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**YB**

**Your Berkhamsted**

**February/March 2020**

**Introducing Katie Jones - see her story**

**Putting local history in perspective**

**Observations by Dennis Furnell  
(The Natureman)**

**Are you a super sleuth?**



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

## *In this issue...*

### **WELCOME TO THE FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020 EDITION OF YOUR**

**BERKHAMSTED.** Now in a new year and new decade – it feels like a blank canvas. We have a new contributor in Katie Jones, Katie is multi-talented and will be writing and producing art work for us. We welcome Katie to YB. With a hello there are also some goodbye's. Father Tim who has been Rector of St Peter's for over 5 years will be retiring and leaving us for pastures new. We wish him and his wife Alys well in their new chapter of life. Another goodbye is the much loved Derek Fowlds who was from Berkhamsted and always stayed close to his roots. I know there are many people in Berkhamsted who knew him personally. I remember him well in Yes, Minister. Very sad news. Dennis Furnell brings with him the beauty of nature and his words and pictures capture this. The Rectory Cemetery are asking if there are any sleuths about, if you can, please get involved. This is a great project. We have so much more including what is on in and around Berkhamsted for the next two months. 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 new features.



**JACQUELINE - [EDITOR@YOURBERKHAMSTED.ORG.UK](mailto:EDITOR@YOURBERKHAMSTED.ORG.UK)**

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**Front cover: Thank you Katie Jones for the wonderful picture of the Canal.  
See more of Katie's work at [facebook.com/katiejonesartuk](https://facebook.com/katiejonesartuk).**

*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.

## Rambles from Berkhamsted by Julian Dawson



Cycling seems almost ubiquitous these days, and on any given Saturday or Sunday you are likely to have to dodge peletons of local cycling clubs breaking for a coffee at one of the local hostelryes. [ivingho-evelos.org.uk](http://ivingho-evelos.org.uk) sets out a variety of rides ranging from 23 – 46 miles, including routes through Chipperfield, Bison Hill to Berkhamsted, and Tring. A nice gentle ride for club member Alice, who is doing a 100k trip in France and needs to get in to the training. It's all a far cry from my teenage cycling days on my Raleigh Racer, with a stupendous five gears. My most ambitious ride was from Bushey through to Wigginton, suffering a puncture on the return as we hit Chipperfield.

If two feet are rather more your thing then head to [whereangell-stread.com](http://whereangell-stread.com), a blog covering walking for pleasure in the Chilterns. The entry for 3<sup>rd</sup> January describes a River Bulbourne hike taken in November from the canal through Winkwell and on to Ashlyns Farm. This is a 6.2 mile round walk parts of which I have taken myself, including the long walk up from Bourne End

and the valley south of Berkhamsted disturbed by the sound of the A41 traffic, but invariably giving good views of kite, buzzards and deer.

If all that exercise gives you an appetite, you might wish to know that according to [livekindly.co](http://livekindly.co) Papa Johns is offering vegan pizza toppings – using jackfruit to substitute the usual pepperoni and sausage. If you're unfamiliar with this variety of fruit, it is found on a tree in the fig, mulberry and breadfruit family. Its consistency is similar to chicken so naturally it has become a useful vegan ingredient for those who like their planet-friendly food more like their usual fare. Indeed, a whole industry is given over to make various vegetable ingredients more meat like, so that a vegan burger tastes like the real thing, but just as important share the texture of real steak, even to the point of replicating oozing bloody juices.

To education, and the news that Little Deers Children's Club at Swing Gate School has been rated as good in its first Ofsted inspection. [berkhamsted-today.co.uk](http://berkhamsted-today.co.uk) explains that the

**Cont page 5**

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inspector praised the club's "clear vision" and commitment to provide the "highest-quality care" for children. This is an excellent result for the club that opened its doors in 2017. It was good to hear that "staff read in a way that excites and amuses the children. They use good intonation and a range of voices to bring each story to life." I do like a good story time.

Berkhamsted football club has been having quite a successful season, but

this sets them up as a target for those clubs chasing the league leaders. whtimes.co.uk was delighted to report that its local club, Welwyn Garden City, hit four goals against them in a 4-1 New Year drubbing. The traditional rivals both gained promotion two years ago, and both are attempting the same feat in 2020. Berkhamsted will need more consistent form if they are to achieve their side of the bargain.

### Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator

#### CAP Money Course

Local residents are being given yet another chance to get control of their finances with CAP Money offering to run another popular free course in the first half of 2020 if there is sufficient demand for it.

The courses are run to empower people to fight poverty *before* it hits. Locally all of the churches in Berkhamsted support the work that we do in running the courses and we also work very closely with the CAP Debt Centre based at Liberty Tea Rooms in Hemel Hempstead.

The CAP Money course is run over three sessions and is aimed at helping the local community to best handle their finances. Its aim is to debt-proof people's finances, giving people tools to ensure that they get their bills paid as a priority, save for the future and know what their disposable income actually is.

Courses are useful for newly retired people, soon-to-be students, mums dealing with mounting bills, families saving for a wedding and everyone in between. The CAP Money course isn't just for people with debts. It's for everyone. Learning how to set a budget and stick to it helps to debt-proof people in the long term.

If you are interested in attending the course or would like to know more then telephone Mike Wallis on 07891 760244 or email him on [michaelawallis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michaelawallis@yahoo.co.uk).

# 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  
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)

[www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk). (Adult Learning Courses) £74 for a 10-week course, 2 hours a week. 0300 3033464; information 872432

## Tring Brewery - Saturday tours

This popular tour is designed for groups of all sizes. They are run twice a month and provide you with an opportunity to discover more about the brewery, our beers and how we make them. Included in the price is a tutored tasting session, with samples of delicious, fresh beer!

**Time** 2.00pm to 3.30pm

**Price** £5 per person. If you want to head over on a Saturday simply fill out the form or give us a call. Payment can be made on the day.

[www.tringbrewery.co.uk/tours](http://www.tringbrewery.co.uk/tours)

**01442 890721**

**Saturday 1st February 7.30pm: Chilterns Dog Rescue Society Quiz Night** - Ashley Green Memorial Hall, Two Dells Lane,

Ashley Green, HP5 3RB. Teams of 6. £12.50 per person. Hot supper included. Bring your own drinks and glasses.

<https://chilternsdogrescue.org.uk>

## Tuesday 4th February 10.30am-2.30pm: Age UK Dacorum AGM

Court Theatre, Tring. Free. AGM plus full symposium on loneliness and the effect it has on all ages. Host - Nigel Barden; Music - Shane Lamont; Pop in throughout the day. Range of stands from voluntary and statutory sector where people can find out the services offered in our community.

