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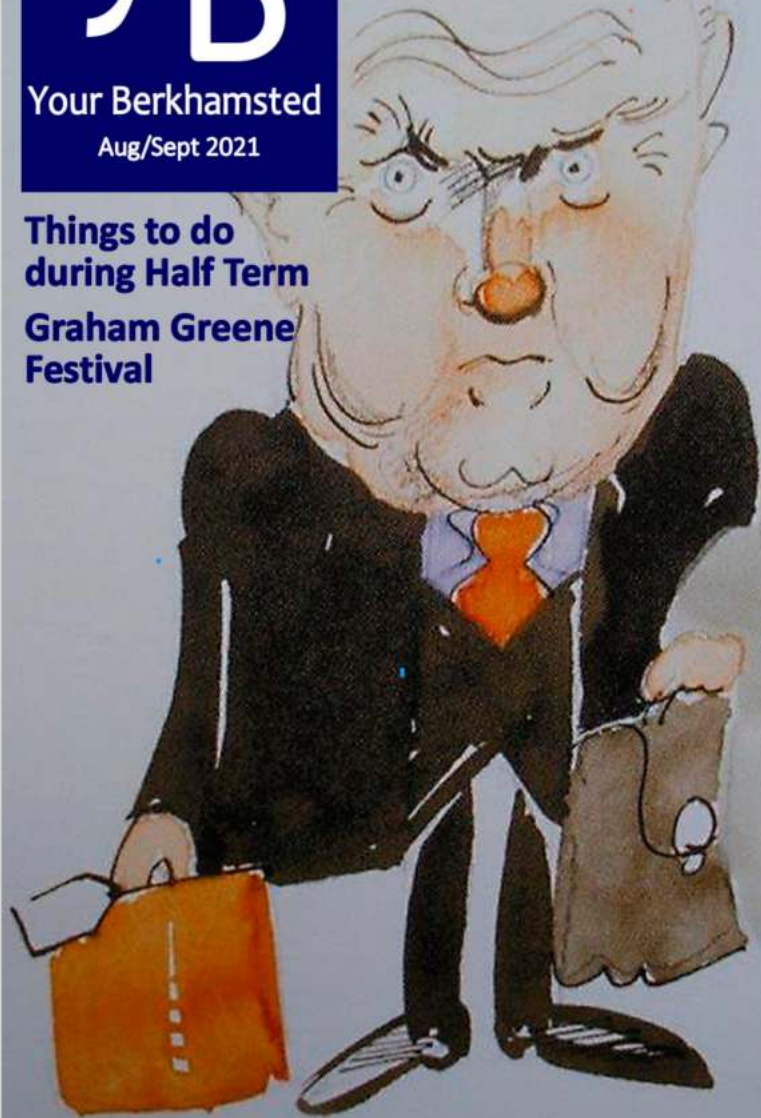
yB

Your Berkhamsted

Aug/Sept 2021

**Heritage Open Days
Berkhamsted Art Society**

**Things to do
during Half Term
Graham Greene
Festival**



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

In this issue...

WELCOME TO THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED. Where has this year gone? The summer so far has been a bit hit and miss. But looking back things are beginning to get as normal as can be since lockdown. We have some lovely articles showing bright colours be it art or nature. Dennis Furnell discusses high summer and the butterfly. He discusses the power of sight in insects, which is amazing. Jenny Sherwood tells us about the story behind the bricks and our history, we seem to have so much history in Berkhamsted. Also there is a list of the Heritage Open Days. The Berkhamsted Art Society has a wonderful group you can join and promises a great autumn and winter programme with talks, classes and much more. We must not forget the Graham Greene Festival – it is great to see it back. Also, events being held by the Hospice of St Francis – it is nice to see them back in full swing. There is much more in this edition and I hope you enjoy! Please look out for YB tweets on @Yourberkhamsted. Do get in touch if there are any ideas or stories you may have, either to publish or additions/changes to the magazine for consideration. And please give us your feedback on the features.



JACQUELINE - YBEDITOR@GREATBERKHAMSTED.ORG.UK

Rambles from Berkhamsted	3 & 5
Local History ramblings	8 , 9 &10
Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)	12 & 13
Our Clergy	14 & 15
St Peter's 800th Year	16
News from Rectory lane Cemetery	18, 19 & 20
Jobs for the Garden	22 & 23
Berkhamsted Art Society	24, 25, 26 & 27
Hospice of St Francis	28 & 29
Graham Greene Festival	30
Picnics and Daytrips	32, 33,& 34
Appledown Rescue Fun Day	35
Open Door News	36 & 37
Heather Club	38 & 39
Herts Visual Arts	40

Front cover: Thank you the Graham Green Birthplace Trust for the comic painting of Graham Greene.

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



The rabbit warren that is Wikipedia always distracts one down various byways and cul de sacs. There is a whole page listing notable alumni of Berkhamsted School, indeed one is referred to 71 pages of individuals. Let's pick Philip Trousdell at random, or to give him his full credentials, Lieutenant General Sir Philip Charles Cornwallis Trousdell KBE, CB. He was born in Northern Ireland in 1948, retiring in 2005. He was General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and Commandant of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. The British Armed Forces' operation in the province was actually known as Operation Banner with at its height 21,000 personnel in deployment.

