

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

In this issue...

WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED. We are nearly at the end of this year and let us all hope that 2021 will be a better year by far. Christmas and New Year are going to be very different and we should take this time to look around for those who are lonely and need help - this year is even more challenging. Father Stuart Owen, talks to us about how he is settling in to his new



role and about how different Christmas will be this year. Jenny Sherwood gives us an insight of Christmas in the past with some fantastic pictures. The Rectory Lane Cemetery Project still surprises us with their innovation and the transformation of an important part of our town. Open Door is playing a wonderful part in keeping the community together. So until next year I wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Do get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may have, either to publish or additions/changes to the magazine for consideration. And please give us your feedback on the features.

JACQUELINE - YBEDITOR@GREATBERKHAMSTED.ORG.UK

3 & 5
8,9&10
12 & 13
14 & 15
16
17
20, 21, 22 & 23
24, 25 & 26
27
28,29&30
32 & 33
34 & 35
36

Front cover: Thank you Mary Casserley for your wonderful picture of Father Christmas in Berkhamsted. www.marycasserley.com Stockist - Berkhamsted Imaging

The Town and Parish Magazine of St Peter's Great Berkhamsted

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Rambles from Berkhamsted by Julian Dawson



As I write this we are once again in lockdown. So it is almost the more mundane matters of life that give respite – a realisation that normal things are still happening, hillingdontimes.co.uk gives us a glimpse of the minutiae of residential life with its exposition of local council planning requests. I bet you can't wait to hear more. So we can look forward to demolition of an old dairy building in Cloister Garth, installation of lighting in the car park in Lower Kings Road, a single-storey extension in Hall Park Road, and an infill extension in Potten End. It almost reads like poetry.

Our foray into wikipedia.org/ this issue looks at the entry for Isabella of France. Known as the She-Wolf of France, she was notable for her diplomatic skills, intelligence and beauty. Her arrival in England when twelve years old came at a time when the English barony was highly factional. She was married to Edward II, who was notorious for his favouritism of Piers Gavaston. Some believe she was instrumental in arranging her husband's death, after which she ruled as regent with her lover Mortimer. Following Mortimer's trial for treason

Isabella was initially transferred to Berkhamsted Castle before being moved to Windsor. I'm not sure that planning permission was anything the Castle ever concerned itself about. Certainly Robert de Mortain, its original builder, didn't have to approach the local council for a load of paperwork.

In these strange times I am sure you will be relieved to know that eBunting Magnetics are still very much attracting attention. machinery -market.co.uk reports the launch of a new e-commerce website where customers wanting bespoke designs are referred to the specialist magnet product design team at Bunting's Berkhamsted manufacturing facility. Apparently 236 read this article before I did – I'm not sure if that is a marketing triumph in this field.

hertfordshiremercury.co.uk reported on the campaign to reopen gyms in the second lockdown. Berkhamsted Leisure Centre, Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre and Jarman Park Athletics Track have joined the campaign to reopen gyms under the new

Cont Page 5

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restrictions, the report said. These are run by Everyone Active in partnership with Dacorum. I am no fitness freak, but I would prefer to keep fit in the outdoors, enjoying the countryside listening to the wildlife and enjoying the scents of nature. We were out walking the other day and a couple ran past playing loud music from their phone. Enjoy your surroundings and take it in!

In the period of Remembrance many of the district's care homes created poppy displays as tributes, according to hemeltoday.co.uk. The Lodge in Hemel and Ashlyns Care Home were singled out, where residents cut, stuck and painted "poppies galore" to make sure the fallen were not forgotten even, or perhaps especially, in the constrained times of 2020. This year marked the centenary of the burial of the Unknown Warrior, whose tomb is covered by a slab of black marble from Namur in Belgium. An unknown soldier was simultaneously buried beneath the Arc de Triomphe.



Picture by Julian Dawson

Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator





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CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR 2021



As this year, 2020, draws to a close and Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn to the season of goodwill, to

family gatherings, to snow and frosts, to mince pies and mulled wine, Christmas trees and to Nativity plays. How shall we spend our Christmas this year? For many of us it will be a zoom Christmas where we can only wave our embrace through the screen of our computers or smart phones to one another. How was Christmas in the past in our childhoods, in Edwardian and Victorian times?

