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Winter Art Exhibition

**Rectory Lane
Cemetery**

Sunnyside Rural Trust

Gardening Matters



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

In this issue...

WELCOME TO THE JANUARY TO MARCH 2022 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED. Firstly I would like to apologise for this edition being so late. Due to unforeseen circumstances, these caused a direct impact on the production of the magazine. I would also like to inform you that the magazine will now be produced every three months. We will still pack a lot of news and information in and hope you think it worth the wait. This edition we have our usual suspects, Julian Dawson and his ramblings, Sarah Dawson with Garden Matters; always a delight with wonderful pictures. Talking of nature our resident writer Dennis Furnell talks about foxes. I have started to introduce the What's On pages and you can see things are starting to get busy again and there is something for everybody. Sarah Dawson has also produced the pictures of the Crystal Palace one of the new venues that have recently opened and so far there have been good reviews. There is much more, I hope you enjoy and thank you for your patience. . 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

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Front cover: Thank you Terry Mower for your lovely picture 'Kingsfisher.'

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



From time to time we have featured famous alumni of Berkhamsted School. In this article we take a look at the life of Dame Sylvia Crowe, who according to en.wikipedia.org attended Berkhamsted Girls School from 1908-1912. Sylvia was a landscape designer and garden designer. She is particularly well known for creating a roof garden for the Scottish Widows building in Edinburgh using Scottish plants. In 1964 she designed a piazza near the Cumberland Bridge flyover in Bristol; following restoration in 2011 it still has the same plants. Now mature trees and green space provide a soft edge to the sweeping dual carriageway.

Borehamwoodtimes.co.uk reported on the top RSPCA rescues of 2021. Amongst them was a fox cub who had become caught in a drain in Berkhamsted after its back leg had become caught in the metal grate. Lauren Bailey came to the rescue. "The fox must have got stuck after his leg fell down the gap and was quite distressed and bedraggled from the rain, when I arrived. We offered him a little dish of water and then set about carefully trying to wriggle him free" she

explained. He was taken to a wildlife hospital to recuperate. In 2021 the RSPCA responded to over 280,000 emergency calls.

An obituary of Christopher Hunter was published on law.asia, his death also being widely reported elsewhere. Christopher, a Berkhamsted resident, was the former executive editor of *India Business Law Journal* and *China Business Law Journal*, both of which he helped launch, and in the case of the latter, found. Formerly a writer for the *Financial Times* he had an eccentric interviewing technique. A friend recalled being asked in a job interview "What would you think if I fired you?" Another colleague fondly remembers Christopher being "inspirational, brave, knowledgeable and positive". Apparently he had great skill in building personal relationships.

hemeltoday.co.uk reports on the Christmas activities of Age UK Dacorum who organised a Christmas brunch with the help of the town council and Here Café. On December 30th older people who are supported

Cont Page 5

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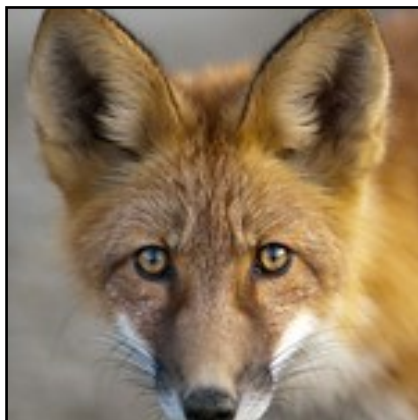
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by the charity were able to attend the event and enjoy “delicious food and lovely welcoming service, creating a warm contented vibe” according to an Age UK representative. The charity covers the communities of Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead, Kings Langley, Markyate, Tring and the surrounding villages offering befriending, bereavement and Covid 19 support, Boxmoor Good Neighbours, Brainwaves, carer’s support, and early intervention.

Forthcoming by-elections were reported by hertfordshiremercury.co.uk. Both will take place on

February 3rd for borough council seats in Berkhamsted West and Boxmoor. Having been held by the Conservatives since 2003, both were won by the Liberal Democrats in 2019. One seat for each ward is being contested since the incumbents have moved on to other roles. In Berkhamsted West the Lib Dems are defending a majority of 338. Either way the results won’t affect the balance of the council, since the Conservative group hold 31 of the available 51 seats. On the same day Berkhamsted West ward will also see a by-election for the town council.



