18 Aug— Storytelling in the Woods
Wendover Woods, 12-2pm, £6. Bring a favourite teddy to enjoy woodland tales from Sarah Law.

[01494 771250](tel:01494771250)

Sunday 20 Aug— Open Garden:
Patchwork
22 Hall Park Gate, Berkhamsted HP4 2NJ,
2-5pm, £4. A quarter-acre garden with
colour, interest and perfume. Dahlias are a
particular summer feature. Light
refreshments and plant sales.

www.ngs.org.uk

Monday 28 Aug - Berkhamsted Fete
Kitcheners Field. Organised by
Berkhamsted Lions to raise money for
local charities this is one of the main
events on Berkhamsted's calendar.

Thursday 31 August 7pm Yerma (The
National Theatre – LIVE)

Sunday 24 September 2pm The Magic
Flute (The Royal Opera – ENCORE)

www.vynetheatre.co.uk. Tel: 0333 666
3366. Full programme for 2017 on
website.

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

Wed Oct 11th BERKHAMSTED LIVE with
a) *Portraiture* by artist in residence at
Watford Museum Sheelagh Frew Crane
b) *How a film is made* by director Mark
Crane (ex-Hollywood special effects)
c) *The Lost Children*, a musical by Lon-
don& Watford jazz singer Alexander Wil-
liams d) MCs Leslie Tate & Sue Hampton.
8.00 Kings Arms, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HL
£5.00/£3.00 supporting Pepper Founda-
tion Nurses. Book

at lstate@btinternet.com

Pitstone Heritage Park - Open Days

Pitstone Heritage Park is open twice in
**August (Sunday 13th & Bank Holiday
Monday 28th)** There is a huge, free car
park and is only £6 to get in. We have
enough fantastic stuff to keep anyone
interested for several hours whatever the
weather. Let the kids have a go at pottery
or lacemaking, take a tractor or steam car
ride, have something to eat or wander
round the museum exhibits. You will be
amazed at what's sitting right on your
doorstep.

11 am until 5pm Adults £6 Children £2
Free car parking Dogs on leads welcome.
Pitstone Green Farm, Vicarage Rd. Pit-
stone. Nr Tring, Buckinghamshire LU7 9EY



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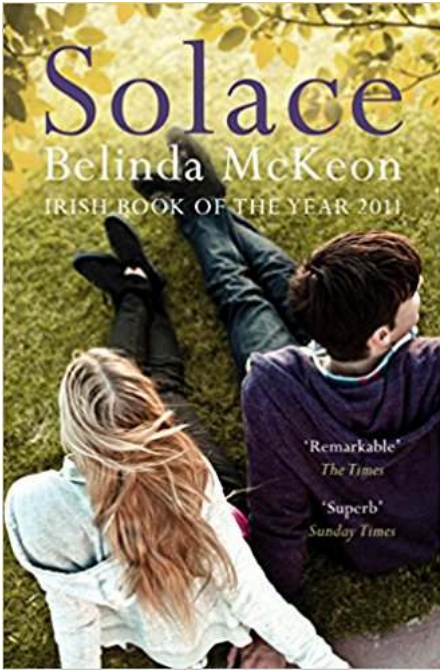
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Book Review

by Julian Dawson



Solace. By Belinda McKeon

An old family feud is the landscape to the meeting of young lovers, Mark and Joanne, who meet Romeo and Juliet like at a Dublin house party. Coming from a background where small communities depend on routine and tradition, the couple discover that they grew up on farms in neighbouring rural Irish villages. Tom, Mark's father, pressurizes his son to be back home with his parents at Dorvaragh helping on the farm, despite the struggle to finish his PhD in the city. When baby Aoife arrives following Joanne's pregnancy, Tom's initial anger softens. However tragedy is just around the corner, and instead of drawing closer together when it is needed most, old grievances and despair pit son against father.

This floodlight on families and relationships is Belinda McKeon's first novel. She portrays the slow gradual development of fellowship that begin with the clumsy drug induced beginnings of Mark and Joanne's relationship. Mark is torn between his own aspirations and what his father expects of him. He hears the pleading in his mother's voice on the phone even if she doesn't actually beg him to visit. Mark plays along with the set texts of conversations of the village pub so as not to embarrass his father, even if he would rather discuss academia and city rather than gossip and farming.

