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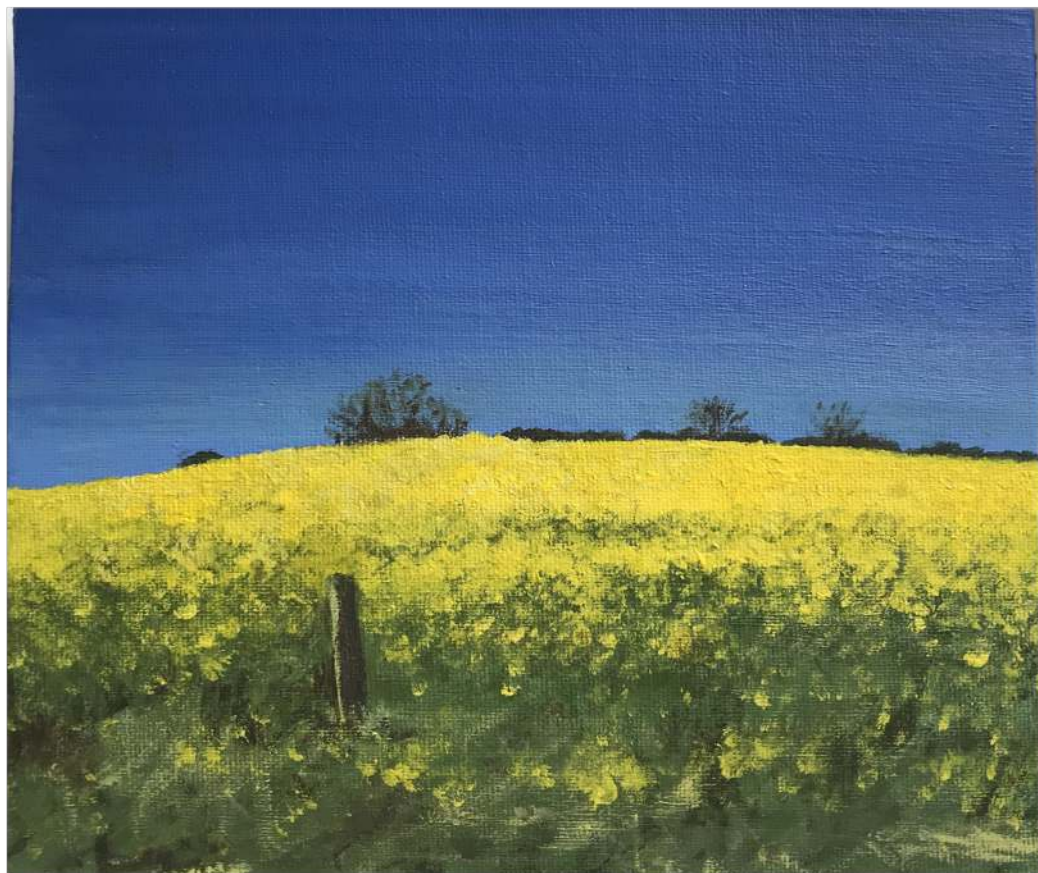
Your Berkhamsted

June/July 2020

**'Your World' – Open Door's
New Online Art Exhibition**

**5 Ways to Create a Memorable
Lockdown 'Staycation'**

**Rectory Lane Cemetery – a new
website takes us behind the scenes**



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

In this issue...

WELCOME TO THE JUNE/JULY 2020 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED.

I cannot believe it was back in March life as we knew it was not going to be the same for a while, but I hope the future will be bright. This is a second digital issue and for the time being this is the best option. We have still managed to pack a lot of content in the magazine to hopefully distract you. Last edition I mentioned there were many people joining together with a great show of community and volunteering their time to help others. With this I have created a 'Heroes corner' to recognise some of these many selfless individuals. If you have anyone you would like to nominate for the next edition, please let me know. We have our usual contributions with Jenny Sherwood's history article and Dennis Furnell's nature article – these always show us the world outside. Rectory Lane Cemetery – always the hub of innovation - takes a look behind the scenes and there are some interesting things happening. Michelle Audette shows us 5 Ways to Create a Memorable Lockdown 'Staycation' and Open Door has a great new online art exhibition, so plenty to keep you motivated. Last but not least look at the wonderful montage of VE decorations sent in by a reader on page 32. 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 EDITOR@YOURBERKHAMSTED.ORG.UK

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Front cover: Thank you Helen Dowley for the wonderful picture of clear blue skies and green fields. See Helen's work on @creativeaitch

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



I am writing this during the VE Day holiday weekend. hertfordshiremercury.co.uk teasingly suggested that Berkhamsted residents could have had sight and sound of the Red Arrows as they travelled up country to mark the day. Unfortunately I certainly didn't see or hear them, and perhaps you needed to be nearer High Wycombe. Naturally the aeronautical display team would have been keeping the requisite social distance during their flight. They are actually based at RAF Scampton of Dam Busters fame and were formed in 1965. Back in the day they flew the Folland Gnat, but now the team is made up of Hawks.