[www.ageuk.org.uk/dacorum](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/dacorum)

**Saturday 8th February 7.30pm: Kipps, the new Half a Sixpence Musical** - Markova Theatre, Tring Park School. Also Sun 9th, 2pm and Wed 12th, Thu 13th, 7.30pm. Based on the H.G. Wells novel Kipps: The Story of a Simple Soul.

<https://www.tringpark.com/whats-on>

## Saturday 8th February 7.30pm: Kristiana Ignatjeva and Kumi Matsuo

Berkhamsted Civic Centre. £15. Kristiana Ignatjeva (Cello) Kumi Matsuo (Piano). Beethoven: Cello Sonata No 5 in D, Myaskovsky: Cello Sonata No 1 in D, Grieg: Cello Sonata in A Minor, Arensky: Romance No 2, Piatigorsky: Variations on a Theme of Paganini.

[www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk) **Call 01442 862798**

## Sunday 9th February 7pm: Kinky Boots

Vyne Theatre. Filmed live from the West End, with music by Cyndi Lauper and based on the musical inspired by true-life events.

**Call: 0333 6663366** <http://www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk>

**Monday 10th February 8pm: The Breadwinner** - Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Also 11th Feb. Non-members £5 at door. A vibrant animated tour-de-force. In Afghanistan a young girl ventures outside her home disguised as a boy to support her family. Dir: Nora Twomey 2017/ Ireland/Cert 12A 93min.

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

**Friday 14th February 7.30pm: The Great Gatsby Cinema Evening** - Ashridge House. £30 includes ticket, 1 drink, sharing board for 2, popcorn. [Call 01442 841027](tel:01442841027)  
[www.ashridgehouse.org.uk](http://www.ashridgehouse.org.uk)

**Saturday 15th February 7.30pm-1am: The Great Gatsby Ball.** Ashridge House. £75, min 8 persons. Drinks, dinner and dancing. [Call 01442 841027](tel:01442841027)  
[www.ashridgehouse.org.uk](http://www.ashridgehouse.org.uk)

**Saturday 15th February 8pm: Simon Spillett Quartet** - Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Members £10, Visitors £13. Simon, a local musician, is one of the UK's best saxophonists, and leads a great band including Rob Barron, Clark Tracey & Alec Dankworth. Music from the American songbook & from Tubby Hayes. [bjazztick-ets@gmail.com](mailto:bjazztick-ets@gmail.com)  
[www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk) [Call 01442 824173](tel:01442824173)

**Sunday 16th February 11am: Galentine's Brunch and Cinema Screening** - Ashridge House. £40/60. Gatsby themed brunch and showing of film Isn't It Romantic. [Call 01442 841027](tel:01442841027) <https://www.ashridgehouse.org.uk>

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 8pm: The Railway Comes to Tring** - Berkhamsted Town Hall. Speaker: Ian Petticrew. [Call 01442 877831](tel:01442877831) [mary.casserley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mary.casserley@yahoo.co.uk)  
[berkhamsted-history.org.uk](http://berkhamsted-history.org.uk)

**Wednesday 19 February 12.30pm: BDCC Networking Lunch** - The Highwayman, Berkhamsted. £20 members, £25 non-members includes 2-course lunch, glass of wine, beer or soft drink, coffee/tea, service charge. [www.berkhamsted-chamber.co.uk](http://www.berkhamsted-chamber.co.uk)

**Sunday 23rd February 3pm: Swan Lake - Vyne Theatre.** Tchaikovsky's essential masterpiece returns with a new cast for the most beloved ballet in the classical canon from the Bolshoi. [Call 0333 6663366](tel:03336663366)  
[www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk)

**Monday 24th February 8pm: In the Fade** - Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Also 25th Feb. Non-members £5 at door. A gripping contemporary thriller exploring the lengths a woman seeking retribution will go to after her husband and son are killed by a bomb. Dir: Fatih Akin/2017/ Germany/Cert 18 106min/Subtitles. [www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk)

**Saturday 29th February 7.30pm: From Venice to Buenos Aires** - Berkhamsted Old Town Hall. Baroque meets Argentinian Tango in this scintillating programme featuring David Le Page as violin soloist. A thrilling new arrangement of Vivaldi's Four Seasons followed by Astor Piazzolla's extraordinary piece of the same name. [info@behindthemirror.org](mailto:info@behindthemirror.org)  
[www.behindthemirror.org](http://www.behindthemirror.org)

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**Sunday 1st March - Berkhamsted Half Marathon.** The Berkhamsted Half Marathon, which tracks through very attractive Chilterns countryside, is an ideally timed event for runners coming back to competitive running after winter. [rotaryberkhamsted.fullonsport.com/event/77411/profile](http://rotaryberkhamsted.fullonsport.com/event/77411/profile)

**Sunday 1st March 2pm: Marston and Scarlett.** Vyne Theatre. A double-bill of new work from the Royal Ballet. [Call 0333 6663366](tel:03336663366) [www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedartscentre.co.uk)

**Friday 6th March 8pm: The Rothschilds of Tring.** St Leonards Parish Hall. Generations of Rothschilds have put their mark on Tring and its environs. Tim Amsden has recently published a book with the same title. [localhistory-group@cholesbury.com](mailto:localhistory-group@cholesbury.com) <https://cholesbury.com>

**7th March 2020 - Come and Sing!** - This March The First Friday Singers are hosting a Come and Sing Mozart's Requiem event in aid of the Hospice of St Francis at

St Mary's Church in Chesham! Registration for the event opens at 9:30am for a 10am start with an informal concert performance at 5pm! The Musical Director for the event is Graham Wili and the pianist/organist is Iestyn Evans. **St Mary's Church, Church Street, HP5 1HY.** **Ticket prices:** £18.00 in advance; £20.00 on the day. Both include music. **Advance booking:** Email Margaret Parker: [margya-parker@aol.com](mailto:margya-parker@aol.com) or; Telephone Anthony Ogden: 01494 758027. Minimum age is 18+ (15-17 years olds welcome if accompanied by an adult throughout).