The author concentrates on the everyday, rather than sensationalizing with significant events. We experience the calls of unconditional love, buried emotion that weighs us down, a glance. What is unsaid is more powerful than the prosaic chatter. A difficult read perhaps, but a truthful one, and a novel where unusually the young Aoife is as significant a character as any other.

Berkhamsted Museum and History Society



BERKHAMSTED'S HIDDEN HISTORY. DON'T MISS THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

From the 7th -10th September 2017 the people of Berkhamsted

and visitors from far and wide will have the opportunity to learn something of the hidden history of Berkhamsted and to look differently at many familiar buildings, and to see others which they never knew existed and all this is absolutely FREE Berkhamsted, a royal town, has a rich heritage. For hundreds of years it was part of the Duchy of Cornwall and its Norman castle belongs to the Duke to this day. Make the most of this opportunity to learn more of Berkhamsted's hidden history.

Can you name the criminal or the officer who lived in the Red House, and where is Earl Brownlow's waiting room? Join one of the guided tours of Berkhamsted's town centre 'A walk back in time' and you will find out, and learn much more.

Do you know where Berkhamsted Place, which was known as the Castle in the 18th and early 20th century, was? How was it the successor to the Castle? Take a Walk into the Past with us and you will find out.

Of course, you know where the Castle is but how much do you know of its history? There's nothing much to see, you might say, but on a guided tour much of the history will come to life for you.

You know that Ashlyns is Berkhamsted's state Secondary School, but do you know what the building was from 1935-1955?

Many Berkhamsted people didn't know at the time, nor understand what sort of hospital it was. Join one of the tours on Sunday 10th September and hear what life was like for the children who spent their childhood within those walls. Look carefully and you will recognise scenes from the TV programme 'Call the Midwife.'

I am sure you have been to functions in the Wellcome Great Hall, in the Clock Room or the Sessions Hall but did you know that the Town hall was built with three functions, as a Market Hall, a meeting Hall for the people of Berkhamsted and Northchurch and as a meeting room for the Mechanics Institute. The Market Hall now houses a restaurant, the Clock Room was the former premises of the Mechanics Institute, the Great Hall was the Assembly Hall. Later the Sessions Hall was built to hold the Petty Sessions. Join a tour and learn more of this building's history.

100 years ago, the young men of the Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, who were billeted here from 1914-19 walked the streets of Berkhamsted and trained on the Common and in surrounding villages. Join a 'Then and Now' guided tour and with the aid of old photographs compare places, known to them, with the places we know today.

The days when a letter posted before 10am reached its destination at 4pm have long since gone. We walk ever further to find a post office and even pillar boxes bear the message 'last collection 7am'. Join a new guided tour, 'Post a Letter' and learn more of Berkhamsted's postal history.

When the graveyard of St Peter's could not take any more burials the Countess of Bridgewater donated land on the south side of the High Street for St Peter's churchyard (detached). This gradually was extended until no more space remained. Here, in Rectory Lane Cemetery, the history of Victorian and Edwardian Berkhamsted can be seen among its graves, depicting a very different age. Follow trails, watch a mason at work, note the many young children's graves. Find your ancestors. See the progress made by the Rectory Lane Cemetery HLF Project.

Everyone knows where St Peter's Church is, which dominates our High Street but have you seen the list of Rectors and Churchwardens through the ages, the Coat of Arms of Elizabeth I, the tomb of Ann Cowper (ne Donne) and the memorial to the Smiths and Smith-Dorriens. Come on the tour of the church and the Court House and learn more of our very fine church, the second largest in the county.

A tour of Old Hall and the Chapel of Berkhamsted School gives the opportunity to see the original (1544) school building, the largest in the country at the time. The beautiful little chapel was designed by Berkhamsted architect Charles

Henry Rew, modelled on the chapel of Santa Maria dei Miracoli in Venice. You will also have the opportunity to learn something of the history of the school, which celebrated its 475th anniversary last year.