Looking further back to the earlier war The Spectator recalls via some memoirs written from Berkhamsted School - : "There were dramatic incidents even in Berkhamsted. A German master was denounced to my father as a spy because he had been seen under the railway bridge".

Whilst we are in retro mood the ste-vericketts.com.au blog relives the writer's visit to the UK in 1993 when he walked the Grand Union from London to Birmingham. Does any-

one have any tips on how to be socially distance on tow paths? He recalls a visit to the Rising Sun, the castle, recalls Graham Greene and his school, before heading off to Tring and Marsworth.

mynewsmag.co.uk updates us on Berkhamsted FC as it struggles to cope in a world with no sport, having performed so well in the league this season. On a positive note the club has signed a three year lease for Broadwater, the pitch has been re-seeded and they should be eligible for rate relief. They are hoping that local business will be able to help in any way they can as the usual social elements of income will not be available for some considerable time. Top of the table rivals Corby are in a similar situation, with northantstelegraph.co.uk reporting on the club's frustrations with a premature end to the season.

Many businesses are of course struggling at the moment. Impact Financial News reports on the winding up of Buy Side Club Ltd who registered in Barnet, traded in Aldbury House. No reason was actually given for the decision.

Cont. page 5

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The police in Berkhamsted are being kept busy, with both Metropolitan Police Service and Foreign Affairs.co.nz (of all places) reporting on two men being charged with firearms offences, one of which is a resident of the locality.

Back to mynewsmag.co.uk which reports on six year old Jude Hogan-Matthew's attempts to raise our spirits by putting a daily joke on a fence to amuse passers-by. Indeed, they

have proved so popular that they can also be enjoyed globally via Instagram. I am not sure whether my attempts at jokes would be treated as a morale booster or not. Other spirit raising activities include a joint venture between Berko Food for Friends and Open Door Berkhamsted to deliver meals to vulnerable and elderly residents during the pandemic. 50-60 meals are delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, with sponsorship from Waitrose.



Picture - Red Arrows

Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator

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HISTORY RAMBLINGS



Usually at this time of year we would be launching an advertising campaign for the Heritage Open Days, organised in Berkhamsted for the past twenty years by

the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society. In recent years this nationally sponsored event has extended from one long weekend to ten days with an appropriate theme for programmes nationwide. Last year, the 'Power of the People' and this year the emphasis was 'Hidden Nature'. We had great plans to repeat our successful tour of the gardens at Amersfort and to introduce one or two walks featuring our brave little river Bulbourne as well as the watercress industry. And, of course our beautiful Common, where a guided tour demonstrating the Power of the People in the Battle of Berkhamsted Common last year is planned to be repeated this summer. Old favourites such as guided tours of Ashlyns School (the former Foundling Hospital), tours of Old Hall and the Chapel of Berkhamsted School, and Berkhamsted Place successor to the Castle are also included. A comparative newcomer to our programme which has proved so popular is 'The Lost Wharves of Berkhamsted' showing the thriving industry once so evident in the Port of Berkhamsted. We are also hoping to extend our programme further west and include Gossoms End with a walk ending at the Open Door. As the weeks go by it appears increasingly unlikely that we shall be able to have the HODs in

Berkhamsted from 11th-20th September, except perhaps in a modified form. For further information please contact Jenny Sherwood from 31st July onwards on 01442 865158 or KSherw9100@aol.com

One of the effects of lockdown and 'Stay at Home' seems to have led people to turn out cupboards and investigate the contents of the trunk in the attic. Offers of old theatre programmes of productions at the Court Theatre and programmes of the 1922 pageant at the Castle abound. What is more interesting however is to learn the owners of the treasured possessions great uncle and aunt; the uncle was a housemaster at Berkhamsted School.

Additionally, interest in family history has increased fourfold and enquirers hope that we can knock down that brick wall or prove the veracity of the family fable that the father was a Scots Guard or an officer of the Inns of Court. Some of the questions received are fascinating. An extract from a visitors' book with an entry by someone whose initials were F.H.S. who gave an address of Barncroft, Berkhamsted posed a question. Who could the author of this entry be? We were eventually successful and the enquirer was able to send his information to a family reunion, to which he could not go in person since he lives in Australia. Interest in Berkhamsted's history stretches worldwide! The Society may have 'Local' in its title, but it is not only local in its appeal.