Berkhamsted School effectively takes children from cradle to adulthood these days, but older children do join from other local schools at age 13, such as Lockers Park. school-search.co.uk reports on their 100 per cent academic success at the Common Entrance, so they are clearly doing something right at this school for boys aged from four. Founded in 1874 it is actually one of the earliest

purpose built preparatory schools, specifically created to prepare pupils for Rugby School. The founder, Henry Montague Draper, was a Rugby man. The house at the centre of the school is actually Georgian.

A BBC report in July highlighted the difficulties the hospitality industry was facing with staff having to self-isolate. One such establishment was the Alford Arms in Frithsden. It had faced a drama some years ago with a disastrous fire back in 2016. The village name of Frithsden is derived from le Fryth, Medieval English for wood. Middle English, rather than being spoken in Middle England, was actually spoken between the Norman Conquest and the late 15th Century. It was in turn succeeded by Early Modern English. Little survives of any literature because it was more prestigious to write in French, alors.

propertyinvestortoday.co.uk reports on Berkhamsted FC's battle to stay at its historic home amid attempts to move it to Bourne End to make room for housing. 3,700 people have so far signed a petition under signed

Cont Page 5

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a petition under #SaveBroadwater. Opponents say a club vital to the local community would be pushed out for a greenbelt development. Berkhamsted Town Council met to consider an application for the ground to be made an Asset of Community Value. It was unanimously agreed to back an application in the council's name to Dacorum under the Localism Act. The removal of the ground is supported by the freeholders - Berkhamsted Sports Ground Charitable Association Limited.

And finally hertfordshiremercury.co.uk reports on Berkhamsted's award winning comedian Robin Ince, who will be performing at Standon Calling 2021 in July. He is best known for presenting Radio 4's The Infinite Monkey Cage with Professor Brian Cox. He has won three Chortle awards. Now chortle isn't a word I've seen in print since reading the Beano in the 70s. Standon Calling is an annual music festival held in the grounds of Standon Lordship, a country house built between 1540-46 for Sir Ralph Sadlier. A school in Ware is named after him.



Picture by David Howard -Creative Commons

Drawings of Berkhamsted by Jenni Cator

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Almost every brick has a story to tell!



Almost every brick has a story to tell and the older the bricks the more of its hidden history can be revealed. We

arrive at Berkhamsted Station and retrace our steps. How strange it is that Station Road ends a hundred yards or more from the station and the station is in Lower Kings Road not in Station Road! Of course, there is a simple explanation to this conundrum. The present station although built in 1875 is not Berkhamsted's first station. That station was built and opened in 1837 and was probably the first to be opened in the centre of any town in the country, and was built in an Elizabethan style. It was very close to the end of Castle Street. It was not demolished until the 1960s. Regrettably very few photographs remain of this first station and we must rely on Buckler's print of the little station abutting onto the canal with cattle crossing the canal bridge and a horse pulling a barge along the canal, road, canal and railway. What remains of this original station? Three little cottages but also supposedly still intact a turntable. Why was this rather special station replaced?

By moving the station to its present position, it was possible to build a further line and so meet the need of goods traffic. Thus, the present station was built. The existence of the turntable is not well-known as it is on the site of Travis Perkins. Perhaps if the firm should close its Berkhamsted branch this site could be further investigated and could well reveal more features of the hidden history of our first railway station.

The new station brought with it a fine house for the station master and to the rear of the station was the private waiting room where the Brownlows of Ashridge could await their London bound or northern-bound train away from the smoke and smuts of passing steam trains. Prime Minister Gladstone, although on occasion a guest of the Brownlows, was a more frequent guest of Lady Hamilton at Berkhamsted Place, and arriving from London by train would hurry up the Lime Walk in time for dinner at the Place. This Walk still exists and runs from Castle Hill Avenue, and comes out close to the track leading to the remaining buildings of the Elizabethan mansion, 'successor to the Castle.' Old maps clearly mark the Walk which predates Castle Hill by several hundreds of years.

How did Lower Kings Road come to be built and so make Station Road of secondary importance? By the 1880s houses were being built in North Road and the surrounding areas and many of those who lived in these areas formed the first commuters taking advantage of the regular train service to town. These people objected to having to walk all the way down to Castle Street and then retracing their steps to get to the station. What was needed, was a new road leading more directly from the High Street to the Station. Consequently, two houses were demolished in the High Street and the new road, financed by public subscription was built. This new road was named Lower Kings Road to distinguish it from Upper Kings Road still so named by some older residents. Over the years Lower Kings Road has come to replace Castle Street as the most important commercial road apart from the High Street. For example, Bailey's the jewellers before moving to Lower Kings Road traded until the seventies or eighties from a prominent position in Castle Street. About the same time the watch, clock and jeweller de Lisle left Lower Kings Road but retains its name in the clock on the little cupola clock tower. The exact history of the clock tower is unknown, although strangely enough the responsibility for the maintenance of the clock rests with Berkhamsted

Town Council. Does the clock function well and is the Council fulfilling its duty?

At the bottom of Kings Road almost opposite the clock tower is another fine building once a private house, marked by its very distinctive brickwork. At present a question mark hangs over it. It is proposed that the Berkhamsted branch of Barclays will close in the near future. Will it go the way of the Britannia and become yet another restaurant? In its prominent position it would make a fine Heritage Centre which would provide residents and visitors alike a focal point to learn and appreciate more of the hidden history of our ancient town and provide records of so many valuable documents hiding in local attics.