Ever since its foundation in 1950 the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society (formerly the Berkhamsted & District Local History Society) has been trying to establish a museum for Berkhamsted. With the foundation of the Dacorum Heritage Trust in 1979, and later the recognition of the Museum Store as an accredited museum the Berkhamsted collection, the largest in the Borough, has been stored in museum conditions. It is still not available to be seen by the public in the normal way. FREE guided tours are available for the Heritage Open Days so make the most of this opportunity. Booking is absolutely essential. Tel: 01442 879525 or email: collectionsmanager@dacorumheritage.org.uk

For further enquiries and bookings for all other events contact Jenny Sherwood on 01442 865158 or email KSherw9100@aol.com For full details and listings go to www.heritageopendays.org.uk open from mid- July.

Jenny Sherwood

BERKHAMSTED'S HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 7TH -10TH SEPTEMBER 2017

'A Walk Back in Time.', a guided tour of Berkhamsted's historic town centre. Meet at main gate to Castle. Thursday 7th September 1000 and Friday 8th September 1500.

'A Walk into the Past- Berkhamsted Place- Successor to the Castle.' Friday 8th September 1000 and Saturday 9th September 1500. Meet at top of Castle Hill. In front of track down to Berkhamsted Place

Ashlyns School- the former Foundling Hospital., tours by former foundlings. Open Sunday 10th September 1300 to 1730, Tours at 1330 and 1530

Berkhamsted Castle Open Sunday 100-1800 Guided tours at 1030, 1230 and 1500

Berkhamsted Town Hall Open Sunday 10th September 1030-1300. Tour at 1100

'Exploring Garrison Town Berkhamsted 1914-1918'— A short Then and Now tour of places special to the IOCOTC. Tours Thursday 7th September 1000 and 1800, Friday 8th September 1400 and Sunday 10th September 1130. Meet at rear of railway station.

'Post a Letter- a tour of Berkhamsted's Postal Heritage.' Sunday 10th September Tours at 1100 and 1430. Meet at front of railway station.

Rectory Lane Cemetery Open Sunday 10th September from 1400-2130. Guided tours at 1430, 1530, 1630 and 1730 Meet some of Berkhamsted's forefathers and find your ancestors in this haven of tranquillity.

St Peter's Church and the Court House Sunday 10th September Tour at 1500. Meet by west door close to the War Memorial.

Old Hall and Chapel, Berkhamsted School Tour on Thursday 7th September 1430. Old Hall was built in 1544 and at the time was the largest school room in the country. The Chapel is Victorian, built by CH Rew, a local architect and based on a chapel in Venice.

Tours of the Dacorum Heritage Trust Museum Store Saturday 9th September 1030 and 1400. This is an accredited museum and includes collections from all over Dacorum, including those belonging to the BLHMS and to BDAS. Numbers are limited and booking is absolutely essential. Booking to Curatorial staff.

01442879525 or info@dacorumheritage.org.uk

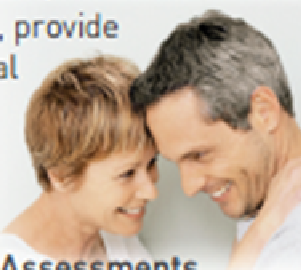
Booking is requested for all other events. Please contact Jenny Sherwood on 01442 865158 or email KShew9100@aol.com Further details are available on Society website www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk and also on www.heritageopendays.org.uk



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St Peter's Kulturelles



Saturday 23 September

4.30 p.m. Handel and the Foundlings
including The Foundling Anthem
Oktoberfest Chorus and Orchestra
Ashlyns School Chapel

7.30 p.m. German Wine Tasting
led by WSET Tutor, Mike Eggleton
The Court House

Sunday 24 September

9.30 a.m. Parish Sung Eucharist
including a Buxtehude Cantata
St Peter's Church

11 a.m. Bavarian Breakfast
Sausage, beer and music
Outside St Peter's Church



For more information go to:

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/oktoberfest





St Peter's Kulturelles



23 and 24 September 2017

Once again, St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted, is celebrating Germanic culture – especially the music – with its annual Oktoberfest; this year has the added link to Berkhamsted of a concert featuring Handel's Foundling anthem.

Handel wrote the Foundling Anthem in 1749 to help raise money for children at Thomas Coram's London Foundling Hospital (later rebuilt in Berkhamsted and eventually becoming Ashlyns School). The piece culminates in the ever-popular Hallelujah chorus.

Everyone is welcome to join any of the Oktoberfest events and also to join the Oktoberfest Chorus.