As I write the thoughts of those who are old enough to remember have turned to

VE day and to WWII in general and to our childhood memories. At the time we lived on the outskirts of Rickmansworth in the parish of Chorley Wood. At the age of seven I travelled to school in Watford. I remember we had a big bonfire in a field behind houses. I think it was organised by the Home Guard, to which my father belonged. We might have had hot soup, but I don't really remember. The man in charge was rather officious and not very good with children. We left early. There were probably celebrations in the town centre, but we didn't take part in them. What about Berkhamsted? We know from photographs in the Society's collection that there were some street parties and there was an official march past and declaration of the end of the War. I was recently asked whether the children in the Founding Hospital were involved in any peace celebration because she could not remember anything special taking place. We will look for evidence in the Society archives.

Although there was obvious relief that the War was over and that for which the Nazis stood was defeated, for a ten year old life went on pretty well as before. Alright, we no longer rushed to the cellars when the air raid siren went off, nor slept under the kitchen table or spent Christmas Eve night in the cupboard under the stairs but many things were still rationed and we queued for sausage

meat or offal at the butchers. Admittedly some foods gradually became available



that were lacking during the war and children were given priority for the first assignments of bananas. Clothes were still rationed until just before I went to university and girls had to be content with adapted dresses from an aunt and girls had to wear boy's shoes. A mentality of 'Make do and Mend' and 'Sides to Middle', so that sheets lasted longer, persisted into the next generation. I well remember the real fear apparent amongst the university students at the time of the Suez crisis when we came again so very near to war. We were only too well aware of the reality of war from our childhood.

Ten years after the end of WWII the evidence of bomb damage was still only too well apparent in the cities of London, Hull, Coventry, Exeter and others. Perhaps VE Day did not mean a great deal to the children at the time but the experiences of their childhood left a lasting impression.

Jenny Sherwood



'Your World' – Open Door's New Online Art Exhibition

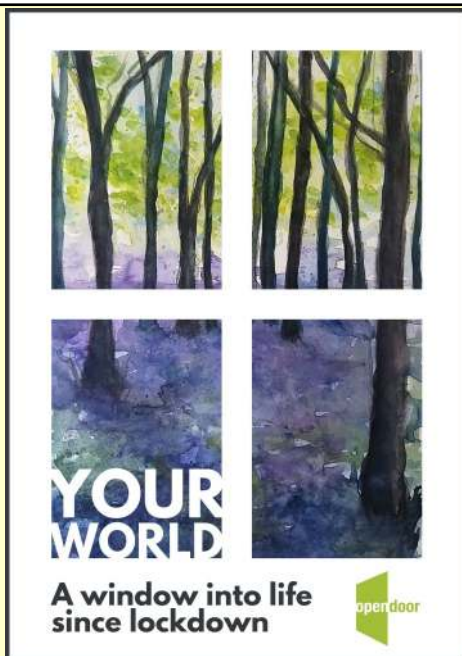
Open Door have really missed exhibiting your wonderful artwork on their walls, so they're doing the next best thing and running an online exhibition!

The theme is 'Your World'. They're inviting you to share aspects of your life since lockdown through art. What's important to you right now? What's making you happy? What are your frustrations? What are you dreaming of?

- Anyone and everyone is welcome to submit their artwork - whatever your age or experience!
- Paintings, sculptures, textiles, photography - anything goes - as long as you can email a photo of it (although they won't be able to show explicit images or language).
- Email your photo to comms@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk with a line or two about what it is and why you chose to capture it in art.
- As this is a virtual exhibition, your artwork and the description you write will be 'displayed' as Facebook and Instagram posts - and on their website.
- The online exhibition has already started and will run until Friday 26 June though maybe longer if lots of people want to take part!

If you'd like to see the artwork they've shared so far, head to:

- www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk
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Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)

Summer Dragonflies

The summer of 2020 will long be remembered for many reasons, but alongside the tragedy, the desperate measures to protect us all and the untold consequences for the global economy, we can lay the fact that the world is almost pollution free and quiet... and wildlife does not seem to have been affected.

Spring in our part of the British Isles began with a spell of the most beautiful dry weather, unlike the deluge that characterised the winter which brought to mind the old saying 'February Fill Dyke'. The prolonged winter rain has allowed farm ponds and village ponds to sit bank high. We are fortunate in that we have some of the loveliest spring fed chalk streams locally and also "bourns". Bourns depend on the overflow of deep aquifers to rise and flow intermittently and one such is the 'Bourne Gutter' that flows out of the hillside not far from the A41 Junction for Berkhamsted. All life stems from and depends upon water. People might be able to live for some weeks without food, but 3 or 4 days without water would be fatal for most.