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What's in a Name? – the streets of Berkhamsted.



Nowadays whenever a new infill close or a larger estate is built Berkhamsted Town Council asks the History

Society and the Berkhamsted Citizens Association for suggestions of names for this new street. Usually these suggestions are linked to earlier events or citizens who previously had connections with the area. The identification of existing streets is not so straightforward.

We arrive at Berkhamsted Station and cross over towards Castle Street. We are still in Lower Kings Road. Station Road does not start until we reach Castle Street. Why is this? That is obvious for those who know that the first railway station for Berkhamsted was very close to the Crystal Palace Pub and remains of it can still be seen in the brickwork of the little bridge leading through to the castle. This station opened in 1837, one of the first stations in the country to be built so near the centre of a town. The present station was opened in 1875, and moved to that position where there was room for an extra line for goods traffic. All sorts of rumours have been attached to the Crystal Palace Pub

probably so called because its original contained a lot of glass reminiscent of the Crystal Place at the Great Exhibition in 1851. That the Berkhamsted Crystal Palace was built by Joseph Paxton of the London Crystal Palace is simply not true. We do now know that the alterations which gave us the pub as we know it were done by C.H. Rew or his son Noel Ackroyd Rew, local Berkhamsted architects. Continuing up Station Road we cross over Ravens Lane into Ellesmere Road and right at the end rather than walking up the steps we turn right down a modest little link road into George Street. That link road is called Paxton Road. It is not so named after Joseph Paxton of Crystal Palace fame but very much more likely after his nephew William Paxton, land agent to the Brownlows of Ashridge.

We retrace our steps and walk back to Gravel Path and continue up the hill. Two roads on the right-hand side catch our eye. Millfield and Gilpins Ride. We know that Berkhamsted had at least two water mills, the Upper and the Lower or Bank Mill, both mentioned in Domesday, but this road was not near enough our River Bulbourne for this to be connected with a mill. Old prints show there was

indeed a windmill close to this spot and documents verify this fact. More recently Millfield is associated with a large house of that name, built in the early 19th century where the Pearson family lived, who were actively involved in creating the church of St Michaels and All Angels, Sunnyside. The lodge to this house still remains.

Next to Millfield is Gilpins Ride which although built on part of the Millfield estate has no link with mills. Who then was Gilpin? Here the reader must remember Berkhamsted's poet who wrote hymns and fine sensitive poems, but also some verses which children used to learn at school and retain into old age. The antics of John Gilpin are related to us by William Cowper and begin thus: *John Gilpin was a citizen of credit and renown. A train band captain eke was he of famous London town. John Gilpin's spouse said to her dear "Though wedded we have been these twice ten tedious years, yet we no holiday have seen"*. The poem continues to relate how the planned trip to the Bell at Edmonton ends up in Ware.

In Berkhamsted, as in many places in the country, streets are named after

members of the royal family and in Berkhamsted names associated with the estate of Ashridge; the Bridgewaters, the Brownlows, the Egertons and Ellesmere. Other large estates now swallowed up by housing have in many cases been retained in the names of the streets, for example Ashlyns, Hall Park, Pilkington, Berkhamsted Place. Until the twentieth century much of the large park around the castle and Berkhamsted Place remained and was named the Park. Now little of it remains, most swallowed up by housing. We have South Park Gardens built on the south part of the park and on the other side of the High Street we have Park View Road. We should not forget Park Street, one of the first roads built in the west end of the High Street on the north side.

The well-known historian G.M. Trevelyan is remembered in the road leading off Delahay Rise, Trevelyan Way. He lived with his wife for a number of years in Kings Road and wrote the script for the 1922 pageant and played the part of Chaucer. Still linked to the castle we have Gaveston Drive, a King's favourite and Delahay Rise.



Holliday Street, not a miss spelling for holiday is named after a tradesman with a shop at that point. There are other roads named after people, well-known at the time of the naming but who have fallen into oblivion fifty years later. Some names are useful pointers to what was once there. An example of this is Chapel Street, on the corner of which once stood the large Congregational chapel to be replaced by the more modest United Reformed Church and is now a fitness studio. Do those who go there for their training query why the address is so named? To what is Manor Street referring? It is, of course, to Pilkington Manor, which long since was broken up and the house itself split into three dwellings by Fredrick Miller, whose initials appear on the house next to Dean Incent's House.