I remember one Christmas when my brothers and I were put to bed in the cupboard under the stairs and our stockings were hung on the door handle. It was war time and we were considered safer there. We eagerly awaited our presents for the following morning. Another Christmas the snow was so deep that my brothers and I escorted our aunt back home, a distance of several miles. Yes, snow is associated with Christmas. We would have had a chicken for the Christmas dinner in our childhood as we kept chickens during the war. My mother caught one, wrung its neck and plucked it herself. Before Christmas

we were busy making decorations and Christmas cards for relations. On Boxing Day we wrote our 'Thank you' letters; rarely written nowadays. Presents in those days were very modest by today's standards and compared with the standard of our children's childhood. We didn't go to church on Christmas morning because the church was a long walk away and mother was preparing the lunch. For my children church on Christmas morning was part of Christmas and listening to the Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve from Kings College, Cambridge also. I don't know how my mother and father spent Christmas in their childhoods. There were, I'm sure extremes of poverty and wealth. I don't remember them talking about their childhood Christmasses. I am sure they would have gone to church and probably enjoyed a Christmas dinner of turkey or perhaps goose. During the years of WWI when there were food shortages it could have been different for my mother. At that time my father was already serving overseas. He enlisted in 1914.

When one thinks of Victorian Christmasses one thinks inevitably of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' of extremes of poverty and wealth. If we peruse newspapers detailing lives in

Berkhamsted what can we learn of the lives of people at that time? A cutting from the Bucks Herald of January 1847 reports the theft from MP Mr T Halsey's larder, depriving him of his Christmas dinner. Three turkeys, two brace of pheasants and a hare were taken. Neither the theft nor its perpetrator were traced, but someone or several families ate better than they would have done. Snow and ice were also accompaniments of Christmas. Skating was permitted on the castle moat, approved by the Ministry of Works. Percy Birtchnell reports of a gala on ice, when coffee and hot soup were provided. Another incident was reported in 1879 when a cart load of fat hogs overpowered the horse coming down Gravel Path which skidded on its haunches down to the bottom of the hill. This, and more frequently Ivy House Lane was used as a ski run whenever there was sufficient snow. until quite recent times.

Just as the plans for Christmas arrangements are being delayed or postponed by the present Pandemic, the Christmas festivities at the workhouse were delayed by an outbreak of measles among the children. The anticipated festivities tookplace in March rather than December. The Misses Smith-Dorrien supplied a Christmas tree. There was music and singing. Mr Rippon supplied a magic lantern, the Rev H Johnson doing a commentary. Presents of tobacco (for the men), tea, nuts, oranges, cake and toys were given to the inmates.

Another newspaper report mentions the generosity of the local trades people donating gifts to the inmates of the workhouse. This one, from the Bucks Herald written in 1892 mentions that the inmates were treated to a good dinner of beef and plum pudding by the kindness of the guardians under the direction of the Master and the Matron. Additionally, they received gifts of tobacco, tea, sugar, fruit and evergreens.

Cont Page 10



LOTTERY FUNDED



We must not forget the birth of Christ, the birth of a new beginning as we move towards January and a New Year. We hope and pray that we can look forward to a better year. We will end this little sortie to the Christmasses of the past with a report of the departure from Berkhamsted Station by the Prince and Princess of Wales after having spent Christmas with the Earl and Countess Brownlow. During the visit the Prince had some excellent shooting whilst the Princess visited a convalescent home and the

Home Arts and Industries School. The Prince and Princess of Wales were accompanied by the Earl and Countess Brownlow in an open carriage with four outriders. The Countess was carrying a small bouquet. They were greeted by a loyal cheer by the large, assembled crowd. A scarlet cloth was laid to the train and the Brownlow Room was brought into use. It was some time since such a numerous and distinguished gathering had been seen at Ashridge (Bucks Herald Dec 1887).

Skating on the castle moat with permission of the Ministry of Works, who controlled the castle in the 1890s



Pictures continued on page 36



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Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)

Winter Wildfowl

I've always been fascinated by wildfowl. Of all the birds, they are, as their name suggests, creatures of wild open places. As a teenager, rather more years ago than I care to remember, I helped with the duck count on what was then Barn Elms reservoirs in West London; now brilliantly converted into the London Wetland Centre. The people I met back then influenced my path in life to become a working naturalist.