Naturally, wildlife depends on water too. I'm fascinated by dragonflies and damselflies; two members of an order

of insects that have lived on earth for more than 350 million years. At that time, in the era known as the Carboniferous, (the coal-building era), a period of geology between the Devonian and the Permian era, some dragonflies sported a wingspan of more than one metre and hunted other insects, cockroach-like and spider-like arthropods and primitive amphibians in the tropical fern jungles. It was a time when forests covered a world unrecognisable in climate and geography to the world we inhabit today.

Many years ago my wife and I were privileged to see a fossilised dragonfly wing half a metre in length and, incredibly, I have seen a wing, almost identical in structure, but a mere 4 centimetres in length attached to a present day dragonfly sitting on the edge of my garden pond.

Dragonflies and damselflies are similar in many ways although dragonflies are larger and faster fliers. When at rest dragonflies hold their wings horizontally and damselflies hold their wings together, above their long slim bodies, similar to the way butterflies hold their wings at rest. As well as being exquisite to look at, both species are beneficial, tackling anything from a mosquito to a midge, or even a horsefly. With acute eyesight,

these fascinating creatures are thought to see in 3D and in colour... And they can fly forwards and backwards, perform loops, stall turns and hover on the spot - even in a stiff breeze. Both spend the first year, in some cases two years, as predatory aquatic larvae with jaws that can telescope out to grab a tadpole.

Dragonflies are the cheetahs of the insect world. Some of the species like the large and beautiful southern hawkers and imperial dragonflies fly across the English Channel carried on the wind from France. Being small and more delicate, damselflies do not travel so far. The hawker dragonflies appear to be rather curious. Walking along a country path I've been studied by one which flew extremely close, hovered and seemed

to eye me from top to toe with its beautiful compound eyes.

There are myriad species of dragonflies and damselflies many with lovely names, among my favourites are Southern Hawker Dragonfly and 'Beautiful Demoiselle Damselfly'. Locally we might also see one of the other species of dragonfly the 'chasers'. Built for acceleration and manoeuvrability they are ambush hunters. With their short bodies and large wing muscles they can hurl themselves into the path of a flying insect in a fraction of a second.

They have done well to have survived the passage of time and all that has been thrown at them.... And they have triumphed. May our species do the same.



**Picture: Hawker Dragonfly
by Dennis Furnell**



**Picture: Beautiful Demoiselle Damselfly-
by Dennis Furnell**

Our Clergy



I am writing these few lines as we are taking the first few steps to come out of lockdown

with some idea of further relaxation of restrictions over the coming months. It has been a long journey since the lockdown measures were officially introduced in the evening of 23 March, and while most people have been responsible in observing the measures, it has nevertheless not been at all easy having our personal freedom so curtailed. Yet, every cloud has a silver lining. During these past few weeks people have been using their time in imaginative, creative and wonderful ways. People have been exercising more – walking, running and cycling – as well as some amazing and indeed unusual forms of indoor exercise. Families have been cooking and baking more than usual and parents have discovered a new vocation in home schooling, and there is also gardening. There has been the weekly ‘clap’ for the NHS and other essential workers, and there has been the amazing Captain Tom Moore (now Sir) in raising over £30m for the NHS. New words and phrases have become part of our daily conversation – lockdown, the R number, Covid19, social

distancing, shielding, self-isolating and new forms of communication have flourished – ZOOM, FaceTime, WhatsApps and video and conference calls. There has also been an avalanche of jokes, YouTube clips, and amusing songs, all to remind us that humour and laughter are important in these times to keep a sense of perspective and to focus on what is really important.

There is much talk and speculation as to what a return to a normal way of life will be like or rather the ‘new normal’ we will live through in the coming days. There are many predictions and forecasts about the future social, economic and political landscape of our country but we will just have to wait and see how our lives will actually unfold in the coming weeks and months.

However, one thing I will dare to predict and that is that the congregation of St Peter’s and indeed the town as a whole, will be overjoyed to see the church unlocked and open for public worship, private prayer, musical and other events. I have felt quite sad when passing the church to see it closed. We know of course that the Church is not ultimately the building but rather the people of God, who in these weeks of lockdown have continued to worship and pray using the

amazing variety of materials and online services on the parish website, as well as serving the local community in many different ways. However, it will be wonderful to gather together again in church, to pray, to sing and to bring to life again the ancient sacred space which is St Peter's.



Fr David Lawson

**A prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus:
Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.**



**This is Sable Rey 16 weeks
old, celebrating VE Day in
our back garden**

Michelle Parkinson

Heroes Corner

There are many local businesses and people doing their best to ease the situation for many residents in Berkhamsted. Here are just a few.