There are many stories linked to street names. The name of one for which questions recur regularly is Doctors Commons Road. Why is it so

named? What has it to do with Doctors Commons? Admittedly, Milton House Surgery has been there in recent years but that is irrelevant and the name dates back to the building of the road. Doctors Commons was a society of lawyers practising non-common law, dealing mainly with ecclesiastical and admiralty law. It was founded in 1511 and had rooms in London just as the Inns of Court did. By Victorian times it was considered old fashioned and it was closed and its buildings in London sold in 1865. Dickens ridiculed the society in Sketches by Boz and in David Copperfield. The link with Berkhamsted has not been clearly defined. Did the society own land outside London? Was a member of the society involved in the purchase or sale of the land? The question of the association of Doctors Commons Road remains open to discussion. The naming of streets is not always straight forward.



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Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)

'A fox he would a wooing go.'

When the frost is hard and the night air is diamond clear, this is the time that dog foxes choose to serenade the night air in the hope that a receptive vixen may be in earshot. On the face of it, it may seem a rather uncomfortable time of year for wild creatures to go courting, until, that is, you look closely into the lifestyle of the fox – or reynard (an ancient folk name for foxes.)

Along with badgers, red foxes are the only wild large predator remaining in the British Isles from an original and fairly impressive list of hunters. Our own species has managed to kill off all the others over the past two millennia.

When the Romans invaded Britain and established their style of sophisticated government, they began the process of wildlife management which resulted in the reduction of all manner of large predatory mammals. First to lose its place as the top predator was the British brown bear, driven to the far reaches of Scotland by their capture for 'sport' where these normally reticent creatures were pitted against humans or bulls or dogs for entertainment. When the Romans left, and Britain slipped into the so

called 'Dark Ages' the remnant brown bears in Scotland gradually spread south, but only briefly until they were eliminated by hunting and farming pressures. This left the European lynx and the grey wolf as the climax predators.

Sheep farming tolled the knell for the lynx, a beautiful medium-sized cat that could find a useful place in current northern deer-infested forests and moorland. The grey wolf was alone at the top of the large predator list and held out until the mid-18th century, which saw the decline of the last British, or more accurately, Scottish wolf. Leaving Reynard as top dog so to speak.

Historic pressure from larger predators meant that foxes preyed on small mammals, particularly rats, mice and birds, worms and insects. Mainly nocturnal in habit and lifestyle, foxes mating in the depths of winter means that cubs will be born just as spring produces a surfeit of young mammals and fledglings... And being creatures of the night allowed foxes to avoid humans, that is until firearms were invented and leisure game shooting put them under pressure.

Then there is the questionable practice of fox hunting with hounds,

recently made illegal. Oddly enough this may have prevented foxes from being eliminated from the countryside all together as fox hunting depended on having a reasonable population of foxes. However, times have

changed and now there are more foxes occupying urban territories than in the countryside. Urbanite or country dweller, the red fox has learned a trick or two and this beautiful survivor is still here to shriek at the moon on frosty nights.



Picture: Red Fox

YOUR CLERGY



Whilst, in more normal times, there's usually a lot to enjoy about December, the thing I least like about the depth of winter, is how

early it gets dark. In particular, I find something decidedly depressing about going to collect my children from school when the sun has more or less set. Having moved on by a month from the shortest day, my heart is lifted by how swiftly the evenings are getting lighter and lighter.

The capacity of light to influence our mood can be profound. When I was working in London, I had a colleague who suffered from Seasonal Affective Disorder; for him, the dark months of winter were a time of real struggle, as he would experience periods of depression. One of the treatments for this condition, and one which my friend used, involved 'light therapy', being exposed to a certain brightness of light for a given period of time each day. Light was a source of healing for this friend.

Now, I don't want to dismiss the beauty of darkness and night. There's something magical about night hikes, storytelling around bonfires, the patterns of cities which are only really revealed when they're lit up after sunset. However, the impact that not enough light can have on our wellbeing, is a reminder of how important light is to us.

We need light in our lives to thrive. What are your sources of light? I know that on occasions when my life has felt quite dark, it's been especially important for me to seek out and make time for my sources of light. In the toughest times I've even made myself a 'healthy habits' spreadsheet to bolster my occasionally wavering self-discipline! It usually includes things like reading to my children, going for a run, listening to music, and prayer and meditation – activities which give me inspiration, motivation and hope. I would describe these things as sources of light for me.