For more information

(and to join the Oktoberfest Chorus) go to:

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk/oktoberfest



Your Berkhamsted Clergy

The summer months are upon us and whether you are going away for some much needed rest and relaxation or having a staycation here at home the summer holidays always provide a bit of a break in pattern. Obviously schools will have broken up giving the children and staff alike a very well deserved break (can you tell I work in a school?!), but very often the usual pattern of groups and meetings etc. that run during the week days also take a summer hiatus. This can be great, but for those who rely on these groups for much needed support and social interaction the summer months can be very lonely, so do spare a thought for those who struggle when everyone goes off on their holidays.

This feeling of normal things taking a break is also reflected in the church from week to week as well. Our weekly Sunday club takes a break over August and there is no all age service on the third Sunday this month. And both our choir and congregation are a little depleted while people jet off for some sun. To mark this end of term feel we shared some fellowship and food together on Sunday 16th July with a parish BBQ, which was really enjoyed by all who attended. At St Peter's we are trying to add in a few more social events through

the calendar, so that we can spend more time getting to know each other as well as newcomers, you'd be very welcome to join us at our next one, so look out for adverts.

As much as I love the summer and relish in some time off to recharge, I am also one of those people that flourish with some structure (possibly why I've never really left school), so look forward to things getting back to normal in the new term. One event to really look forward to in the new term is our annual Oktoberfest on the weekend of the 23rd and 24th September. A weekend filled with wine tasting, organ recitals, beer and sausages, find a flier with details at the back of St Peter's.

Whatever you find yourself doing over the summer months, I pray you find rest, relaxation and a bit of fun too! Our normal services run throughout August (8:00am, 9:30am 6:00pm every Sunday) if amidst the fun and time off you want to come and join us for worship and fellowship.

Yours in Christ
Lex Bradley (Pastoral Assistant)



Things to do in the School Holidays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

College Lake Visitor Centre and Reservoir

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/collegelake>

<http://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/tring-reservoirs>

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

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

Ashridge Walking Trails— For events at Ashridge please visit

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge or contact the Visitor Centre on 01442 851227 Ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

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

NEW—Liquid Leisure Park - <http://liquidleisure.com>

Welcome to Liquid Leisure: The home of **Europe's Largest Aqua Park**, set on one of the most beautiful private freshwater lakes amongst stunning parkland in the heart of Berkshire. With the option to wakeboard on our state of the art cable lake, clamber across our floating obstacle course or just to just relax on our beach by the bar, there's something for all the family to enjoy. This makes Liquid Leisure the perfect place for you to take your family this summer!

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 Ruth Treves Brown, 3 Sherwood Mews, Park Street, Berkhamsted HP4 1HX. Tel 863268.
- 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. Peggy Sear 01296 584530.
- 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

Events at St Peter's Church or the Court House, Berkhamsted, presented by The Cowper Society supported by the Friends of St Peter's. No events in August

Sat 9th September at 7.30pm: CHORAL CONCERT in St Peter's Church – Berkhamsted Choral Society & Chorley Wood Choral Society. Conductor Graham Wili.
www.berkhamstedchoral.co.uk

Fri 22nd – Sun 24th September: St Peter's KULTURELLES OKTOBERFEST at St Peter's Church – Organ music, talk, wine-tasting and Bierfest.
www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

Sat 30th September at 7.30pm: ORCHESTRAL CONCERT at St Peter's Church – Mendelssohn Overture Hebrides; Elgar Sea Pictures, soloist Jeanette Ager; Nielsen Helios; Britten Sea Interludes (from Peter Grimes). Director by Adrian Davis. Tickets £16 [£15 prepaid], U18s free www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk

St Peters Berkhamsted

25th June Hermione Tuppence De Kretser
 Arthur Draycon
 Isla Susan Cooper

Weddings—None

Funerals—None

All Saint's -

6th Eighth Sunday after Trinity
 Transfiguration
8am Holy Communion Revd Rachael Hawkins
10am Morning Worship Richard Hackworth
13th Ninth Sunday after Trinity
10am Holy Communion - Revd John Kirkby
20th Tenth Sunday after Trinity
10am Morning Worship - David White
27th Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
10am Holy Communion - Revd Rachael Hawkins

No Baptisms or Funerals

Further information available from our church websites:

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

News from the Hospice of St Francis



August 2017

The Hospice of St Francis cares for people

across Herts and Bucks facing life-limiting illness, among them 49-year-old mum of two, Samantha Owen, from St Albans, who has always been a bubbly and outgoing 'people person'. But when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in April 2016 her confidence took a tumble and all she wanted to do was hide away from the world.