Mark Twyman

Mark runs a local taxi company and has always gone over and beyond even before Covid 19. At the moment he is providing free services to frontline staff.

"I'm doing what I can to help the amazing local NHS staff and Key Workers by providing free transport to those who are still traveling to work, also taking elderly Berko people for doctors appointments to save them going by bus."



Dave Rance

Another person who has really helped those in need is Dave Rance. Dave has been shopping for many of those who are shielding. Getting supplies to many in Berkhamsted and surrounding areas.

He also customised his car so you know when you see him. Give him a wave.!!

A tribute from Melissa Cortizo. My mother-in-law, Nanette Street lives on Shrublands Avenue, and has for around 25 years. She has volunteered at Oxfam for many of those years and also used to work on the market, selling her homemade sausage rolls (now infamous), cakes and meringues. She lives alone and loves company so her son and daughter were worried when self-isolation became not just a buzz word but a thing, that over 70's and those vulnerable in particular, needed to do. She started keeping busy by baking but then the mass panic about PPE hit and she decided she could help by sewing. This was about 6 weeks ago. Now she doesn't have time to cook as she's literally tied to her sewing machine. She has carefully picked beautiful material and from it made loads of scrub bags and hats for the NHS. I think hers went to Stoke and Watford. She also heard some personal stories of doctors and nurses without enough PPE and made scrubs for them, and had them delivered by her daughter. She can't help herself now, she's ordered new materials for face masks - she's a bit overwhelmed with the orders coming in so is stressed (but secretly happy). It's testament to her caring nature, this has given her purpose at a scary time. She has realised she has a lot to live for. She was thinking about downsizing and moving away from Shrublands Avenue but now says, how could she, the human spirit and sense of community has absolutely overwhelmed her. She has wanted for nothing - one of her neighbours even climbed his ladder to her spare room window to help her with her computer, when she couldn't get it to do what she wanted, 2 metres away from her obviously, through the glass.



The photos speak volumes about the last 8 weeks - from isolation to strength of character, to community and love. VE Day celebrations along this street say it all. Courtesy of Mama Street bunting of course! (also see page 32)

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5 Ways to Create a Memorable Lockdown ‘Staycation’



Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, many people have had to cancel long-awaited holidays. But that doesn't mean with the stress, anxiety and uncertainty we've all been facing the last few months that we don't need a good break.

So, while it may not be the holiday you wanted, there are lots of ways to create a fun, restful and memorable staycation – right here in England. Here are five ideas to get you started on your 2020 summer holiday.

Plan as if you are going on a trip.

Part of the fun of holidays is planning and the anticipation build-up. Create a list of the things you and your family would like to do. Make a schedule that includes time for fun, relaxation, together time and alone time. And don't forget, you're on a staycation – so you're allowed to put the world on hold, especially work.

Include some days out

We all could use a change of scenery and at the timing of writing, we are allowed to drive to visit a local beauty spot to exercise, relax and have a picnic – but not stay overnight. Think of the places within driving distance that you love or spots you've never been before to go and visit. Last week, I went to Cambridge which was peaceful and serene with no students or overseas tourists. I was able to download an audio walking tour and experience this city in a unique and memorable way.

Shake up your routine in the kitchen

Spice up your week's meals with some new options. Many local restaurants are now open for take away and delivery – let someone cook and wash up just like you would if you were away. Or if you like to cook, try out one of the free online cooking classes that are available with a simple google search. Step by step videos guide you through creating a new meal – and the reward is eating it at the end.

See a theatre performance or musical concert

Run out of things to watch on TV? How about catching a Broadway show? Broadway HD is offering free 7 day trials to hundreds of shows. It includes

popular shows such as Les Miserables and Cats. Or mix it up with a free online music concert, [ClassicalIMPR](#) has listings of free events you can stream every night.

Enjoy your back garden

Sometimes simple pleasures are the best. Check the forecast for a sunny day and set up in your own back garden for the day. You can have a picnic lunch or even-ing barbeque while listening to music. Lay down some blankets and finish your day by watching the sun set and enjoying the stars above.

Whether you're planning a week off or a weekend break, it's easy to organise a staycation that gives you and your family a break from work, school and your lockdown routine. And with a little planning can give you all unique memories from summer 2020.

Michelle Audette is a certified personal coach with over 20 years experience helping individuals and teams achieve their goals. For more information please visit www.michelleaudette.com

Michelle Audette



News from the Hospice of St Francis



Proud of
our Hos-
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Celebrating our volunteers in Volunteers' Week

Volunteers' Week brings back memories of 12 months ago when the Hospice's volunteers were awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Although we can't all be together this year we are reflecting on the support, dedication and love our amazing volunteers show the Hospice.