We continue on our journey towards Berkhamsted's West End to Gossoms End, once the poorest part of Berkhamsted. Now with the continued growth of the town it is difficult to define its exact parameters. We could take it as the area going west from Cross Oak Road, formerly Gilhams Lane. This earlier name is preserved in Gilhams Court, sheltered accommodation for the elderly. This area once contained the workhouse, closed in the 1930s to be replaced by a parade of shops Kitsbury Parade.

This parade and Kitsbury Road were built on land which once belonged to Kitsbury farm.

It was the removal of the large timber merchant East's from the east end of Berkhamsted to Gossoms End with a site on the canal which proved a turning point for Gossoms End bringing employment opportunities. This and the expansion further west of Lane's nurseries enabled the introduction of subsidiary industries such as Goss' Brushes. The stretch of High Street known still as Gossoms End contains two fine listed buildings, Gossoms Lodge and Gossoms Cottage. These buildings were flanked by cottages with primitive facilities, which were not replaced until the 1980s. Until comparatively recently many little general stores plied their trade and met the needs of the local populace. Now where once we purchased books at Leatherdale's we can stop and drink a welcome cup of tea or coffee in the ever Open Door. Perhaps this little ramble has whet your appetite to study what the bricks of Berkhamsted might tell you. Come along on one of the Heritage Open Day tours, find out how Berkhamsted Place can be successor to the castle, learn about the story of watercress, and learn about Berkhamsted's West End. All this is made possible by the HODS arranged by the Berkhamsted Local History & Museum Society. Visit

www.berkhamsted-history.org.uk or www.heritageopendays.org.uk to see what Berkhamsted or Hemel has to offer.

List of Heritage Open Events

- 'A Walk Back in Time' - the town centre
- A Radical Village - the Baptists in Northchurch
- A Walk into the Past: Berkhamsted Place, Successor to the Castle
- Amersfort, a fine Arts and Craft house, with a garden designed by Ernest Willmott and planted by Gertrude Jekyll
- Berkhamsted Castle Guided Tours
- Berkhamsted Foundling Hospital - Memories of Childhood
- Berkhamsted's West End Poverty and industry but also some hidden surprises
- BFI Film & Television Archive Open Day
- Castle Street Crawl
- St Peter's Church and the Court House
- The Battle of Berkhamsted Common: The Power of the People - How the Common was saved from Enclosure
- The Lost Wharves of Berkhamsted— A guided tour of yesterday's canal
- Watercress or fruit sandwiches anyone? Picnic like a Victorian in Rectory Lane Cemetery
- Watercress- a thriving industry but also a provider of healthy eating.

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Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)

High Summer

One of the best indicators of high summer is the red admiral butterfly. They are greatly attracted to buddleia, which is beginning to bloom now and is a favourite with myriad insects from far and wide.

Buddleia was originally imported from the Far East as a garden plant. Its tiny, fluffy seeds are wind borne and it has become invasive. Happily, it is at home in many a suburban garden, and thrives along the railway lines and in waste places. I have two in my garden. One is a dwarf variety, and the other is the more usual variety. They are both rampant butterfly magnets.

In the past our garden has played host to deep blue and yellow buddleia, but the best for butterflies and moths is an accidental sport that has both white and pale lilac-toned flowers. The white flower clusters seem to be the most attractive, and when I shine an ultra-violet torch on the bush, I can see that there are dark markings on the paler flowers. These ultra-violet indicators are invisible to us, but they show visiting insects just where to land and where to find nectar.

This led me to investigate the power of sight in insects, particularly that of butterflies and moths, both creatures that have evolved over millions of years to use ultra-violet light to allow them to see much better than we do. We see light and colour in a much more limited spectrum.

I like to paint in watercolours and my paint box has blocks of solid colour with which I am able to reproduce most of the tones and hues that my eyes can capture, however butterflies can see many more colours and tones, as can another group of archaic insects such as bees. They have had a few hundred million years to perfect the use of ultra-violet light when searching for nectar.

The question is which came first? Insects were first, but at what stage did flowering plants appear?

The strategy of UV indicators is not altruistic on the part of the plant. As the insect pushes its feeding tube, its head or, as in the case of the furry-bodied bee, its entire body into a flower, it collects pollen when it leaves the flower, it flies off to another one and so completes the cycle of fertility – a win win situation. Isn't nature wonderful!

The interaction of species is not restricted to insects and flowers. Recent discoveries in broadleaved woodlands have shown that trees and plants living within a forest environment communicate by sending out warnings about insect and bacterial pests, allowing the trees to shift poisons into their leaves that will make them unpalatable to invaders.

Imported species of certain trees are not part of this network and bring in disease, for which the native trees have no antibodies, rather like our

own encounter with Covid-19. Forests are served by a subterranean network of fungi that have evolved a system of communication to the benefit of both trees and fungi. The fungi having an organic structure with features of vegetation and higher organisms. Tree plagues such as ash dieback and certain maladies of the oak are an example of this.

Trees and fungi can live without us. We, on the other hand, cannot live without them.