It wasn't until she became involved with the Hospice's Art Bag project, in partnership with Peace Hospice Care and Macmillan Cancer Support, that she realised she still had a great deal to offer and she could once again feel 'useful' to others.

"The Art Bag project has massively helped me find myself again. It's helped me to get out there and try life again. For me it's a new challenge and something completely different to what I'm used to. It's also given me the chance to meet and talk to people who have gone through a similar experience.

"Helping to come up with a story with all the soaps that people have carved and create an animation film with them was the first step on the road to becoming me again. Seeing something through from start to finish and doing something to help other people at the beginning of their diagnosis realise that there is help out there meet a need in me and this project has helped me to realise that I have something worth-

while to contribute to society. I am grateful to be where I am today. This time last year I could never have believed I would have come so far."

To view the Art Bag project's animation video visit [youtube.com/hospiceofstfrancis](https://www.youtube.com/hospiceofstfrancis)

Mud Pack Challenge

Registration has officially opened for The Hospice of St Francis' filthiest fundraiser of the year – The Mud Pack Challenge. The five or 10 mile fun-filled obstacle course through the beautiful but muddy grounds of Ashridge House takes place on Sunday 15th October and is open to anyone who wants to step



Copyright Adam Hollier

out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves for charity.

Promising lots of muddy fun, Mudpackers will slip, slide, jump and wade their way through the 190-acre grounds and woodland of the historic country estate, negotiating wet and muddy obstacles along the way.

Register your place on the muddiest challenge for miles around at stfrancis.org.uk/mudpack or call 01442 869555.



Copyright Bruce McAlpine

Breast Screening Bus

The Beds & Herts Breast Screening Service has expressed its gratitude and thanks to the Hospice for welcoming its mobile unit to its grounds for five months and stepping into the breach when no other Berkhamsted sites were available.

Screening chiefs say that without the Hospice's help, it would not have been able to provide its vital service to women within their community.

Nearly 8,200 women from Berkhamsted and the surrounding area were invited for a routine mammogram between January and June and at 79%, the uptake rate for the core screening age group of 50-70 years was 'exceptionally high.'

Ways to Support us

Meanwhile, as summer draws in, we have plenty going on every month to help the Hospice raise the over £5million it needs every year to provide its services. Pop along to our monthly coffee morning and enjoy a Hospice tour, tea and cake and our craft sale taking place on every last Friday of the month 10.30am-12pm at The Hospice of St Francis. Or enjoy our monthly film forum at The Spring Centre on the first Wednesday of the month from 6.30pm.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for regular updates about our care and events.



Renowned Chilterns painter Brian Bennett to exhibit at Berkhamsted School

Living in Berkhamsted for 60 years, half of the time as Head of Art at Berkhamsted School, Brian Bennett has established himself as one of the best-known living painters of the Chilterns.

To celebrate the year of his 90th birthday, 90 of his oil paintings capturing the essence of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be displayed at the School's Chadwick Art and Design Centre.

Brian's connection with Berkhamsted School spans over six decades. From his home, a stone's throw away from Kings Campus and Chesham Road Playing Fields, where he refereed and helped train the School's rugby teams, Brian continues to take great interest in school life.

Combining the seemingly contrasting skills of an oil painter and rugby player,

Brian grew up with a love of sport and art. His versatile nature, along with his talent and skills, helped him secure his first teaching job at Plymouth College after graduating from Oxford University. Later he transferred to Berkhamsted, where he inspired many young artists to achieve their potential.

By exploring every inch of his favourite spots of the Chilterns, Brian has produced a spectacular series of paintings. Until recently, every painting was created on location. He would manage to haul a heavy box of paints, a canvas, an easel and a full day's stock of refreshments to some of the most remote areas of

Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire along the escarpment of Chiltern Hills.

At any age, 90 or 19, oil painting is exhausting, complex and requires an enormous amount of concentration. It is a great testament to Brian's longevity, strength and passion for painting he is remarkably still maintaining the same standard of work.