So, when I see wild duck on the Grand Union Canal or at Tring Reservoirs or BBONT's College Lake Reserve, my mind goes back to duck I watched years ago on the storage lakes. With limited optical equipment I learned to use my eyes to good effect to identify the birds, some of which had spent their summers breeding in the high arctic where they lived in company with brown bears, wolves and Siberian tigers... And every year they come to our shores, to inland waters and to reservoirs having flown thousands of miles to spend the winter in our mild climate.

The bird in my photograph is a male (drake) teal, a small dabbling duck about the size of a town pigeon. Once

the prime quarry of wildfowlers who shot duck for sport and as a living, teal earned a reputation as a bird that was hard to shoot because of the way they explode upwards off the water, or from reedbeds at such high speed. Indeed, the collective term for this beautiful little duck is a 'spring' of teal. The gaudy male attracts the attention of foxes and hawks and falcons, but it is a smart predator that can outspring a teal.

Female teal are delicately mottled in shades of brown and cream, camouflaged by nature so they are able to sit on a clutch of eggs unobserved by predators. The eggs are greenish in colour, round about 3cms long - and the nest is usually tucked down in the marginal vegetation of a stream, or lake, or, of course, the reservoir.

Our region sits fair and square on the line of a major bird flyway, a sort of channel carved by glaciers aeons ago. As the weather cools so teal tend to gather in small flocks, dabbling in the shallows, delicately plucking green algae, water weed and grass. Whooper swans and Bewick's swans will join them as will a myriad of other duck and geese species and, occasionally, the beautiful snow-white drake smew.

Wildfowl watching is one of the most rewarding of birdwatching pursuits; all we need to enjoy these magical travellers is to visit the lakes and canals that abound in our area. It is here they will over-winter or simply pause for a few days or weeks on their travels to other open waterways.

The joy of natural history is simply that ... a joy. Watching wildlife at any time of year is such a pleasure, but I specially enjoy seeing birds that have migrated from distant parts of the world to share our countryside.



Picture: Teal by Dennis Furnell

Father Stuart Owen



Rather like eighties pop sensations Wham, I've spent quite a bit of time over the past few days, thinking

about 'Last Christmas'. It would be a considerable over-egging of the pudding to conjure up a significant social whirl in the days leading up to December 25th 2019, but I do have recollections of a couple of lunches, a drink or two with friends, and a visit to the pantomime with the children. Now, like so many others, we're trying to navigate our Christmas plans between the Scylla of what we're permitted to do, and the Charybdis of what might be the safe and responsible things to do. Whatever course we steer, this Christmas will not be like last Christmas, or any other I can remember.

In terms of how we're responding to these unfamiliar circumstances at St Peter's, there are two courses we're following. Some parts of our journey through Advent and Christmas will be pretty much the same as usual, but on a slightly reduced scale. We'll be having Crib Services (lots of them, hopefully, with lots of vigorous pew cleaning going on between them), but with

considerably fewer people in church for each service. There will be a Service of Lessons and Carols, but whether it will be nine lessons, or seven, or five, has yet to be decided. We're all familiar now with the new way of living; fewer people together is better than more, shorter times together are better than longer. These necessary reductions can feel a bit sad. A Crib Service full to bursting with over-excited children (and overexhausted adults) is marvellous fun; I don't imagine it will be quite the same with fewer people in the building, and everyone carefully distanced.

However, there's another much more positive response to our celebration of Christmas this year; yes, we're reducing some things and omitting others, but we'll also be doing some new things this year at St Peter's as well. Before moving to Berkhamsted in the summer. I heard a lot about the Festival of Light, and the thousands of visitors who passed through the church as part of that celebration: if thousands of people tried to pass through our doors this year, we'd get shut down by Environmental Health. However, even as I write, a marvellous team of volunteers is working hard to create a lighting spectacular in our Medieval building, so that we can offer a sense of celebration, even if

that we have done in the past. Similarly, a group representing churches from across Berkhamsted, is preparing an online telling of the Christmas story, to allow us to be together even as circumstances compel us to remain apart. And on top of all that, in addition to our Midnight Mass at midnight, we'll be offering a Midnight Mass at seven o'clock as well, although I'm having trouble getting that concept to sink in!