Picture: Red Admiral Butterfly by Dennis Furnell

OUR CLERGY



Is it really true? It certainly does not feel like it. Nor does it feel a long time ago. I am a fortunate

person, indeed. Yes, it is 60 years ago on September 24th that I was made a Deacon and so joined the clergy of the Church of England. I went to be curate of Selby Abbey in Yorkshire, which was grand in its way, but mainly my area was a post-war housing estate with a large wooden shed as its temporary church. Although I had been two years in the ranks in the Army, I had a lifetime's worth of experience in the first few months of going house to house on that estate. Almost without exception people were kind, open, and welcoming to the brand-new collared figure. Soon I was being asked to visit different people and called out in the night to sit with the dying. I was out of my depth. It was mighty tiring but rewarding.

I kind of ran a youth club. Because violence broke out from time to time I was scared so wore my black cassock all the time hoping no body would clock me with a billiard cue or even use the stiletto flick-knife some young men carried. They called me "Vic".

But then, they raised a huge sum of money when it came to Christian Aid week, even if the Vicar was furious and blamed me when a banner was put up high between the towers of the Abbey. By contrast, I was also studying Hooker's Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity to get through the exams necessary before becoming a priest. Does anyone read such 16th century stuff nowadays?

Times have certainly changed; it seems almost a different world. The institution of the Church has certainly changed a great deal and it does seem much more formal and controlled from the centre. But where the Parish Priest works I suspect things have not changed so much. The rhythms of life, joy and sorrow, the family, the single person, the local community, are still the work-place of someone whom the poet RS Thomas describes as "a vicar of large things in a small parish". He means something like a representative of God, of the whole spiritual dimension, in amongst the business of everyday life.

I cannot tell you what an experience it has been - invited to be close to people at the end of their lives, rejoicing with families at births, baptisms and weddings, witnessing the enormous courage of those enduring constant pain, feeling helpless and

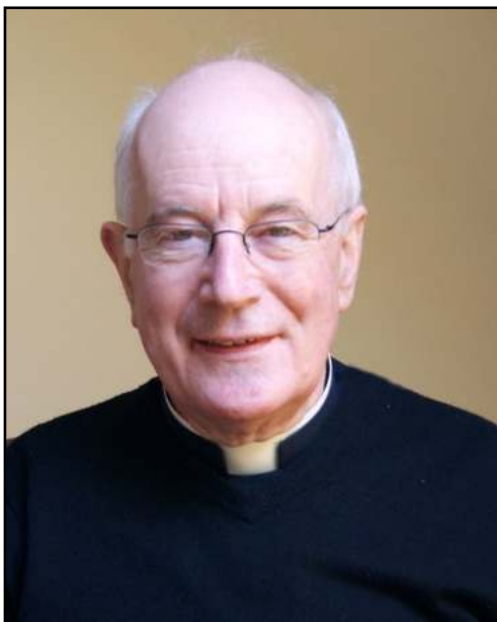
having nothing to say but simply being with people in tragedy and great difficulty. And much more - simply because I was a member of the clergy, not in my own right.

Yes, I have been at great occasions, but love and faith are to be found amongst those in the mixed bunch of people in the pews of the parish church; there, fantastic courage and endurance, persistence and kindness are to be found as well as behind many a front door. It has been a privilege to have discovered this over the

years, and maybe to have helped some people on their own journey through life.

Like everyone else, being a member of the clergy is sometime fun, and sometimes it can be harrowingly dreadful. But the love of God, which is shown the whole of Jesus' experience, is to be found in all kinds of circumstances. Ordained clergy represent that, and I have found it to be true.

Anthony Lathe



St Peter's Walking Group meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10am, outside the Make Believe Ideas Café (the red Bus!) If you would like to join the group please email the Parish Office:
churchoffice@greatberkhamsted.org.uk

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

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

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



WHAT WE'RE PLANNING

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

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

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

LOVE YOUR CHURCHYARD!

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

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

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

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

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING TOGETHER!

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News from Rectory Lane Cemetery

Wicker baskets and watercress: Berkhamsted's Rectory Lane Cemetery hosts an authentic Victorian Picnic this September

On Sunday 12 September 2021, Berkhamsted's **Rectory Lane Cemetery** invites you to picnic in the style of the Victorians. Families and friends can bring along their baskets of food and blankets, in an atmospheric afternoon that will also feature food-themed Victorian style entertainment and guided tours.

The Rectory Lane Cemetery has organised the picnic as part of the nationwide **Heritage Open Days**, which runs every September and sees volunteers across the country holding free events to celebrate the history and culture of England. The theme of this year's festival is **Edible England** and offers the public a chance to taste the curious cuisine of the past.

At the Rectory Lane Cemetery's **Victorian Picnic**, guests can enter the spirit of the afternoon as much or as little as they like, sampling Mrs Beeton-inspired delicacies from the era, or dressing up in the fashions of the time.

Berkhamsted's 19th century watercress growers will be celebrated by a school activity in the weeks

leading up to the event. Children from Swing Gate Infant School and Nursery, Victoria Church of England Infant & Nursery School, and Greenway Primary & Nursery School have been given packs of seeds to grow at home over the summer holidays, in memory of the thriving watercress industry of the River Bulbourne. Those who wish can enter their crop into a competition on the day.