**Saturday 7th March - Pop-up Art Weekend.** Chilterns MS Centre, Wendover. - Also Sun 8th March. Free entry. With over 90 local artists showcasing paintings, pottery, jewellery, textiles and more. Refreshments and delicious cakes will be on sale too. [www.chilternsmcentre.org](http://www.chilternsmcentre.org)

**Saturday 7th March 7.30pm:** Rautio Piano Trio. Berkhamsted Civic Centre. £15. Haydn: Trio in E Flat, Schoenberg: Verk-

## **Events at St Peter's Church or the Court House, Berkhamsted**

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm** at St Peter's: ORCHESTRAL CONCERT Bridgewater Sinfonia. Gershwin A Cuban Overture; Barber Violin Concerto Op 14, soloists Nathaniel Anderson Frank; Bernstein Symphonic Dances; Conductor Stephen Joyce Myall, Music Director Adrian Davis.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm** at St Peter's: RECITAL CONCERT Behind the Mirror 'Transfigured Night'. One of an intimate series of concerts founded and curated by Clare O'Connell.



'Archduke'. [Call 01442 862798 treasurer@berkhamstedmusic.co.uk](mailto:Call01442862798_treasurer@berkhamstedmusic.co.uk)  
<http://www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk>

**Monday 9th March 8pm: The Old Man and the Gun.** Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Also 10th Mar. Non-members £5 at door. Robert Redford's swansong, a beautifully understated crime comedy based on fact: the bank-robbing spree of 70-year-old San Quentin escapee Forrest Tucker. Dir: David Lowery/2018/USA/Cert 12A 93min.  
[www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk)

**Wednesday 11 March - Berkhamsted Citizens AGM.** With the Environment Award and a special speaker to be announced. [berkhamstedcitizensevents@gmail.com](mailto:berkhamstedcitizensevents@gmail.com)  
[www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk](http://www.berkhamstedcitizens.org.uk)  
(Please check website for times)

**Saturday 14th March 8pm: Hertswing Big Band.** Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Members £10, Visitors £13. A local 17-piece big band based in Kings Langley, led by John Davis. Well-known numbers, including tunes by Count Basie, and a smashing vocalist. [Call 01442 824173 bjazztickets@gmail.com](mailto:Call01442824173_bjazztickets@gmail.com)  
[www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedjazz.co.uk)

**Wed 18th March 8pm:** The Kings Arms 147 High St, Berkhamsted, HP4 3HL £5.00 entry. To book contact [Istate@btinternet.com](mailto:Istate@btinternet.com)  
Berkhamsted Live 22, featuring:

- Uplifting music by Vaughan Rance
- Some wonderful puppets and how to use them by Mark Crane
- The Dream Speaks Back – a deep, comic and revealing discussion with joint authors Cy Henty, Sue Hampton and Leslie Tate.

Supporting Pepper Children's Hospice at Home. Come for the live performance in The Greene Room AND watch how Radio Dacorum broadcast the whole show on <http://www.radiodacorum.org.uk/>. Doors open at 18.45 for a pre-show radio interview with the performers. Show starts 8pm.

**Monday 23rd March 8pm: 5 Broken Cameras.** Berkhamsted Civic Centre. Also 24th Mar. Non-members £5 at door. Documentary from a Palestinian community's video record of their non-violent resistance to the erection of a wall through their land. Dirs: G.David, E.Burnat/2011/Is, Pal Cert 15/94min/Subtitles.  
[www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk)

**Wednesday 25th March 8pm:** Armoured Cars and Tanks in Kensington 1915. Berkhamsted Town Hall. Speaker: Stephen Lally, BLH&MS member. Call 01442 877831.  
[mary\\_casserley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mary_casserley@yahoo.co.uk)  
[berkhamsted-history.org.uk](http://berkhamsted-history.org.uk)



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## Putting Local History in Perspective



Obviously it is the events in local history that concern us the most. We are directly affected by these

events. It is however interesting and useful to step back and consider what importance these events have in the wider spectrum of national or even international history. Looking at them we may not be aware of the wider significance which they have. We enter St Peter's Church and look at the very fine monuments and pause to read their inscriptions. 'Charles Gordon, Esq 1829 of Braco, island of Jamaica and of this place.' On further investigation we learn that he is buried in the vault allotted to Pilkington Manor, so obviously he is a wealthy man. In Braco, Jamaica he had a sugar plantation, manned and cultivated by African slaves, which was perfectly legal at the time. Only later were certain local campaigners, among them prominent Quakers, to fight for their liberation and the abolition of slavery.

Most students of Berkhamsted's local history will be aware that Queen Victoria and her Consort visited Berkhamsted early in her reign. They may be conscious of elaborate preparations of floral arches, which they have seen somewhere and have seen also repeated in later photographs. They may be aware also that there

was a connection with a well-known apple tree of which someone they know has an example in their garden. On further investigation it transpires that the royal couple changed horses at the Kings Arms on their way to visit the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Abbey for a few days in July 1841. In preparation for the visit elaborate floral arches festooned with greenery were placed at two places in the High Street. These decorations were depicted and are retained for posterity by the drawings of William Claridge. Also, Queen Victoria's journal is now available to read online and we can learn of Victoria's opinion of Berkhamsted's decoration and of the countryside around Berkhamsted. It is interesting that she was aware of the dominance of the straw plait industry in the locality.

At the time of the visit a Quaker gentleman, one William Squire, of the Homestead cultivated an apple which he wished to christen the Victoria and Albert apple. He offered it to a near neighbour, Lane's Nurseries, who promptly marketed it as Lane's Prince Albert. Even if Victoria and Albert's visit is barely remembered outside Berkhamsted, Lane's Prince Albert apple is still available for sale today from reputable nurseries.

The Kings Arms with its central position and ample stabling facilities and

perhaps also the added attraction of young Polly Page was also used to change horses by another Royal Visitor, none other than the exiled King of France, Louis XVIII, and his court. The apparent friendship between the young attractive innkeeper's daughter gave ample opportunity for rumours, which were vigorously refuted by Polly, with the assurance that 'nothing improper took place'. Nevertheless, Polly had the excitement later of a visit to Versailles.

Approximately one hundred years later another French gentleman, not a royal one but of equal political importance regularly attended Mass at the former Roman Catholic Church in Park View Road when he travelled, incognito with his wife and daughter from the secluded house, Rodinghead on the Ashridge Estate. Here, once again the prominent General de Gaulle made use of Berkhamsted's proximity to London, this time not changing horses at the Kings Arms but using improved road conditions, and also maybe a railway system. Few local people, except perhaps members of the Potten End Home Guard were aware of de Gaulle's presence in their midst, until he inspected them.