This Christmas won't be like last Christmas, in a host of different ways; it will be reduced, truncated, diminished. That prospect is not a pleasant one for any of us. Nevertheless, this is also a time of opportunity, a time to think of new ways of doing traditional things. How can we be together, even if we're not going to be sitting around the table with familiar faces, or enjoying a night out at the pub with friends? How can we retain a spirit of celebration, even though we can't celebrate in ways we've grown accustomed to?

In this season of the Church year, we hear a lot from the writing of the Prophets, and in particular from Isaiah, and in his prophecies we find the promise:

'Do not remember the old things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?' (Isaiah 43:18-19).

In the story of the birth of Jesus, Christians believe that we see God do just such a 'new thing', but a new thing which we might not perceive if we focus too narrowly on what we understood in the past. Moreover, the new thing that God offered the world in the birth of Jesus, took place in hard times, a time of military occupation, of civil unrest, of religious division and domestic terror. The Christmas story does not begin with a gentle, 'Once upon a time...'

So in these hard times of our own we can hold on to the hope that even now, we might still see God doing some 'new thing'. These strange times might also offer us a good opportunity to ask ourselves if this is a moment to open our lives to some 'new thing' of love and faith.

Revd Stuart Owen Rector, St Peter's, Berkhamsted.



News from St Peter's Church

Everyone is welcome to worship at St Peter's Berkhamsted, whether or not you are a regular churchgoer, or if you are coming to us for the first time.

To comply with guidance from government and the Church of England, we need to limit numbers in the church so that we can maintain social distancing during services. For this reason we ask everyone to book a space before coming to church. Booking forms are on the parish website www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk

24th December 1pm Crib service 3pm Crib service 5pm Crib service

24th December 7pm Christmas Eve Mass

24th December 11.30pm Midnight Mass

25th December 9.30am Christmas Morning



In 2022, St Peter's will be 800 years old!

From the occupation of the castle to the arrival of soldiers in WW1 and major life and civic events up to the present day, St Peter's has been a constant presence in Berkhamsted for 800 years!

We want to celebrate this momentous occasion with the whole town!



WHAT WE'RE PLANNING

It's early days but we have many ideas for events to mark the anniversary from picnics to time capsules, historical displays to commemorative services.

We are exploring the option of holding a St Peter's Festival in the summer of 2022 (when hopefully Covid-19 will be behind us) and coinciding with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We are looking for organisations and local businesses you represent to get in touch to tell us how you'd like to be involved.

Would you like to put on a music event, hold a yoga session in the churchyard, run a craft or creative session in church or organise a book talk, dog show or wine tasting? We'd love to hear your ideas so we can start to plan a schedule.

LOVE YOUR CHURCHYARD!

With all of us spending more times outside these days, we'd like to revitalise our churchyard as part of the 800th celebrations.

As many of you know, the churchyard is a green sacred space at the heart of the community, bounded on all four sides by listed buildings of beauty and significance to the town; the church of 1222, the School of 1544, the 16th century Court House and early Victorian private dwellings. It also contains several ancient trees which give it a unique character.

What are your ideas for enhancing the space? How can we encourage more community visits?

Please send in your ideas by Monday $8^{\rm th}$ January 2021. You can email them, post them into the Court House Letterbox or message us on social media.

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Join Us! We'd love more people to get involved with the 800th activity. If you'd like to volunteer to help or are bursting with ideas, please get in touch!

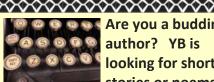
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News from Rectory Lane Cemetery



Having conducted a number of small group guided tours permissible during September and October (groups of twelve, then reduced to groups of six), it was brilliant to open up the gates to the Cemetery on 1st November and see people enjoying the transformed place for themselves, discovering all the new features, the ease with which they could move around on the paths and the sense of space and peace.

One visitor summed it up beautifully: 'You have created a very special place indeed for our community ... each time I come here I've seen all sorts of people, from the youngest to the oldest and all in between, connecting with the beautiful surroundings as well as each other. A perfect combination of inspiration and reflection – just right for our times'.