A graveyard may seem an odd choice for a picnic location, but as Rectory Lane Cemetery's Community Engagement Officer, Kate Campbell explains: *"The Victorians saw cemeteries as green spaces to enjoy, take the air, socialise and spend time with the deceased. Our grounds are the resting place of so many food producers from Victorian Berkhamsted - from butchers to ginger beer producers to watercress and apple growers. While our guests picnic in the September sunshine, we will use story-telling and talks to illuminate these local lives."*

Tickets to the **Heritage Open Day: Victorian Picnic at the Rectory Lane Cemetery (Sunday 12 September, 11-4pm)** are FREE, but pre-booking is essential at: www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk/eventbrite

Rectory Lane Cemetery is a free public space, open to all, every day: off the High Street Berkhamsted, HP4 2HQ

Through heritage lottery funding this once neglected cemetery has been transformed into a garden of commemoration, a home for local history and wildlife, promoting health and wellbeing, and welcoming all.

www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk

Heritage Open Days 2021 (10-19 September 2021) – England’s Largest Festival of History and Culture - Every year in September, places

across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It’s your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and it’s all FREE.

www.heritageopendays.org.uk

For further information, or to register to attend, please contact Kate Campbell, Community Engagement Officer,

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Kate Campbell







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the outside world. My approach to each client is completely unique and supports the body's natural self healing processes. My treatments are bespoke and are tailored to support you both physically and emotionally.

If you are interested in any of my treatments please do get in touch.

Jackie Garwood

Mob: 07969044884

www.chamomiletherapies.com

I am a full member of the Association Of Reflexologists (AOR) and the International Federation Of professional Aromatherapists (IFPA).

JOBS FOR THE GARDEN

‘Patchwork’ (22 Hall Park Gate, HP4 2NJ), the garden I recommended earlier in the year is open again for the National Garden Scheme on Sunday, 22nd August, 2-5pm. This time there will be an abundance of dahlias and summer bedding in pots, together with roses, fuchsias and hostas. All set on a sloping site against a background of trees and shrubs. Tickets can be purchased in advance but it is not essential, adults £4, children free <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/16214>

August

Keep deadheading flowering plants regularly to encourage repeat flowering. Don’t forget the flowers in your hanging baskets. If the weather is dry, water baskets and pots daily and feed fortnightly.

Prune wisteria and summer flowering shrubs, such as weigela and lavender.

Prune rambling roses, removing up to a third of stems that have flowered.

Mow areas of wildflower meadow now the plants have scattered their seeds.

Keep ponds and water features topped up with rain water from your water butt.

Pinch out the tops of outdoor tomato plants as further flowers won’t

produce fruits that have time to ripen.

Lift onions and shallots once their tops die down, then leave in the sun to dry.



Patchwork Front Garden by Sarah Dawson



Patchwork Back Garden by Sarah Dawson

September

It's very tempting to tidy and 'put your garden to bed for the winter' but keep in mind the birds who like to feed on rose hips and berries of ivy, berberis, cotoneaster and honeysuckle. Also seed heads from verbenas, bonariensis, miscanthus and sunflowers provide an important source of food.

Plant spring flowering bulbs, such as daffodils, bluebells, crocus and hyacinths.

Plant wallflowers and pansies to give early spring colour. Sow hardy annuals, such as poppies, cornflower, love-in-a-mist and calendula.

Start sowing vegetables that will provide winter harvests and early spring crops; spring cabbages, spinach, broad beans, peas and turnips. It's also not too late to sow lettuce and radish seeds for a late crop as they will germinate quickly while the soil is still warm.

Net your pond before leaves start to fall.



Late Summer Colour by Sarah Dawson

Sarah Dawson



‘Come along and join us’ says thriving local art group

New members invited to join art society as its busy programme of talks, demos, workshops, life drawing – and an exhibition with a special focus for local schoolchildren – gets under way

BERKHAMSTED Art Society’s busy autumn and winter programme features a talk by a local artist favoured by Boris Johnson and a demonstration by a renowned ceramicist and judge from TV’s Great Pottery Throw Down.

Mary Casserley, popular locally for her paintings in and around Berkhamsted and the Chilterns, joins Kate Malone MBE in the line up between now and the end of March.

New members are invited to join the thriving and friendly local art group in what promises to be an enjoyable autumn and winter of art activities.

“The long hours spent at home over lockdown saw many people pick up a paintbrush for the first time, or spend more time painting and drawing, or return to art-based hobbies after a long break,” said Berkhamsted Art Society chairman James Honour.

“So we’re saying ‘come along and join us’. Whatever your area of interest or ability, we can promise something for everyone.”

Mary Casserley, whose painting of Chequers was bought by the prime minister earlier this year, kicks off the society’s autumn/winter season as guest speaker when it meets for its AGM at the Court House in Church Lane, Berkhamsted, on Tuesday 14 September.

Kate Malone is hosted a month later, when the pottery and glazing master talks on 'Earth, Air, Fire, Water – Connecting Clay with the Elements', on Tuesday 19 October at 7pm. £6 for non-members.

Further autumn/winter events include

- Live or Zoom demos by local Open Door artist George Walker (charcoal drawing, 9 November); Peter Keegan (oil painting, 18 January) and Hashim Akib (trees in acrylics, 22 March)
- Life drawing workshops
- Regular life drawing evenings, either in the Court House or via Zoom
- Winter and spring exhibitions in the Civic Centre
- Regular coffee mornings at a local pub and a Raku Pottery Firing

All Zoom talks and demos start at 7pm. Live presentations at the Court House start at 8pm. Entrance is free for members and £5 for visitors.