Only in recent years has a strange local resident, who is buried in the churchyard of St. Mary's Northchurch, received general national and even international interest, Peter the Wild Boy. This boy at about the age of

twelve years old was found living apparently as a savage wandering in the woods near Hameln in the State of Hannover in Germany. After a period of time at Kensington Palace, when attempts were made to teach him to speak, the Princess of Wales made arrangements for him to be cared for by James Fenn of Haxters End Farm. On the death of James Fenn he was transferred to the care of James' brother Thomas at Broadway Farm in the Parish of St. Mary's, Northchurch. Both these farms were in what would now be known as Bourne End but at the time were in the eastern end of the parish of St Mary's Northchurch. The church at Bourne End was built by the Rev John Culme-Seymour as a chapel of ease for St Mary's but did not exist at the time of Peter's death. This explains why Peter is buried and commemorated in St Mary's Northchurch. A few years ago the story of Peter received renewed interest and scientists were of the opinion that he was suffering from Pitt Hopkins syndrome. This renewed interest led to the grave in St Mary's churchyard being Grade II listed and shows how an unusual feature or personage of local history can lead to a later national and even international evaluation.

**Jenny Sherwood**



# THE CHILTERN ARTS FESTIVAL RETURNS IN 2020

28th February-7th March

CHILTERN  
ARTS



As the world celebrates 250 years since Beethoven's birth, Chiltern Arts joins the festivities with a programme celebrating overcoming adversity in the arts, with its usual array of venues across the Chilterns, including Henley-on-Thames, Marlow, Berkhamsted,

Great Missenden, Wallingford and, for the first time, Princes Risborough.

"It's a busy year for Chiltern Arts," says founder and Creative Director, Naomi Taylor, "and a really exciting one too! I'm particularly excited to have a theme linking all events for the first time this year – and I hope people will get on board and follow the Festival as a bit of a journey of discovery! There are also lots of opportunities to get involved, as well as simply sitting back and enjoying – there's the Come and Sing day and a poetry competition, and we also have a very hands-on Youth Music and Art Day... come and join us for what we think will be a brilliant week!!"

Chiltern Arts offers an array of concerts for all musical tastes: Septura Brass Septet celebrate the music of female composers; the Come and Sing Company invite you to explore Tippett's *Five Spirituals* alongside Tippett's biographer, Oliver Soden; the Marian Consort uncover the Catholic music kept under wraps in Elizabethan England; the Phoenix Piano Trio present piano trios from Beethoven and Fauré, both of whom suffered hearing loss; pianist Danny Driver presents 'Beethoven and the loss of Vital Senses' with music from Gabriela Lena Frank and Rodrigo partnering Beethoven's impressive '*Hammerklavier*'; and the City of London Sinfonia close the Festival with Beethoven's famous Septet.

One of the highlights of the 2020 programme is undoubtedly a mini-residency from eminent solo percussionist Dame Evelyn Glennie, performing with Trio HLK a piece called '*Extra Sensory Perception*'; and we're thrilled to be commissioning a piece from composer Stephen Goss for Dame Evelyn and Matthew Wadsworth. The piece will be premiered at the Candlelit Lute recital in Great Missenden on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – definitely not one to miss. Dame Evelyn and Matthew both also precede their respective events with pre-concert talks, giving an insight into the challenges of music-making while living with sensory impairments.

Chiltern Arts' popular Concert and Dinner event returns to The Gatsby in Berkhamsted, this year with music from members of the Piccadilly Dance Orchestra, featuring cabaret and a seven-piece band. Think '20s and 30s High Society entertainment – grab a glass of fizz and enjoy turning back the clock in the perfect setting! Three outstanding young professional ensembles feature at the Festival: the Salomé String Quartet, baroque

quartet Ensemble Hesperi and wind group the Magnard Ensemble. The first entirely youth-focused event features music from several local young musicians and performers, including students from the Mary Hare School for the Deaf, Amersham Music Centre, Tring School and Chiltern Music Academy, as well as a massed choir led by the Marian Consort. There are also interactive opportunities for children of all ages to get involved in the day.

The poetry competition also returns in 2020, open to writers of all ages. There's information about all of these events online at [chilternarts.com](http://chilternarts.com), where you can also request a brochure, purchase tickets and find out how you can get involved with Chiltern Arts.

For further information please contact Naomi Taylor:

[naomi.taylor@chilternarts.com](mailto:naomi.taylor@chilternarts.com) / 07943875640. For performances and tickets: <https://chilternarts.com/festival> Box office phone: 01442 920303 (Mon–Fri 9am–5pm; Sat 10am–1pm)

## Performance Details:

Septura Brass Septet: One Equal Music

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough

Come and Sing Tippett's Five Spirituals with the Come and Sing Company [CHORAL DAY]  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 11.30am–6pm  
Church of St Mary-le-More, Wallingford

The Marian Consort: Singing in Secret  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020, 8pm  
St Peter's Church, Wallingford

Youth Music and Art Day  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 10am–5pm  
Queen's Hall, Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe

The Phoenix Piano Trio: Into the Silence  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020, 7.30pm  
All Saints' Church, Marlow

Ensemble Hesperi: 'The Temple of Apollo'  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, 1pm  
Church of St Peter and St Paul, Tring

The Piccadilly Revellers: Cabaret, Concert and Dinner. Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, 7pm  
The Gatsby, Berkhamsted

Dame Evelyn Glennie in conversation with Katy Hamilton. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 6.30pm. Chantry House, St Mary's Church, Henley-on-Thames

Dame Evelyn Glennie and Trio HLK: Extra Sensory Perception. Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7.30pm. St Mary's Church, Henley-on-Thames

Matthew Wadsworth Pre-Concert Talk  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 6.30pm. Church of St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden

Matthew Wadsworth and Dame Evelyn Glennie: Candlelit Lute. Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7.30pm. Church of St Peter and St Paul, Great Missenden

Magnard Ensemble: Passion Prevails  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 1pm. Church of St Peter and St Paul, Medmenham, Marlow

Danny Driver (pianist): Beethoven and the Loss of Vital Senses. Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7.30pm. St Mary the Virgin Church, Hambleton (nr Henley-on-Thames)

Salomé String Quartet: Two Sides of the Coin  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 1pm. Hughenden Parish Church

City of London Sinfonia: Beethoven and Mozart. Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 7.30pm



## Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)

A recent study of jackdaws by Exeter University's Penrhyn Campus has revealed that some birds, particularly members of the crow family, are remarkably intelligent; indeed, on a par with some primates, in spite of the obvious disparity in brain size. It transpires that the brain of a bird has many more neuron connections densely packed into a smaller area and is also lighter in weight than the larger brain of a mammal.... So, calling someone a "bird-brain" is, actually, a compliment. This highly complex brain must surely account for the remarkable ability of some migratory birds to find their way, unerringly, from the Antarctic to the Arctic and the northern European breeding grounds, and to and from Africa and Asia.