Our 1,500 volunteers are at the heart of the Hospice. During the pandemic many have had to take a short break from their roles, and we have missed each and every one of them.

A few have been able to continue volunteering, and we have been humbled by the amazing resourcefulness and offers of help. Steve, a volunteer driver, shares his experience of volunteering during lockdown...

"When the pandemic came along, I offered to run the vehicles occasionally to keep them serviceable. Prior to lockdown, my usual duties for the Hospice mostly involved driving the van for retail and trips to Costco and Bookers with Chris Took. That has all stopped of course, but I've been pleased to be available for various other needs, including being one of the volunteer team that is delivering lunches from our kitchen to the nursing team at NHS Gossoms End and

At this time of year many of you would have been in our shops, taken home boxes of joy from our Markyate Plant Sale, be planning for our flagship Garden Party at Ashridge or the legendary Dacorum Steam Fayre. You would have been fundraising in cake sales and sponsored challenges. None of which can take place this year and we have truly missed you.

You, our community, are at the heart of what we do. We are here for you and because of you. We love your support and we rely on it. Thank you to all of you who have made donations. Whilst everything around us has changed, our roles are still the same. The truth is that this situation is not going away, but neither are we. Our care will never come at a cost to the patient or their loved ones. We are there when others cannot be only because of your support. No-one can put a price on a good death, but everyone deserves one – and together we can achieve this.

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www.stfrancis.org.uk/donate

supporting the IPU. I've also taken on the task of giving the Hospice vehicles a regular run to keep them serviceable until things get back to normal, so it's often been possible to do this at the same time."



Steve

Volunteer

This year's 'Virtual' Garden Party

Many of you are regular supporters of our annual Garden Party at Ashridge House, so please keep an eye on our website and social media throughout June for lots of fun ways to join in our Virtual Garden Party; did someone say online dog show...?!

Remembering the life of a loved one with our Tribute pages

We have been able to help friends and families connect and share memories to celebrate the life of loved ones remotely, with the help of our in-memory Tribute Pages. By sharing the Tribute Page of someone important to you, you can raise vital funds to help us provide care during this time for other families. Find out more at www.stfrancis.org.uk/tribute-pages or email inmemory@stfrancis.org.uk



IPU Nurses

For more information

www.stfrancis.org.uk/events

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Foster carers step in to help rescued dogs during Covid lockdown



Forever Hounds Trust is a charity dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of greyhounds and lurchers. Most of the dogs that come into their care are looked after in kennels, with some dogs going to live in foster homes.

Foster homes have always been essential for the charity, mainly for dogs that don't cope well in kennels or for those recovering from surgery, young puppies or older dogs.

However, when it became clear that the UK was going to be entering a period of lockdown, Forever Hounds Trust put out an urgent appeal for foster homes. Not only did they want to prevent dogs having to stay in kennels for an unknown period of time, but it was also important to free up spaces for dogs that may need to come into the charity's care urgently.

The charity was hugely grateful for the many offers of help that came pouring in, and they were able to get many of their rescued dogs into foster care before the official lockdown began. With people's circumstances changing and them being at home most of the time, there were many people who suddenly found themselves available to foster a dog.

It's been great for both the dogs and the fosterers! Some of the dogs have since gone on to find their forever home, and have settled in quickly having had an experience of being part of a household already. Some of the fosterers have grown so attached to their dogs that they have decided to adopt them themselves, meaning the dogs will now stay with them forever!

Many of the dogs that come to Forever Hounds Trust are greyhounds rescued from the racing industry, and have never lived in a normal family home. For them, time spent with a foster carer helps them adapt to life as a pet and learn about a home environment.

If you would like to foster or adopt a dog, please get in touch with Forever Hounds Trust by emailing enquiries@foreverhoundstrust.org.



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Saturday 12th September 2020 - Bike 'n Hike

Last year St. Peter's raised £1,233.75 in sponsorship money. Chris Clegg, the organiser for St. Peter's, would be pleased if you could:

- Ride or walk on the day
- Sponsor riders and walkers
- Help at the church for one hour on the day

Please contact him on 01442 875818 or candjclegg@hotmail.co.uk, and see more information about the event on:

www.bedshertshct.org.uk/bikenhike

Chicken Pesto Pasta - Serves 4

A hearty creamy pasta dish that is a heavily requested favourite in my house. In my recipe I use dried herbs, but fresh herbs would work just as well. It's very versatile and easy to add or substitute different veg according to personal preference; I've tried it with green beans, mushrooms and asparagus and all work well, here's what works best for me and my family.