Also in November, we were able to honour those military men who had died as a result of the two World Wars and are buried in the Cemetery. The new War Memorial was the focus of **Remembrance Sunday** with the British Legion Berkhamsted branch President and Chairman laying wreaths, watched in





respectful silence and social distance by members of the public. People were there again for the

anniversary of Armistice Day. The Garden of Remembrance is already being appreciated as a place of pilgrimage, a quiet spot to connect with those who have died and reflect on our own lives.

Along one side of the Garden of Remembrance is the **Memorial Wall** – a wood and wire structure of four panels. Roses have been planted to grow up the two

outer panels, but the wider inner panels with their cross-hatch of wires are for the hanging of commemorative tiles. After an extensive process of research into different materials, really helpful discussions with local artists and prototyping in glass and ceramics, the Project identified fused-glass artist Jessica Ecott as the person to work with to achieve what we were after. Jessica's final designs for the two panels are colourful, painterly impressions of close-ups of a flower bed. She has been working in her studio over the last few months to recreate her designs in over 450 individual, hand-crafted tiles.

These individual tiles can now be purchased and engraved with text – to commemorate a loved one, an important life event, something or someone you wish





to celebrate. As more and more tiles are added – in strict sequence – the wall becomes a beautiful and growing artwork that keeps the cemetery alive as a space for remembering and connects the Ceme-

tery to contemporary Berkhamsted. Anyone interested in finding out more and purchasing a tile should get in touch with the Community Engagement Officer, community@stpetersberkhamstedfriends.org.uk. We are also finalising the details for interring ashes in the Garden of Remembrance.

Flowering cherries and low hornbeam hedges were established in the Garden of

Remembrance back in August, but further planting of the borders will take place next Spring. We are very fortunate that members of the Berkhamsted Gardeners' Society (who are responsible for the wonderful restoration and planting up of the gardens at Berkhamsted station and other places) are looking after this aspect of the project – as they know what they're doing! They have been



working hard to weed and ready the soil for planting. We are really looking forward to seeing the borders transformed – it will be beautiful.

With the works finished, the emphasis is now on implementing a wholly volunteer-based, sustainable management and maintenance plan for the Cemetery so having groups like the Berkhamsted Gardeners' Society and Chilterns Society on board, as well as many individual volunteers is exactly what the Project needs. There is a wide variety of tasks to be undertaken – from wildlife habitat management to grave adoption, genealogy research to schools outreach, publicity to fundraising ... The Project volunteers who have worked for nearly seven years to deliver the transformation are dedicated and passionate about the project and very welcoming – do join us.

Volunteers like Brian Wedge and Dave Joyner who turned Hugo Hardy's design for a volunteers' retreat into a reality – somewhere those working on site could convene to talk about the tasks that need doing and to have a brew. We can't wait to use it once we are allowed to be in a small space together!





Volunteers who transform neglected graves into carefully tended plots of flowers, manage our composting system, sweep the paths, rake up leaves and generally make it a pleasant place for us all.

Volunteers who turned up to help the Cemetery participate in the Big Berko Lights Switch-On, when we illuminated key features for a few hours on a foggy and atmospheric evening.





Volunteers who delve into *Ancestry.com*, *Find My Past* and other records, armed only with a name and date of death, and come up with some extraordinary insights into the lives of those buried here, like the resourceful widow Sarah Bunn https://www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk/burials/bunn-plot/, Samuel Satow, man of substance https://www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk/burials/east-plot-2/ and teacher & author of Outdoor Things for Lively Youngsters TJS Rowland https://www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk/burials/rowlands-plot/

Finally, the Rectory Lane Cemetery Project Team would like to thank everybody who has helped and supported us so far – volunteers, donors, enablers and doers – and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a much happier 2021. In the meantime, please enjoy the space, think about volunteering with us and look out for a resumption of our activity programme next year when we can do so.

Kate Campbell









Thank you to all our retailers, pubs and restaurants in Berkhamsted who went above and beyond during this challenging year. We hope things will improve in 2021. And by shopping and eating locally, we can help keep you here for the future.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our readers and businesses in Berkhamsted.