The programme follows on from the group's summer drawing evenings where members have been gathering weekly to paint or sketch at local places of interest – weather permitting!

"We are delighted that Mary – who is one of our star members – and my friend Kate are coming along to give us an insight into their work," said James.

"All our members are enthusiastic and friendly, so we can guarantee a warm welcome for them and for visitors."

Formed 90 years ago, the group has members from across Dacorum, who share an interest in painting, drawing, pottery, textiles, print-making and creating art.

The forward-thinking society has grown in numbers over recent months, despite the restrictions and difficulties of the pandemic and lockdown. Regular coffee mornings and life drawing sessions via Zoom kept everyone in touch and involved – and inspired members to create so much 'lockdown art' that they put together a successful online exhibition and art sale in May and June.

Cont on Page 26



“The exhibition was great,” said James. Sales and commissions were generated by the ‘virtual visitors’ – and some were so impressed that they became members and added work of their own to the gallery.

“We now have our focus on a real live exhibition in the Civic Centre on 26 and 27 November when we hope to get local schoolchildren involved too,” said James.

For more information visit

www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk

or

<https://www.facebook.com/BerkhamstedArtSociety/>

or contact James Honour at berkhamstedartsociety@gmail.com



Summer drawing evenings



Mary Casserley



Kate Malone

The Hospice of St Francis – Hospice News

August 2021

The Hospice held their first mass participation event, 'Walk Your Ridgeway' earlier this summer, following months of lockdown. There were 250 fantastic supporters on the day and a HUGE £54K raised for the Hospice – an outstanding amount!

We rely on community fundraising, to help fund the £5 million needed each year to provide our **free** care. By supporting the Hospice, you are helping us to help more people in the local community to feel safe and supported through a life-limiting illness and to live their precious life well.

News and Events

Car Boot Sales – August & September Dates

The Hospice is currently hosting a series of Car Boot Sales on the second Saturday of every month, until September, at Dudswell field, Tring Road, Dudswell, HP4 3TA. The next event is Saturday 14th August. Sign up for a pitch to sell your unwanted items or visit as a buyer between 8:30am-12pm. For more information, please visit the Hospice webpage: stfrancis.org.uk/car-boot-sales



Shop for Good

The Hospice has launched a new exciting online shop – 'Shop For Good'. This innovative online offer has well-being, eco, sustainability and 'doing good' at the heart of its offer. A must for present and gift giving! Keep up to date with the shop launch by following the Instagram:

@shopforgood_hosf and website: **shop-for-good.org.uk**



Fitness & Wellbeing Festival

Join the Hospice for their first Fitness and Wellbeing Festival! Held on Sunday 5th September, at Dudswell Field, Tring Road, Dudswell, HP4 3TA. There will be a variety of fantastic taster workshops to take part in! Visit the Hospice website for more information: stfrancis.org.uk/festival

Classic Car and Special Interest Car Show

Continuing with their summer 'covid-secure' events, the Hospice is hosting a Car Show on Sunday 12th September! Featuring a range of classic and impressive cars each with a personal history and lovingly cared for! Return once more to the private event space in Dudswell, this time for afternoon of automobile history and family fun: stfrancis.org.uk/car-show

And finally...

Accessing our Care – Self Referral

The Hospice of St Francis is there to help in any way they can, with care provided **Free**. If you, or someone you know, is living with cancer or a life-limiting illness such as a heart, lung, kidney or neurological condition we

might be able to support you. (We support from early diagnosis and through treatment and remission). Please do fill in our short referral form online: www.stfrancis.org.uk/selfrefere

Follow us on Facebook

@TheHospiceofStFrancis, Instagram

@HospiceStFrancis, Twitter

@hospicstfrancis or call us on **01442 869555**.

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 wellbeing 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.



#YourPreciousLife

STFRANCIS.ORG.UK





GRAHAM GREENE
BIRTHPLACE TRUST

FESTIVAL 2021 Thursday 30 September–Sunday 3 October

THE 22ND GRAHAM GREENE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

When the Festival was first held – back in 1998 – Tony Blair was in his second year as Prime Minister, Boris Johnson was a journalist, and Norman Sherry was still six years away from publishing the third and final volume of his Greene biography. We have come a long way since then. Who would have bet in 1998 that the programme for the 22nd Festival would take place in 2021? But here we are. Last year's Festival had to be cancelled because of the virus emergency, but I'm delighted to have been able to keep most of that programme in place for 2021.

I hope you like the look of this year's offerings – a mixture of some familiar faces and a number of new ones. I've tried in particular to focus on Graham Greene's own writings, and include elements that are as accessible to those completely new to Greene as to seasoned fans; to reflect the myriad adaptations of Greene that continue to appear; to mark the publication of Richard Greene's landmark biography; and to involve Greene's own family – always a really important part of our annual gatherings. Sign yourself up for tickets, encourage newcomers to join us, and let's renew our friendships in Berkhamsted in September/October. See you then.

See the link to find further details of the talks, interviews, films, tours and speakers, the online ticketing service, and information on any changes that may arise.

www.grahamgreenebt.org/festival

Sponsored by Greene Kind Ltd and supported by Berkhamsted School

Mike Hill, Festival Director

Tickets are available to purchase at www.grahamgreenebt.org/tickets

A Season Ticket to all events, including the films but excluding meals, is available for £115.