We are blessed in the UK. These lovely islands of ours sit in a strategic position in northern Europe, surrounded by seas warmed by the waters of the gulf stream. Compared to our near neighbours our climate is remarkably mild and attractive to a wide variety of migratory species during the winter. Here, in the ring of the Chiltern Hills, a series of depressions has created a major flyway leading birds down into the river valleys of the Gade and Bulbourn and the man-made waterway that is the Grand Union canal.

Many years ago I was a voluntary warden at Tring Reservoirs for the Nature Conservancy Council who, at that time, managed this reservoir complex – a role now taken by Herts & Middx Trust. These reservoirs were originally built to serve the canal system and are wonderful all year round but, in winter, they are excellent for watching the visiting wild birds. Along with the BBONT reserve at College Lake they provide a vast range of habitats. I love winter birding and you don't always have to go out and about to enjoy it. Our gardens provide an "on-the-doorstep" nature reserve if we chose to put up bird tables and/or bird feeders and grow wildlife friendly plants.

Having been in a fortunate position with my line of work, I've seen a vast number of birds both rare and commonplace and, although I am excited by the site of a rare bird now and then, blown off course by freak weather, I get just as much pleasure in seeing a robin, or a tiny goldcrest, or a hovering kestrel; all birds commonly seen in the Chiltern countryside in winter. Having said that, the less than mild climate of our near European & Scandinavian neighbours, can turn to our advantage. Some bird species, having worked their way through the berry crop of their native

landscape, and been blasted by winds from arctic Russia, use their navigation skills to spend the winter with us. Hertfordshire bird tables not infrequently play host to Scandinavian blackcaps and, a couple of years ago, one particular street between Berkhamsted and Northchurch, planted with berry-bearing trees,

became the feeding ground for a large flock of waxwings - birds of the sub-Arctic tundra forests. These ro-tund, salmon-pink, acrobatic crested birds flew in to feast on the bright red berries of rowan trees and delighted hosts of birdwatchers.



**Picture: Waxwing**  
**– by Dennis Furnell**

## **Exhibition Display Opportunity**

If any local charity or organisation would like to use the Long Room of the Court House (the room at the front ) to mount a short exhibition or display on a Saturday morning between 9am and 12 noon this space is available free of charge. To check availability and make your reservation contact Kathie Lally at [kathleenlally21@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenlally21@gmail.com)

## Our Clergy



There was a substantial number of retired people in the seaside town. So there was no shortage of skilled people to volunteer for the tasks any

Church needs. Soon after I arrived two men approached me and said, "Tell us what to do and we will do it." It seemed like Vicar's heaven! Unfortunately, yours-truly tends to speak before he thinks and out came a quotation, "Sell all your goods and give to the poor!" Well, they had the grace to laugh, and even more grace to continue to work diligently for the Church, and yet even more grace to become friends.

Behind this lies an idea of a state in which this parish could have found itself after the retirement of Father Tim. It is called an interregnum, a time between rulers.

In my time the Church has moved away from the concept of one person being in charge and asking people to do things, to a better feeling of being in it together. There are tasks to be done, including those appropriate for someone who has been trained in theology, worship, and pastoral skills, and ordained. It seems right that a person who has those skills should be the figurehead in any church. In the end though, it should be pragmatic. There is no reason why someone who is not ordained could not become

the leader of the day to day running of a Church. Ordination does not give the grace of leadership or administration. Mind you, it helps!

Actually, we are not going into an inter-regnum because Fr John Russell, who lives in Great Gaddesden, is taking on the task of Rector of the group of parishes and team leader. Berkhamsted will, before too long, welcome a new priest to live and work among us. This again points up the way the church has changed over the years. Years ago I was one of the pioneers of clergy working together in teams in the countryside. The idea then was not only to bring clergy together but parishes as well. It meant sharing skills and resources, and creating a common purpose which was more outward-looking than just the local parish. Honestly, there were some failures and adjustments but most worked well. Indeed, the two teams I was involved with are still going strong; one for more than fifty years.

By its nature the Church is an open society. It affirms and tries to live out the truth of God's love for everyone. It offers opportunities both to give and receive care which that love implies, and it gives occasions for offering gratitude. "Who do I thank for this?", a new mum once asked one of my colleagues as she showed her new baby. Our church clergy are by tradition available to everyone regardless of whether they are signed-up members or not. But clergy are not the Church, only part of it. All who come contribute by giving honour to God in worship. Others

who do not come weekly contribute in different ways; here, among other things, as Friends of St Peter's. Very many find a peace and a stability which comes from being in touch with the Church's ancient traditions. Many find additional purpose and friendship by volunteering for the many tasks that should and can be done. They sustain the work of the Church by caring for others in different ways including looking after the building.

They sustain the work of the Church by caring for others in different ways including looking after the building.

If you turn up and say, "Tell us what to do and we will do it", I am sure, fortunately, you will get a more helpful response than the one yours-truly once gave. Try it, it could be a good move!

Fr Anthony.



## Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month



This gorgeous boy is Levi, a very sweet-natured Staffy. We have had quite a number of older dogs in recently and we are keen to get them settled in loving homes as quickly as possible. Levi is 11 years old and has not had an easy life. He arrived in a poor state and needed surgery for tumours. He has made a good recovery and is ready to start a new life as an only pet in a quiet household where he will get the love he craves. He still enjoys a walk and is bright and happy.

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**Website: [www.appledownrescue.co.uk](http://www.appledownrescue.co.uk) Follow us on Facebook, Twitter &  
Instagram!**

## 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, 9.30-11:30am. 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 9:30–11:15am. 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.