The challenge painters face in the Chilterns is the ever-changing light conditions. Battling against the weather and the rapidly changing skies, one moment the scene will be beautifully lit up, the

next a great shadow will descend on the whole landscape. Brian enjoys the variation of the English climate, with each season having its own appeal. His work includes snow-

filled landscapes from the depths of winter, to the bright and colourful scenes of spring and summer.

While Brian is well known locally, and possibly the most acclaimed artist to have ever taught at Berkhamsted School, his list of national accolades speaks for itself:

- President of the Royal Institute of Oil Painters 1987 to 1995
- Governor of the Federation of British Artists 1990 to 1996
- Winner of the Stanley Grimm prize 1979, 1985 and 1992 at the R.O.I. annual exhibitions



Produced work for private collections in USA, Japan, Europe and the UK including HRH Prince Edward, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester and the Duchess of York.

A visit to Brian's home studio revealed the creative process behind his famous work.

People will often ask Brian how long it takes to create his paintings. And his answer will always be the same: "X hours and 60 odd years."

His life experience, the decades he has spent exploring the Chilterns, the way he has refined and maintained his artistic skills at 90 years old are presented through his entire collection. Each and every piece reveals the world through the eyes of Brian Bennett at 90.

He said "I've always wanted to paint. I love exploring, and I look to find something that is meaningful and stimulating.

I aim to reveal the world through painting and invite viewers to discover the poetry of the landscape. "Curiously, I love painting grass, especially with the wild flowers growing in its midst, which usually means lying in the long grass to create an interesting composition. I also love painting water and the lovely Chiltern panoramas.

"I have developed my own style and technique from painting with a personally designed knife. It's very flattering and reassuring when people go into a room and say 'that's a Brian Bennett'."

Brian's exhibition in the Chadwick Centre will be open to the public from Monday 28th August to Saturday 2nd September. There will be around 90 oil paintings for sale, the vast majority depicting the stunning Chiltern landscapes.

Written by Olly Moore for Berkhamsted School Newsletter

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Jelly leg', a term I have come to know only too well!
When you push your body beyond its usual limits, it starts to talk back to you I have found..... but then of course we didn't go into this thinking it was going to be easy.....that was the whole point!

We are in training for a challenge.

Like many, we have felt the anguish of seeing a loved one experience a battle none of us ever wish to have to face...and it's the help of the professionals such as the community nursing team and the ever so understanding bereavement support team at The Hospice of St Francis that make the difference, from experience we know this, so, we wanted to do something to help them help others.

So here we are, a bunch of (fairly) sensible and (thankfully) generally fit women (and one man! – very brave!) taking on The Great Wall of China as part of the Hospice's 2017 Trek (not all of it – *sigh of relief!*). But this is no holiday.

We will trek for 5 days for an average of 7 hours a day. A test of stamina and strength and a head for heights required as we scramble up some of the oldest sections of the Great Wall, cross country into the Hebei Province and rural China, then back down into Miyun country.

We are, like many, busy people, but you can and do learn how to balance life with training and fundraising; and its fun... from Storm Trooper led bag packing at Sainsbury's St Albans, to events such the Family Day at The Bull in Berkhamsted, to the launch of the new Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead.

Hempstead. There has been a black-tie party, a Mexican themed chilli challenge BBQ (madness!), not to mention a Race Night to come on 23rd Sept at Tring Athletic Football Club.

A couple of us took ourselves up north to hike one of the greatest UK walks.... The West Highland Way to test our breaking point.... we found it but we are still motivated to raise awareness of the great work the Hospice does and raise much-needed funds to enable its care to continue.... (it needs over £5m a year) The short-lived pain is worth bearing. There is still more to achieve...we will report back!



So far, we have raised nearly £4,000, and we are so grateful to everyone who has contributed but our target is £6,000. If you would like to support our effort then please do read our story on www.justgiving.com/Operation-trekchina17 or text **DBLM99** to 70070 to donate £10.

Donna Francis

Pointy noses..... lovely kissable pointy noses....

That's what we sighthound enthusiasts find ourselves saying!

I have had rescue dogs in my life for over 30 years and most of them have been of the sighthound variety; greyhound, lurcher or whippet. Why? You might ask..... the answer is simple. They are (in my humble opinion) the most affectionate, funny, laid back, low maintenance, gentle souls I have ever come across.

That's why when I was accepted as a volunteer at **The Forever**

Hounds Trust, a charity dedicated to rescuing and homing greyhounds and lurchers in need, I was to say the very least, utterly delighted!