Ingredients

3 large chicken breasts
6 rashers of smoked bacon – chopped into small pieces
2 large garlic cloves – minced
300 ml double cream
3 heaped teaspoons of green pesto*
200g garden peas or petis pois – fresh or defrosted
200g fresh spinach - roughly chopped, stalks removed
400g tagliatelle or penne pasta
40g of grated parmesan cheese

For the chicken seasoning – combine in a small bowl

1 tsp smoked paprika
1 tsp dried mixed herbs
½ tsp dried oregano
½ tsp sea salt
½ tsp ground black pepper

If you did want to make fresh pesto: whizz 70g fresh basil leaves, 50g grated parmesan and two peeled garlic cloves in a food processor or blender, then slowly drizzle in 40ml of olive oil and pulse until roughly combined, transfer to a bowl and season to taste with salt and fresh lemon juice. (Leftover pesto will keep for a week).

Method

For the chicken

Preheat your oven to 180°C, line a baking tray with foil and place your chicken onto it. Using a fork, stab each breast several times and then drizzle a generous amount of olive oil over the top. Sprinkle your premade seasoning over the chicken and massage it in with your fingertips. Cover the chicken in foil (to keep it super moist) and cook for around 20-30 minutes depending on size. Once done, transfer onto a chopping board and chop into chunks, then using two forks pull and shred the chicken into smaller pieces.

For the main dish



Place a large frying pan over a medium heat and drizzle a small amount of olive oil into the pan. Add your bacon and your garlic to the pan and fry for 5-7 minutes or until the edges of the bacon start to crisp.

Slide your shredded chicken into the pan and combine. Meanwhile, bring a large pan of water to the boil and add a generous pinch of salt. Tip your pasta into the boiling water and cook according to packet instructions (usually 9-12 minutes for dried pasta or 2-4 for fresh). Once cooked, remove approximately 300ml of starchy pasta water from the pan and save in a jug. Then drain the rest of the water and leave the pasta to steam for a few minutes.

Now, add your defrosted peas to the pan with the chicken and bacon and stir to combine. Next, add double cream and reduce the heat. Add 3 heaped teaspoons of green pesto and 3 heaped teaspoons of your grated parmesan and stir gently. Once the pesto and the cream have combined, add two ladles of the saved pasta water to slightly loosen the sauce. Then add the cooked pasta to the pan and mix it all together. Continue to add ladles of the saved pasta water to the pan until you reach your desired sauce consistency. Finally, add chopped spinach and leave to simmer until the spinach has wilted and reduced. Remove from the hob and serve into bowls, top with the leftover parmesan cheese and a twist of black pepper and enjoy!

By Sophie Thomas

English football continuing to battle Covid-19

Head towards your nearest McDonalds drive-thru and it's likely you'll see a several mile long queue. Go to your nearest park and you'll probably see a whole host of people congregating.

Rather ridiculously, the government's message in May was to Stay Alert. Yet, social distancing in many quarters appears to have gone out the window.

For sports fans, however, the most eye-catching piece of news was that football, or any sport for that matter, wouldn't return until at least June. Even then it would be behind closed doors and without any fans.

Unlike at McDonalds, thousands of people will not be gathering at their beloved football grounds for quite some time.

Though, on a warm day in the penultimate week of May, temperatures reached as high as 27°C and clubs in England's highest division - the Premier League - returned to training. Doing so, they soon became aware that the top flight would return on the 17th June, albeit behind closed doors.

As things stand Liverpool have every right to win the league – they sit on 82 points, 25 ahead of their nearest competitors Manchester City.

Yet at the bottom of the table there is a local side – Watford. Sitting a place above the relegation zone on goal difference alone before football recommenced, they would have been praying for the season to be scrapped.

After all, they have been one of the hardest hit by the deadly Coronavirus.

Before clubs were allowed to train again, every single member of staff had to be tested for the disease. From 748 samples, six tested positive from three clubs in the top flight. For context, Germany's Bundesliga started up again despite 10 positive tests from a sample of 1,724.

Unfortunately, three of those who came back with the illness in the Premier League were at Watford. Coincidentally, they are a club who opened the doors of its Vicarage Road stadium as a wellbeing sanctuary for NHS workers – among those to volunteer their help was Berkhamsted resident and beloved commentator Peter Drury.

Sadly, one of those who tested positive at the Hornets was defender Adrian Mariappa, a stalwart with 334 appearances to his name. This all came in the same week that some of their players refused to return to their London Colney training base.

Can anyone blame them? Hardly. After all, captain Troy Deeney told the national media that he has a five month old child with breathing difficulties. Infecting his home could be fatal.