Simon Vivian, Assistant Curate. 01442 864199. [curate@greatberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:curate@greatberkhamsted.org.uk)

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



## Events at All Saints

### February

**2nd** The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)  
 8am Holy Communion  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins  
 10am All Age Morning Worship  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins

**9th** The Third Sunday before Lent  
 10am Holy Communion  
 Revd John Kirkby  
 4pm Messy Church  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Team

**16th** The Second Sunday before Lent  
 Morning Worship  
 Penny Fray

**23rd** The Sunday next before Lent  
 10am Holy Communion  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins

**26th** Ash Wednesday  
 12 noon Holy Communion  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins

### Funerals

27 November William Laurence Tanner  
 29 November Mary Alison Griffin  
 16 December John David Blumson  
 3 January Janet Elizabeth Southworth

### March

**1st** The First Sunday of Lent  
 10am All Age Morning Worship  
 Christian Aid  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins & Abi

**8th** The Second Sunday of Lent  
 10am Holy Communion  
 Revd John Kirkby  
 4pm Messy Church  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins & Messy Church Team

**15th** The Third Sunday of Lent  
 Morning Worship  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins

**22nd** Mothering Sunday  
 8am Holy Communion  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins  
 10am All Age Holy Communion  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins

**29<sup>th</sup>** The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)  
 10am Holy Communion  
 Revd Brian Tebbutt  
 4pm Service of Wholeness and Healing  
 Revd Rachael Hawkins & Tracy Robinson

**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).

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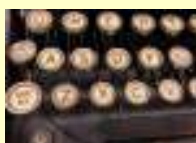
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Editor @[yourberkhamsted.org.uk](mailto:yourberkhamsted.org.uk)

**BELLRINGING** On Christmas Eve the Berkhamsted Youth Bell ringing Team made their debut performance when a group of 10 under 21's rang in the Crib service. The core group have come together to learn as part of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme but most have continued to ring well beyond the required commitment. They are believed to be the youngest group to ever ring at St Peter's. Mike Below leads beginner's bell ringing on Fridays at 4:30pm, do come along if this is something you would be interested in try-



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# Christmas Recycling 2020

**On Sunday 5 January, thousands of residents throughout Dacorum recycled their Christmas trees for free at our chipping points throughout the Borough.**

The annual recycling day, which has been running in Dacorum for 24 years, allowed families to give their festive friends the chop at chipping points which were set up in Hemel, Berkhamsted and Tring.

Several people brought in trees which were still alive and potted in soil with their roots intact. These trees were not chipped and instead were kept to the side. Ten were rescued by fellow residents who took them for a new life in their gardens, whilst the eight others have been saved so that they can be planted around the borough by our Clean, Safe and Green team. We encourage all residents that if they have a Christmas tree that is still alive and has its roots, not to dispose of it, but either keep it in your garden ready for next year or offer it to someone else who will be able to give it a good home.

Local Scout groups ran a tree collection service for any residents who were unable to bring their trees to a chipping point themselves. Scouts from Berkhamsted, Tring, Potten End, Kings Langley, Gossoms End, Northchurch, Wilstone and Long Marston all pulled together, working hard to collect trees from their local areas and bringing these along to chipping sites by the truck-load. All-together the scouts collected nearly 2400 trees!

Members of the public visiting the Hemel site at Cupid Green Depot, also had the rare opportunity of witnessing the mountains of recycling which had been collected in just the past few days. Over the three week festive period (the weeks before, during and after Christmas), Dacorum residents threw away a total of 2250 tonnes of waste! This is up a shocking 10% on what was disposed of over the same festive period last year!

Nearly two thirds of this waste was recycled in either blue-lidded bins or food waste caddies. However, a third of this was disappointingly disposed of in the grey bins where it is then sent to landfill and incineration, when much of it is likely to have been recyclable.

For 2020, why not make an eco-friendly resolution to 'reduce, reuse and recycle' as much as you can this year? Our Green 2020 page is full of useful hints and tips to help you develop some habits that are better for the environment: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/green2020](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/green2020)



If you missed our Christmas tree chipping day, you can still recycle your real Christmas tree at the Household Waste Recycling Centres in Eastman Way in Hemel Hempstead or in Northbridge Road in Berkhamsted. Trees must not be left at any of the Borough's other recycling sites as this will be treated as fly-tipping. Alternatively, you can cut up your tree and store it in your green bin ready for garden waste collections to begin again in the Spring.

For more information and advice about recycling visit: [www.dacorum.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/recycling)



## News from the Hospice of St Francis



**February 2020**

Are you looking for a new challenge and a

way to give back to your community? Typically, the early months of the year are a time when new opportunities come to the fore. Perhaps, becoming a Hospice volunteer could be a way to share your passion, time and expertise as part of the amazing team who support local people to live their precious lives well!

12 months ago Clare Quinlivan from Hemel Hempstead did just that and became a part of our volunteer team, fitting in her volunteering as an evening receptionist in our Spring Centre around working full time as a publishing manager in Harpenden. She also undertakes digital media research for our Communications team.

"I made a New Year's resolution last year to do more with my spare time and give something back to the community so when I saw the vacancy with the Hospice - a place which means so much to my family and friends, I knew it would be the perfect place to volunteer," she says.

"My day job is hugely varied and involves everything from editing book manuscripts to putting together business strategies and publicity and marketing campaigns. It's a really interesting job but I felt I wanted something else outside of work to motivate me, which is where volunteering came in.

"The most rewarding aspect of volunteering is knowing that by giving up just a small amount of my time I can contribute to an amazing organisation that provides care for people in time of real need. I'd definitely urge others to see what volunteering opportunities there are at the Hospice for 2020!"

If, like Clare, you would like to get involved with the Hospice, or learn more about our exciting variety of volunteering opportunities, please visit our website: [www.stfrancis.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/volunteer).

**Don't miss out on our upcoming events...**

**Let's Talk...Dementia – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Harpenden Public Halls**

Leading Dementia and Palliative Care specialists Dr Tammy Angel & Dr Sharon Chadwick (Medical Director at The Hospice of St Francis) will be sharing their expertise on all areas of Dementia. There will be a chance to meet the specialists and learn more about patient care and caring for the carers. [stfrancis.org.uk/](http://stfrancis.org.uk/)



### **Sky Dive – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Hinton Airfield**

In search of a high adrenaline challenge this year? Take the plunge and fall from the skies in our popular tandem Skydive in March. Jumping from a plane at 13,000ft is definitely an experience of a lifetime, and all in aid of the Hospice.