There is free admission to Festival events (excluding meals) for under 21s.

If you have any queries or problems with tickets, please contact:

ticketing@grahamgreenebt.org or phone 07491 674594

Friends - Become a Friend of the Graham Greene Birthplace Trust at www.grahamgreenebt.org/membership and receive a quarterly newsletter and a Festival discount of £2 per event (for up to five events).

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[www.berkhamstedquakers.org.uk/
hallhire](http://www.berkhamstedquakers.org.uk/hallhire)**

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Picnics & Daytrips



5 No-Booking Necessary Daytrips this Half Term in Beds, Bucks & Herts

If you're looking at an empty calendar for the holidays and are panicking that everything is already fully booked, this is the guide for you!

Here are my **top 5 things to do** in Beds, Bucks and Herts that you officially don't need to book. Most are free, or just charge for parking, and all come with a fantastic picnic site, so you can take your own packed lunches.

As with anything over half term, it's worth arriving early to avoid the crowds, but if you keep your activities to the morning, then you can feel justified in watching a film every afternoon, right??

Wendover Woods



This has to be number one – for the cost of parking you get a play trail, the choice of two Gruffalo trails, fantastic play-grounds, and expansive, scenic picnic grounds. It's worth buying a map though as it's super easy to get lost! The café is currently takeaway only and there are no highchairs available for public use so worth

factoring that in. www.forestryengland.uk/wendover-woods

College Lake

A recent discovery for us, this is a beautiful day out with lots of different paths and trails to explore. These long straight paths are great for buggies but they ask you to leave scooters and bikes at home. Hot drinks and snacks are available at the Visitor Centre and the picnic grounds are idyllic. Find out more about our visit to College Lake.

[picnicsandday-
trips.wordpress.com/2021/05/25/
college-lake-behind-the-bat-roost](https://trips.wordpress.com/2021/05/25/college-lake-behind-the-bat-roost-picnicsandday-)



P.E. Meads Farmshop



This is one of our favourite places locally. A total foodie treasure trove, stocking loads of interesting local producers, alongside the usual farm shop fare (seasoned logs, bird food etc). They also have their own café and picnic grounds next to a field of animals. It's a bit of a stretch to say this is a full daytrip, but if you twin it with a tramp around Tring Reservoirs, then you'll make a day of it.

www.pemeadandsons.co.uk

SOME OF OUR LOCAL PRODUCERS

The Chilterns is one of Britain's best kept secrets. Its a fantastically diverse farming area with abundant local food producers of which many supply our farm shop. To date... we stock ranges from over 30 local producers and always looking for new delicious products to stock.

www.pemeadandsons.co.uk/local-producers

Cont Page 34

Rushmere Country Park



We love Rushmere! The fairy houses, the sculpture trail, the giant's chair, the amazing picnic grounds and the brilliant playground all make Rushmere a regular haunt for us. There's a café and shop on site, and admission is just the cost of parking.

www.greensandtrust.org/rushmere-country-park

The Grove Musical Trail



I'm reliably informed that the bluebells are just about hanging on in The Grove's woodland so it'll still be as beautiful as when we visited a few weeks ago. Parking is free, but there are no publicly available facilities, so you need to bring everything you need with you. What a place to spend a couple of hours though! The musical instruments are great entertainment and the picnic tables are some of the more architectural we've found.

www.picnicsanddaytrips.wordpress.com/2021/05/16/the-grove-hotel-musical-trail

By Heather Rhian Davies

Please see further blogs from Heather Rhian Davies:-

www.picnicsanddaytrips.wordpress.com

Your Berkhamsted Team

Editor and layout: Jacqueline Hicks, ybeditor@greatberkhamsted.org.uk

Features: Julian Dawson, Committee: Sarah Dawson, Circulation: Jane Morgan

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels



OPEN DAY AND FUN DOG SHOW

Saturday 11th
September

12 classes plus Best in Show
Tea Tent, BBQ & Stalls

Show opens at 11 a.m. Classes commence 11.30

Entries on the day.

01525 220383 appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

(Registered Charity Number 1116848)

The Courtyard Café at Ashridge House

We are delighted to announce the opening of The Courtyard Café, because who doesn't love tea, coffee and cake! The Courtyard Café is open every day from 9am – 3pm offering a delicious selection of homemade food and beverages to takeaway. On Mondays and Tuesdays, we offer a 15% Senior Citizens Discount on any food and beverage purchases. Whether you are out walking the dog or cycling past the house, The Courtyard Café is the perfect place for a delicious treat.

What's On – Summer 2021 Exhibitions



Hurrah, summer at last - Looking for something fun to do over the holidays?

Why not come and visit us at Open Door and take part in one or more of our wonderful range of activities. No matter how old you are, we have some fun activities for you from drop-in sessions such as our new Creative Mondays session which offer you the chance to bring along your creative project and enjoy company and a chat while you work, to a series of three or four workshops e.g photography with Russell.

There is also plenty for the kids to do with Edwina's art class on a Tuesday afternoon and a special baking day with Rebecca on a Saturday.

Check out the schedule on the What's On page of our website.

Or just come with your friends, visit our fab exhibitions and have a relaxing cool drink and taste some of our delicious homemade cakes in our lovely garden.