But elsewhere, there are some teams who could have done with playing on – Berkhamsted FC are the finest example. Back at the end of March, the FA took the decision to null and void every single season beneath the top tier of non-league football.

That meant that Berko, top of the BetVictor Southern League Central, failed to achieve what surely would have been a deserved promotion.

In a statement released on Twitter, joint manager Lee Bircham, who later left his role in May, revealed his

frustrations: “I’m absolutely gutted,” he explained. It looks as though their failure to get promoted has had bigger consequences than they could have imagined.

Bircham likely feels the same as a host of managers and players throughout the lower divisions of the English game. Though, it’s crucial to note this has been an unprecedented period, a time where football has had to take a back seat.

So often a sport that brings us comfort in difficult times, it has been nowhere during one of the most troublesome obstacles our generation has seen. Fortunately, it will be back on our screens in June.

By Matt Dawson

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Rectory Lane Cemetery – a new website takes us behind the scenes

The landscaping team are back working, trying to complete the works so that we can welcome relatives of those buried here, grave adopters, volunteers, and the public back into the space.

While the conservation and landscape work is visible from the perimeters a huge effort has been going on *behind the scenes* to import the Great Berkhamsted parish burial records into an online database – led by Robin McMorran, our website developer and Cathy Imber who has been responsible for creating a revised burial register, aided by our genealogy researchers and conservation specialists.

When the cemetery re-opens to the public, visitors will be able to stand in front of a memorial and search the online burial records via their mobile, uncovering hidden histories and old photographs on the spot. And for nature enthusiasts, there will be a space to post photos of wildlife they encounter.

Rance, Holliday, Pocock, Smith-Dorrien, Halsey – these are names shared by many families originating from the Berkhamsted area, and all these, and hundreds of others, can be found by searching in our new website :-

www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk

An interactive map shows how the past can be seen all around us today, drawing connections with well-known places across the town, such as Ashlyns Hall, Ashridge House and Cooper's Chemical Works. There are many hidden surprises: a former livery stables opposite Waitrose; a long-forgotten stonemason's yard on Castle Street; a Coaching Inn landlady wooed by the King of France; Berkhamsted's first bicycle shop. These connections sharpen our appreciation of how those buried here shaped our modern town.

As Kate Campbell our Community Engagement Officer explains:

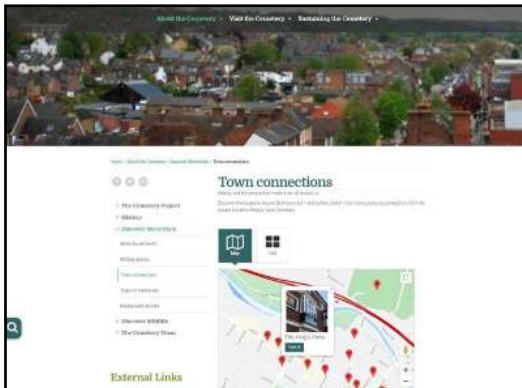
"One of our aims is to give an online presence to the achievements of the cemetery project, and to promote wildlife diversity, cemetery events and the beautiful community space. But at the heart of Rectory Lane Cemetery's history are the stories hidden under the gravestones, the real lives of the people buried here. Like counting the rings in a tree trunk, we can trace nearly 180 years of the history of the town through these stories."

If you're inspired to contribute to this growing and fascinating repository of stories, we'd love you to join our genealogy team - and there is no better time to do so - Ancestry.com is currently available online via your local

library ABSOLUTELY FREE! Please contact Kate on campbellkate01@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved.


At present the Cemetery remains closed to the public – due both to the Government coronavirus guidelines

and also to allow the landscapers to work effectively. As well as our landscape team you may occasionally see regular volunteers working there, but you can be sure that they will be maintaining social distancing rules.




About the Cemetery

Home > About the Cemetery > Discover



Info



Horace Frederick Allen

1893 – 01/11/1929

Served in WWI, Royal West Kent Regiment, wounded 1918

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'We hear a great deal in these days about the 'average man', 'the man in the street' and 'the little man' ...but rarely do we find one who may be pointed out as being of that character'.

So began a short Gazette piece of 23rd November 1929. It went on to claim it had found a perfect example.

'There has passed away in Berkhamsted this week one known to many who was just an ordinary citizen of the town, of whom many would pass by without a second thought. He was however of the type to which we referred, a man who did his job well, a man who served his country nobly at the greatest and most severe time of her need, a man who may be said to have paid the greatest sacrifice of all because the terrible wounds received in that hell – France 1914-19 – left their mark and were at the least the main contributory cause of his death...'

'Who was that man?' the Gazette asks. It was Horace Fred Allen who was born in Chapel Street in 1893. His father William was employed as a carpenter