[stfrancis.org.uk/skydive](http://stfrancis.org.uk/skydive)



### **Moor Park Golf Day – Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Spring into the new season with our fantastic Golf Days. With several events across Hertfordshire including Ashridge, Berkhamsted, Moor Park and Stocks – there's a date to suit everyone! Things kick start in April at the fantastic Moor Park Golf Club. Sign up now on our website: [stfrancis.org.uk/golf](http://stfrancis.org.uk/golf)

### **And finally...join us for a bubble fiesta!**

Bubble Rush will be returning on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at Gadebridge Park, Hemel Hempstead! The course is family friendly, so you can walk, run, dance, jog, or toddle through the foam, and it's suitable for pushchairs too! Take advantage of our discounted early bird prices before registration increases later this month: [www.stfrancis.org.uk/bubble-rush](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk/bubble-rush)

*The Hospice of St Francis helps 2,000 people each year to live their precious lives well across West Hertfordshire and South Buckinghamshire.*

*Our free care has many forms – care at home, in our outpatient health and well-being Spring Centre or through specialised individual care in one of our Hospice beds - and is defined by each person's need, needs that may change over time. Graded 'Outstanding' in our last CQC inspection (June 2016), our charity cares for an individual or family for however long we're needed – days, weeks, months or even years.*

*We rely on donations from our local community to raise the over £5million we need every year to fund our free care. For more information, visit [www.stfrancis.org.uk](http://www.stfrancis.org.uk) or follow us on Facebook @thehospiceofstfrancis or Twitter @Hospicstfrancis*

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**for further information see:  
[www.berkhamstedquakers.org](http://www.berkhamstedquakers.org)**

## Are you a super sleuth?

*Friends of  
St Peter's*  
GREAT BERKHAMSTED



The hunt is on for historical detectives. Within Rectory Lane Cemetery there are thousands of interesting stories waiting to be discovered. Could you be one of the team helping to uncover them? Community Engagement Officer, Kate Campbell, is organising training for budding researchers to scour newspaper archives and historical records to piece together the lives of those buried there.

Just to give you a taste of one history recently discovered below is an edited life-story of one woman:

### **Ida Agnes Broenner**

*'beloved wife of Dr F. Broenner and mother of Percy S. Wilkinson, born 27th November 1851, died 11th February 1918'. Plot 782 -The grave is now overgrown but sits in a prominent position beside the main path.*

Anti-German sentiment was very strong during and just after WW1 so how does this name appear among the many Anglo-Saxon Batchelors, Clarkes and Davis?

On her Marriage Certificate to Franz Broenner Ida's former name was

WILKINSON. It seems that Ida had married twice, and she had only one child Percy by her first husband, Harry Wilkinson. We know that within probably three years of Percy's birth the couple were estranged. When he died in 1894, aged 77 Harry left nothing to Ida or Percy.

This family story could have remained a mystery had not someone happened to write about Ida –Ernest Raymond in his autobiography *The Story of My Days*. Ernest was a British novelist, best known for his first novel, *Tell England* (1922), set in World War I and *We, The Accused* (1935). He was a highly prolific writer producing forty-six novels, two plays and ten non-fiction works. His recollections of his childhood include visits by one of his aunts -Ida - to his house in Dunsany Road, Brook Green, London. Ernest, born in 1888, was living there with another aunt and Ida's younger sister, Miss Emily Calder.

Ernest's earliest memories of Ida involved her second husband, a plump little German professor, Dr Franz Broenner, whom she 'loved and bullied and kept in subservience.' Ernest recalled them together later: 'Ida loved her Franz well, but rather like a dear and faithful dog on a leash. All her possessions had to be perfect in

their kind, whether it was her bosom, or her piano, or the backs of her unread books, or... her Franz. When he went into the unused drawing-room to play his heart out on the Bechstein piano, she would say, 'He is a second Schumann'.

He remembers from his early childhood: 'when she embraced me, I was embraced also, and all round, by the fragrance of her favourite scent; what it was I don't know; Parma violet perhaps, or patchouli, or attar of roses.'

Ernest's relationship with Ida's sister, who raised him, was entirely different: 'from the earliest I had no love for Aunt Emily, but much fear. She had a violent temper and was quick with her slaps.'

Ernest calls Emily a spinster, his aunt. But in the 1901 census he is listed as her ward, not nephew. So – who were Ernest's parents? When he was about seven or eight, he questions Emily about his parents but received short shrift. 'Surprisingly her foot stamped. 'Don't worry me about it. Ask Dum if you want to know. He is your real guardian. I'm not really.'

Who is this 'Dum'? 'Dum' was another occasional resident at 5 Dunsany Road – the 'most imposing denizen of all, the General: Major-General George Frederic Blake, late of the

Royal Marines Light Infantry.' He had been born in Bath, Somerset in 1836, and joined the Navy in 1854.

For Ernest, Dum played a key role in his life. 'Because of my childhood love for Dum, and my boyish delight in him as a man of infinite odd jests, he, or rather, a fictitious character flowering from my memories of him, persists in novel after novel of mine.'

On a trip to choose toys one Christmas, Ernest tells of how Dum recognised a small grey gentleman and introduced us.... 'Mr Ernest, here is the son of my old friend, William Raymond. William Bell Raymond, 'he emphasized, 'who died...in Switzerland a few years ago. One of my lifelong friends.' And Ernest later saw the birth certificate to confirm this. Serving as a Padre in WW1, Ernest returned home in 1917: 'I went to stay with Aunt Ida that I might bid her good-bye before going farther away than I had ever been yet, and possibly for a time that must be measured in years.' Ida then confirms his suspicions that she is in fact his mother and Major-General Blake his father. Ida died on the 11th February and her final letter is a heart-rending piece ending in 'P.S. I am trying to get your socks done. I fear to send them as the ship might go down, and you will

**Cont page 28**

like my last piece of work done for you. I will give them to Aunt Mary for you.'

Why then was Ida buried in Berkhamsted? She had connections with Ireland, France, Switzerland, Germany, Malta, Kent, London... but Berkhamsted?



By 1914, Percy Wilkinson, was living with his wife Olive in Berkhamsted at Thornhill, Boxwell Road. With Ernest away when Ida died in 1918, he effectively took charge of his mother's funeral arrangements.

A simple gravestone, but Ida Broenner's story is perhaps one of the most complex and interesting to be found in the Cemetery. Elusive certainly, because, at various times in her life, she used the surnames of Calder, Wilkinson, Raymond, Broenner, but not Blake! She was mother of Percy S. Wilkinson and also of Ernest Raymond, one of the most prolific authors of the twentieth century. He inevitably, carried mixed feelings: 'I must write simply that, while her fondness for me was genuine, it was not of the kind that could do anything at cost to herself... words were easy and free of cost; the cold post-Sunday meal was daintily prepared for me, but it was easy and cheap.'

To join the history detective team, email:

**Campbellkate01@gmail.com**

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## Meet the multi-talented Katie Jones

**We meet Katie Jones, whose painting is featured on the cover. She runs the monthly craft group, Gins & Needles, and is the co-founder of The Canvas Crew.**



I'd spent a lot of time in Berkhamsted before I made the move with my husband, Chris. My sister was already here and it seemed perfect. My dad had recently died and it wasn't long before my mum followed to be near us both. Because the whole family is here it almost feels like we're locals. Almost!