Keep an eye out also for your chance to show off your creativity in our Food Glorious Food exhibition from 23 August to 18 September for the September 'Green' Climate change week and our Heritage Open Days.

What's On – Summer 2021



Exhibitions

12 July – 7 August

10 – 21 August

23 August – 9 September

Berkhamsted's Got Talent – an exhibition of textiles from local artists

TBC

Food Glorious Food – a celebration of all things culinary

Workshops and courses

W/c	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Jul	10.30 - 12 Creative Mondays 1.30-3pm Discover Drawing course with Maud Eager	2-4pm Edwina's Summer Art Club (Kids)		10am-5pm Art in the Garden workshop with Mario	10.30-12 Nature Craft workshop 5-10yrs	Baking with Rebecca 10.30 – 12.30 (6-10yrs) 1.30 – 3.30 (11-14 yrs)
2 Aug	10.30 - 12 Creative Mondays	10.30 - 12 Lino Print course 1 with Russell 2-4pm Edwina's Summer Art Club (Kids)	10.30 – 3pm Photography course with Russell 10.30-12 Nature craft workshop 5-10yrs 6pm & 7.30pm Yoga with Raccine	Zine making workshop with Sara 10.30-12 8-12yrs 1-2.30pm 12+yrs	10.15-11.15 Yoga with Raccine	10am-5pm Sketchbook workshop with Mario Part 1 (14+ yrs)
9 Aug	10.30 - 12 Creative Mondays 10.30-12 Nature craft workshop 5-10yrs	10.30 - 12 Lino Print course 1 with Russell 2 - 4pm Edwina's Summer Art Club (Kids)	10.30 – 3pm Photography course with Russell 6pm & 7.30pm Yoga with Raccine		10.15 - 11.15 Yoga with Raccine	10am - 5pm Sketchbook workshop with Mario Part 2 (14+ yrs)
16 Aug	10am - 5pm Pastels workshop with Mario 10.30 - 12 Creative Mondays	10.30 - 12 Lino Print course 2 with Russell 2 - 4pm Edwina's Summer Art Club (Kids)	10.30 - 11.30 Code Club workshop (Kids) 10.30 – 3pm Photography course with Russell 6pm & 7.30pm Yoga with Raccine	9.30 - 10.45am Baby Signing with Anna (Kids)	10.15 - 11.15 Yoga with Raccine	
23 Aug	10.30 - 12 Creative Mondays	9.30 - 10.15 Baby Signing with Anna (Kids) 10.30 - 12 Lino Print course 2 with Russell 2 - 4pm Edwina's Summer Art Club (Kids)	10.30-3.30 Dacorum Heritage Trust workshop (Kids) 6pm & 7.30pm Yoga with Raccine		10.15 - 11.15 Yoga with Raccine	

Visit opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/whats-on for more information and to book.

Café open Monday – Saturday 10.30 - 3pm

The Power of Poetry



We at the Heather Club are always looking for fresh ways to connect with our

members and help wholeheartedly bring back memories which can be very reassuring to those living with memory loss and dementia.

During this protracted period of being unable to run our day centre we have tried to keep our online offering fresh and interesting to our members. In our Wednesday Zoom sessions for members of the Heather Club, we have found that including poems alongside the chat, music, jokes and quizzes has really hit a cord, particularly in revisiting poems that our members would have learned at school or possibly taught their own children.

To help awaken memories, we ask members if they can complete verses and nursery rhymes from their childhood or the ones they recited to their children or grandchildren. There are so many to choose from and some have been modified over the years, like Jack & Jill! Occasionally a member recalls a rhyme that none of us have heard before!

Finding the occasional poem for the session has awoken my interest in poetry and memories of my school days. Homework was never my favourite thing except for having to learn poems by heart, which I enjoyed! Just after the war as a reward for remembering Ode to Autumn the English teacher made me recite the poem into a microphone as part of a recording she later sent to a school in Canada. Probably the rest of the class thought I was “teacher’s pet”.

We have noticed that many of our members have also recounted stories about where poetry has played an important part of their life, from gaining confidence and finding their voice in childhood or enjoying the play on words of humorous rhymes.

Some of our volunteers have recently felt called to write poems in honour of our members, which has helped them feel celebrated and connected within our community. So if you are spending time with someone in your community who may be feeling isolated or living with memory loss or whether you yourself are navigating loss, looking to make sense of your situation or wanting to create connections or be inspired, there is a wealth of poetic resources available online,

which can help structure time and bring hope and connection. Make contact with the world of verse and allow yourselves or your family and friends to be transported!

Norma Dean is a trustee of The Heather Club which is based in Hemel Hempstead. The Heather Club is a day care centre for adults with dementia offering sociability and stimulation to people living with early stage dementia and memory loss.

For more support and advice please visit us at our website www.theheatherclub.com or follow us on our Facebook page 'The Heather Club' or on Instagram at [the_heather_club](https://www.instagram.com/the_heather_club).





Non-members can sign up to our newsletters Free of Charge.

September 2021: Herts Open Studios <https://www.hvaf.org.uk/our-events/herts-open-studios-2021>

The easiest way to join HVA is online: www.hvaf.org.uk

Twitter: @HVAF #HertsOpenStudios Instagram

@HertsVisualArts

Facebook: @HertsVisualArts

Press Release by Hillary Taylor chair@hvaf.org.uk

Press contacts are: For marketing email marketing@hvaf.org.uk