CHILTERN ARTS FESTIVAL 2021 ANNOUNCED: SIX SOCIALLY-DISTANCED LIVE CONCERTS IN PRINCES RISBOROUGH, HENLEY-ON-THAMES, MARLOW, BERKHAMSTED, GREAT MISSENDEN AND AMERSHAM

Following a successful duo of socially-distanced Autumn Concerts in October, Chiltern Arts has announced a programme of six glorious classical concerts as the Chiltern Arts Festival returns in 2021 – with audience safety and comfort coming first at every turn. Running in locations across the Chilterns from Friday 26th February to Saturday 6th March, the Festival features the highest quality classical music from world-renowned musicians.

The Festival theme this year is 'musical resonance' — exploring how music can mean so many different things to individual listeners, or how it can tell a story or reveal an identity. Pianist Clare Hammond opens the Festival in Princes Risborough with a solo programme inspired by her work in prisons, featuring Brahms and Rachmaninov. In Henleyon-Thames, Chiltern Arts welcomes back Echo choir with a dramatised performance exploring how we as an audience listen to Renaissance music, taking the music of Orlando de Lassus as a starting point for this charming, honest and original piece of theatre.

Internationally-acclaimed harpsichord player Mahan Esfahani treats us to one of Bach's most loved works in Marlow: the Goldberg Variations. Dive into an immersive Argentinian experience at The Gatsby in Berkhamsted, with an Argentinian Wine Tasting from Tring Winery, a concert from the Nuevo Tango Quintet and a fabulous two course Argentinian-inspired meal – plus a selection of mouth-watering canapés to start.

In Great Missenden, the Sacconi String Quartet open windows into composers' minds as we hear works written as diaries or love letters, including Dvorak's famous *American* quartet and Shostakovich's 8th String Quartet. And returning to Amersham for a second year running, the City of London Sinfonia explore musical identities with a programme including Mendelssohn's stunning *Octet* and Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*.

Tickets, drinks and programmes are all available to pre-purchase online from 22nd November – and, with socially-distanced capacities taken into account, it's best to book early to avoid disappointment! Chiltern Arts is making a promise to its audience that should events be cancelled due to changes in Covid-19 regulations that all ticket-buyers will be offered a refund, and refunds or partial refunds will also be offered where possible to anyone unable to attend due to track-and-trace-enforced isolation – so you can book in total confidence.

Join Chiltern Arts this Spring for something we will never again take for granted: the luxury of experiencing a week of live *in-person* concerts – the vibrations of the room, those real human moments and the sheer joy of sharing the experience with others... albeit whilst masked from a safe social distance!

For further information please contact Naomi Taylor: naomi.taylor@chilternarts.com / 07943875640

Performance Details:

Clare Hammond: Helping and Healing Friday 26th February 2021, 7pm St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough

Echo Choir: Listening to Lassus Saturday 27th February 2021, 7pm St Mary's Church, Henley-on-Thames

Mahan Esfahani: Goldberg Variations Monday 1st March 2021, 7pm All Saints' Church, Marlow

An Argentinian Evening with the Nuevo Tango Quintet: Concert, Dinner and Wine Tasting

Wednesday 3rd March 2021, 6pm

The Gatsby, Berkhamsted

In Piazzola's centenary year, visit the dark streets of late-night Buenos Aires in this immersive Argentinian experience. Allow yourself to be whisked away with emotive tango, Argentinian cuisine and an introduction to Argentinian wine with five spectacular wines selected and presented by Tring Winery.

- Argentinian-inspired canapés, served with a glass of Argentinian sparkling wine at your table on arrival.
- Empanadas Mendocino served with Chimichurri and traditional rice and beans.
- Chocotorta (Argentinian chocolate cake)

Sacconi String Quartet: Diaries and Love Letters Thursday 4th March 2021, 7pm St Peter and St Paul's Church, Great Missenden

City of London Sinfonia: Musical Identities Saturday 6th March 2021, 7pm St Mary's Church, Old Amersham

Cont page 26



Online tickets: https://chilternarts.com/whats-on/

Box office phone: 01442 920303 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm; Sat 10am-1pm)



celebrating his 100th birthday in 2021?