### **Knitting up a storm**

I had two daughters shortly after we moved here. One day I realised life had really changed and I wasn't making time for craft – or the pub. So I

figured I'd kill two birds with one stone. I set up Gins & Needles, a monthly craft evening, and have made so many friends because of it. You may have spotted us in pubs around town!

### **Painting the town**

Then I was lucky enough to get a place at one of Jan Munro's weekly art classes, and a whole world opened up to me. I posted pictures of my paintings on social media and friends were so enthusiastic. I also shared my paintings of local landmarks in Everything Berko on Facebook and got hundreds of 'likes'.

These responses gave me the confidence to try selling prints of some of my paintings, and I've even been asked to do commissions.

### **Creating a Crew**

Then, strangely, I had a dream I ran an after-school art club and mentioned it to my friend, artist Catherine Hay. It just so happened that Bridgewater Primary School had approached her about setting one up. Out of that conversation The Canvas Crew was born.

Nine months on, we run two kids' art clubs (one at Bridgewater and the other at Open Door Community Space) and regular adult painting

workshops. We both believe everyone has creativity inside them, and we want to make sure they have a ball finding it!

It's coming up to 10 years since I moved to Berkhamsted and I've never been happier. The town has got such a thriving creative community and I'm beyond thrilled to be part of it.

See more of Katie's work at [facebook.com/katiejonesartuk](https://www.facebook.com/katiejonesartuk). You can also find The Canvas Crew and Gins and Needles on Facebook.





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## Sunnyside Rural Trust- Northchurch Facility

To coincide with our 30th Anniversary in 2020 we will be opening a facility at the first site Sunnyside Rural Trust started, in Northchurch allotments. We have an exciting development plan for our Northchurch site to offer an innovative service to young people and adults with learning disabilities as well as a range of services to the community. We have been lucky to have excellent local architects at D-Lab and equally excellent builders in Datum Point who have now completed the building of the new farm shop, stable block and training centre.

Our priority will always be to offer a safe and creative service to vulnerable young people and adults to benefit from our training, confidence building and employment services. The development will centre around a new stable block and courtyard to house a small number of rescued animals including sheep, goats, pigs and small mammals. This means that our trainees can benefit from the therapeutic nature of working with animals; and allows us to sustainably manage the land in line with Sunnyside Rural Trust's environmental principles. We foresee that the introduction of animals will encourage the public to our site and to visit the new farm shop. This will offer and promote retail experience for young people and adults with learning disabilities. We have a successful farm shop at our Hemel Food Garden site which has proven that this can lead to employment opportunities for individuals and provide a much needed place to sell local goods to local people.

There will also be new and accessible facilities for the trainees to enjoy. Everyone works hard at Sunnyside and having a space to sit and enjoy the land we work and the animals we share it with will be therapeutic in itself.

The project still needs funding but so far we have been very fortunate to receive a generous grant from Chiltern LEADER fund, Baily Thomas, Paradigm, Tesco and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

This project recognises how important it is that everyone has the opportunity to contribute to society and it celebrates what people can do rather than any disability.

**We are seeking support from the local community in a number of ways:**

Donations via <https://localgiving.org/charity/sunnyside-rural-trust/project/Mayors-appeal/>

- Volunteering - our next day will be on Thursday 20th February anytime between 10am-3pm. Keep an eye on our facebook page for future dates [www.facebook/sunnysideruraltrustcharity/](http://www.facebook/sunnysideruraltrustcharity/)
  - Sponsor the animal rescue shelter
  - Donate equipment such as farm stock fencing and stakes, kitchen equipment, meeting room tables & chairs, shop fittings, large flowering shrubs & native sapling trees, animal care tools – contact the charity for the full list
- Please get in touch if you can help. Gemma Vine 01442 863364 or email [publicity@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk](mailto:publicity@sunnysideruraltrust.org.uk)



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE *every day*

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Having 20 years' experience in the care sector, managing director of Right at Home Hemel Hempstead Tracy Sheehan truly believes that everyone deserves the right to the highest quality care, the same sort of care that she would want for herself and her loved ones.

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### LOOKING FOR A FRESH START? START A JOB YOU'LL LOVE

We have a truly amazing team of CareGivers who love their jobs because of the satisfaction they get from making a difference to our clients' lives. Our team is diverse and from all sorts of backgrounds, many of whom have worked in care before but others who are trying something new, rewarding. The one thing that ties us together is our values. If you are interested in joining our team, call us today and see where a career with Right at Home Hemel Hempstead could lead you.

**"I wanted a job where I could make a genuine difference."**





## **Berkhamsted Raiders CFC wins Herts 'Community Club of the Year' 2019**

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November Berkhamsted Raiders CFC was delighted to win the 'Community Club of the Year' award at the Hertfordshire Service to Sports Awards which took place at the University of Hertfordshire in front of a packed audience of community volunteers and local dignitaries. The award recognises the massive contribution of Berkhamsted Raiders in promoting football participation in the community, which has seen huge growth in recent years in the numbers of boys and especially girls playing all forms of football in the local area. Keith Pollard, Berkhamsted Raiders CFC Club Chairman, said "This award is hugely important to the club as it recognises the hard work of all our volunteers in enabling children and young adults to play football on a regular basis in the local community". The award was collected by Keith Pollard, Club Chairman alongside Club members Sean McKay and Paul Reynolds and caps a great year for recognition of the club which also won Community Club of the Year at the Dacorum Sports Awards in July.

### **About Berkhamsted Raiders CFC**

Berkhamsted Raiders was established in 1996 from a collection of individual teams run by enthusiastic dads who wanted their kids to enjoy football. By 2008, the Club had grown to 30 teams and in 2019 we will be running 94 youth teams for girls and boys from U7 to U18 plus teams for Seniors, Veterans, Ladies, Futsal, Walking and Inclusive Football.

The Club has become a true community sports club, providing sport for over 1,000 children playing on pitches in Berkhamsted and the surrounding areas.

We play competitive football, but we measure our success by the enjoyment and involvement of children from our local community, not just by winning Leagues and Cups. The Awards we have won are a testament to this inclusive approach to the provision of football in the local community.

### **If you need any further information, please contact:**

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Marketing Officer - Berkhamsted Raiders CFC  
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Herts Community Club of the Year 2019

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