Now, later in my career, I can offer a bit more of my time and I wanted to get more actively involved in the efforts to find loving homes for these types of dogs who for far too many, at no fault of their own have been at the end of much suffering and neglect. I can never equate in my mind why this must be the case. They make the most fabulous pets and quickly melt your heart.... even after their journey they still want to give their unconditional devotion to you. It never ceases to amaze me.

Lurcher – breed or type? tends to be the misconception. They are 'a type', they are the ultimate 'designer dog' in fact. A mixed breed of sighthound (such as greyhound, deerhound, saluki, borzoi, whippet) and working dog (such as collie, gun dog, bull breed, German Shepherd) – a very intelligent athlete! A bit more ener-

greyhounds (who are content with two x 20-30 mins walks a day), they are more than happy after a burst of energy and excitement to curl up and sleep for a few hours just like their greyhound cousins in a cosy bed or even better on a favourite sofa. I'm a hobby hiker and my lurcher likes nothing better than roaming the hills with me and she is fabulous company.

If you want to know more about these adorable creatures why not come along to our annual Charity Dog Show



It's a great day out with loads to do and so many dogs! I know the Trust would really appreciate the support! Or visit the web site at <http://www.foreverhoundstrust.org/>, call us on **03000 111 100** or email us on: enquiries@foreverhoundstrust.org

Donna Francis

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Appledown Rescue's Dog of the Month

Kane is a big handsome Rottweiler who was born in December 2014. This poor lad was just discarded in the streets by his previous owner. He now needs to find someone who really appreciates him and has experience of his breed. Kane needs to be an only pet in a home where there are no children. He walks well on the lead but can be strong. Kane cannot live in Luton

If you can offer Kane 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

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Haresfoot Brewery

We are also looking to run a brewery tour in September-October. This will be a unique opportunity to see our new set-up and enjoy some excellent food – courtesy of Eat to the Beat (part of the GIG group) who specialise in the best back stage catering for the top rock stars and athletes in the entertainment and sporting worlds.

We'll let you know nearer the time more about the event. If you would like to register an interest in attending please email us at events@haresfoot.com And finally, once again we will be at Berkhamsted Food Festival 2017 providing great beer to compliment the very fine food offering from Bonnie May on 3rd September

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Friends of St Peter's Berkhamsted secures National Lottery 'Parks for People' investment of £907,000 to transform Rectory Lane Cemetery

The Friends of St Peter's, Great Berkhamsted, has been honoured with a National Lottery grant of £1m to restore and transform Rectory Lane Cemetery in Berkhamsted. The funding has been awarded through the Parks for People programme, run by Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund.

Over the next 3 years the space will be transformed to include a Garden of Remembrance, a Wildlife domain and a dedicated area for picnics and live performances. Better pathways and facilities for disabled visitors are also a key part of the plan. These

will be in addition to maintaining and restoring many of the original features such as the walls, memorials and features such as the Sexton's Hut which will become an information resource for visitors.

There will be many opportunities for local people. Apprentices will be able to learn skills for essential conservation work on and more volunteers are to be recruited and trained to help with various aspects of the site such as educational tours on local history and local wildlife spotting.

The scope of the social and leisure activities will be extended with the appointment of a part-time Community Engagement Officer.

The Cemetery, which was begun with public money in 1842, will be more welcoming and accessible. Besides space to remember family and

friends, there will be facilities to better understand the town's unique history and heritage and to enjoy the wildlife living within the three acre site.

James Moir
Convenor of
the Project
and a Trustee

of the Friends of St Peter's said, "We are delighted and of course extremely grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund for this enormous support. This is the beginning of a very exciting journey as we commence the physical groundworks such as new paths and memorial restoration and continue working to secure the matched funding needed to ensure the sustainable future of this green haven."

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Chief



Executive Ros Kerslake, said, on behalf of HLF and Big Lottery Fund: “It’s difficult to overstate the importance of our public parks and cemeteries. Vital to our well-being and essential to biodiversity, they are highly valued spaces enjoyed daily by people from all walks of life. Rectory

Lane Cemetery is one of the latest parks to benefit from over £900million of National Lottery funding, which over the last twenty years has played a crucial role in revitalising more than 800 parks across the UK.”

Elaine Mercer



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