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels





Having been on lockdown throughout November and no rehoming taking place we have rather a full house! With gentle giant Achilles, little terrier Yogi and all shapes and sizes in between to care for it's been a challenging time, especially as we have not been able to hold most of our fund-raising events this year. So we need to ask generous dog lovers and supporters to help us get through this difficult time. It's easy to make a donation of £3 simply by texting APPLE to 70111 or donate via Paypal using the 'DONATE Support a Cause' option and search for Appledown Rescue. Donations by cheque are very welcome too. Thank you from Achilles, Yogi and all our dogs!

If you are interested in offering a dog a loving home all the relevant information and an application form can be found on our website. Viewings are now by appointment only.

For adoption information and application form visit our website www.appledownrescue.co.uk

Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY

01525 220383 (10-12 a.m.& 2-4 p.m.) e-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

Berkhamsted charities join forces to feed vulnerable and elderly

Open Door, the community centre in Berkhamsted, and Berko Food for Friends have teamed up once again to provide a free meal service for the most vulnerable in our community.

Every Tuesday and Thursday during lockdown, volunteers are delivering freshly cooked main courses and desserts to people who are elderly, self isolating or struggling financially.

Christine Delaney, who helped set up the service back in July, says: "We made more than 1,000 deliveries during the last lockdown, and know that a delicious meal delivered with a friendly smile was the highlight of many people's week. It's impossible to overestimate the isolation some people are experiencing right now, and we want to do what we can to take some of the worry away."

Food donations have been coming in from local supermarkets and market stalls. These are skilfully turned into balanced, nutritious meals by school chef Mark Sear, who has almost 30 years' catering experience under his belt.

Open Door is also making sure essential supplies are available, free of charge, in the Community Pantry outside their entrance.

Mary-Jane Martin, volunteer manager, explains: "We've been lucky that so many people have stepped forward to offer help since the current lockdown started. This means we now have two fantastic volunteers looking after the Pantry, making sure it stays full of food and other vital products, like nappies and toiletries. We have a very small budget to do this, and are grateful for any contributions the Berkhamsted community can make."

There are also community pantries at St Mary's Church, Northchurch, and Northchurch Baptist Church.

- If you'd like to order a meal for you or on behalf of someone else, please email bff@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk
- The Community Pantry is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for people to take what they need, or contribute food and other essentials.
- If you'd like to make a donation to support Open Door's work in the community, please email fundraising@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk

 Once Open Door reopens there will be lots of exciting volunteering opportunities – please email volunteering@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk to find out more.

Open Door is at 360-364 High Street, Berkhamsted. For more information, visit www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk

For more information please contact Katie Jones on 07971 706433 or comms@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk

Open Door was set up three years ago to be a safe and welcoming space for people to meet, make friends, and be active and creative.





Community Pantry



Joan and Jo Outside





HALL HIRE

Quaker Meeting House 289 High Street Berkhamsted HP4 1JA

Large room for hire Seats up to 50 Use of kitchen and garden

Ideal for classes, groups etc. Children's Parties (under 12s)

for further information see:
www.berkhamstedquakers.org.uk/
hallhire



Connecting Creatively through the Senses

The winter months will continue to be challenging for our vulnerable elderly population especially those living alone and with memory loss. We are all missing physical contact with our families and friends and, whatever Tier we find ourselves in when this article is published, it is critically important that we engage creativity with how we connect meaningfully with those feeling isolated.

Here at The Heather Club – an adult day care centre for people with dementia, we have spent time over the past months planning and preparing to deliver an outreach program for our members while we are unable to open our doors for our day centre. One area we are focusing on is helping our members to connect creatively with their senses.

The Heather Club is creating sensory boxes for our members which is an easy and fun idea to engage any vulnerable family or neighbours over these lonely winter months. These little gifts can provide stimulation, encouragement and hope that spring is just around the corner. Of course, when delivering anything to a vulnerable person, please remember to place gifts in a bag 72 hours before delivering and follow the Government's guidelines about social distancing and the use of PPE.

Here's some ideas to inspire you to create your own sensory boxes or holiday gifts:

Sight: Do you have any previously-loved jigsaw puzzles that you could pass on? When delivering you could share the story behind the puzzle for example 'Jamie loves Dinosaurs, so this puzzle has many happy memories...'. Alternatively, you could provide some brightly coloured pieces of tissue or Christmas wrapping paper and a glue stick to create spring flowers.

Sound: Alongside chatting on the doorstep, could you arrange to call and sing together from a spotify genre playlist? Singing has been proven to generate feelings of wellbeing and a direct connection to memories. If you don't see yourselves singing, try reading out your favourite poem.

Touch: It is so sad that touch is something we can't do at the moment, but do you have any tactile objects such as shells at home which you could share to bring back memories of trips to the seaside? Any tactile object that can evoke memories could be an invaluable resource.

Taste: An edible treat will not only help with tempting an elderly person to eat, but can also bring back memories and feelings of inclusion.

Smell: A scented soap or some fragrant spring flowers may excite the sense of smell

The Heather Club is constantly looking for opportunities for our members to reminisce, to move, to feel part of the community -all factors essential to help engendering well-being in this vulnerable group. In these unprecedented times, we have to rethink how to safely connect lives within the community. Hopefully before long, there will be light at the end of the tunnel and services will resume for many local community groups like The Heather Club in Hemel Hempstead. At which time we will look forward to welcoming you with open arms into a safe and respectful environment where you can feel part of something again, eat a home cooked meal, take part in singing and dancing and reminisce about old times with the wonderfully warm and friendly staff.

Jayne Wilton is a trustee of The Heather Club which is based in Hemel Hempstead. The Heather Club is a day care centre for adults with dementia offering sociability and stimulation to people living with early stage dementia and memory loss. For more support and advice please visit us at our website www.theheatherclub.com or follow us on our Facebook page 'The Heather Club' or on Instagram at the_heather_club.





Photo by Solstice Hannan

Photo by Daiga Ellaby

Green Community Grants now available

'Think global and act local' for your community group to be awarded a pot of up to £2000!

As part of Dacorum Borough Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency work, we have launched the borough's first ever 'Green Community Grants'. The new grant scheme is specifically designed to support projects in our community which benefit the environment, as well as Dacorum's residents. The purpose is to encourage and enable local groups to 'think global and act local' whilst tackling environmental challenges.

Any voluntary and community groups are invited to apply, including school groups as well as parish and town councils.

Projects must demonstrate that they will actively help towards the mitigation of the Climate and Ecological Emergency locally within Dacorum. This could be with projects that reduce carbon emissions; increase active travel; improve biodiversity; increase sustainability; or raise environmental awareness locally. The environmental projects must also engage with or benefit the local community. The projects with the greatest impacts will be awarded the funding.

Groups can obtain a maximum grant of £2000, from a total pot of £10,000. The Green Community Grant scheme is open for applications from 1 December to 31 January 2021.

Successful projects will be notified in February, with grants being allocated by March.

To find out more details and how to apply, visit: www.dacorum.gov.uk/grants Please note that litter-picking and fly-tipping projects will not be deemed suitable for the grants; if you are a community group that is interested in support with litter-picks, please visit: www.dacorum.gov.uk/litterpicks

Green Community Grants now launched!

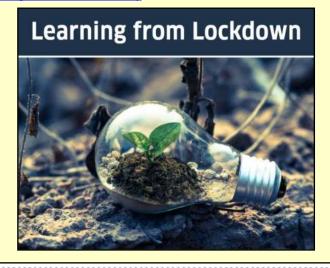
https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/all-news/2020/12/03/green-community-grants-now-available

www.dacorum.gov.uk/grants



Learning from Lockdown Sustainability survey results https://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/all-news/2020/11/24/learning-from-lockdown-survey-results-revealed

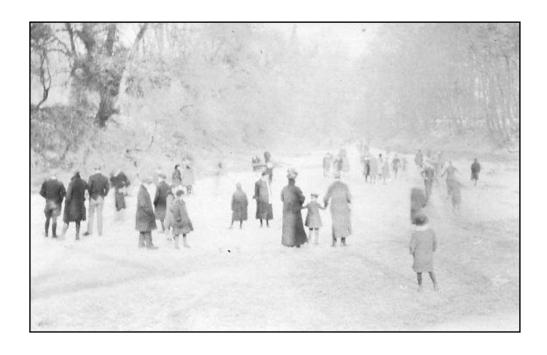
www.dacorum.gov.uk/sustainability



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