One of the stained-glass windows in St Peter's, features a copy of William Holman Hunt's famous painting 'The Light of the World', depicting Christ carrying a lantern and knocking on a closed door. In the painting, there is no handle on the outside of the door; Christ, the bearer of light, can knock on the door, but cannot let Himself in, only the person on the inside can let Him in. Light comes into our lives in lots of different forms, but sometimes we need quite self-consciously to open that door to let the light in and to feel its warmth.

It's worth taking time, perhaps especially at the start of a new year, to think about the sources of light in our lives. Give thanks for the light that you have, and if it feels like some of your 'lights' are wavering or growing dimmer, are there things you can do to kindle them again and make them brighter?

Stuart Owen

YOUR CLERGY - CONTINUED

Christmas and New Year are over.... The Birth of Jesus started His Mission, by the angels sending those who did not go to the synagogue or rarely got involved in any form of worship, the shepherds!

Then followed the three gentiles, who were normally excluded from the synagogues and places of worship, thus making Jesus a person who welcomes everyone regardless of their nationality, faith and colour to be part of God's Love and Worship.

Mary and Joseph, with the baby Jesus, then fled to Egypt thus becoming refugees running from political actions against their faith and Jesus.

Hundreds of baby boys under two years old were murdered by Herod to protect his power and throne.

They returned after Herod's death but then hid away, in a northern arabinan town called Nazareth, so the refugees from Egypt continued their protection of the Messiah.

Jesus, was brought up within the jewish tradition, like all jewish children. He learnt his stepfather's trade of joinery and continued that work after Joseph died. He supported Mary without question. We don't know if Mary and Joseph had any children, it is likely they did. History does not give us any facts either way about that.

When Jesus' time came to start collecting disciples and His Missionary of God's Love, I am sure he would have made provision for the caring of Mary.

He walked down the eastern side of the River Jordan until he came to the ford which took you to Jericho and onwards to Jerusalem and Bethlehem. There he found John the Baptist declaring that everyone should wash away their sinful nature by being baptised in the river Jordan. John stood on the eastern side and the baptised exited on the western side of Jordan. The Promised Land side. Jesus presented himself to John who initially said that Jesus should baptism him. He pointed out that his time was close; but not quite then.

So then John baptized Jesus and as Jesus walked out of the river he followed what the returning jewish refugees nation from Egypt hundreds of years before. The Messiah walked into the promised land to begin his ministry to save the world's people from sinful death.

What then followed was time in the mountains when Jesus reflected on time ahead and included the temptations. His period of reflection and temptation is known as Lent.

If we are to follow that great example of God's Son; we also should find some private time in Lent to reflect where we have come from and to explore our future in God's Love mission.

Lent starts 1st March in 2022 but time of preparation for lent and reflecting on our history, both good and bad, starts on 6th Febuary2022. Let's all of us take some time to reflect where we have come from and where we should move onwards to?

Fr Christopher Antony Rogers

St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted Celebrates 800 years!!



St Peter's church on the High Street in Berkhamsted celebrates its 800th birthday this year with a programme

of activities to which all the community is invited!

The church was built in 1222 just a few short years after the Magna Carta was signed and has been here for the people of Berkhamsted through the centuries. It has witnessed the Crusades; Royalist soldiers being imprisoned inside during the Civil War; a canon being hoisted onto the roof and fired to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of King George III; two World Wars - including soldiers arriving at Kitchener's field to train at the trenches; the growth of a bustling market town; being instrumental in creation of The Hospice of St Francis, welcoming HM The Queen Elizabeth II in 2016 to unveil a plaque and so many life events – baptisms, marriages and funerals – for past and current residents of our growing town.

Alan and Barbara Conway have lived in Berkhamsted since 1965 and worshipped at St Peter's for over 55 years, the oldest attending couple in the congregation. Barbara was a churchwarden in the 1980s whilst Alan has been a server at the altar since the 60s. They remember there were many events around church and town involving local organisations and businesses

to mark 750 years of St Peter's in 1972. This included a festival of flowers, a Grand Ball – at £4 a ticket, Pram Grand Prix, 740 years of Choral Music Concert, Grand Angling competition, festival cricket match, tennis festival and much more!



The highlight of the celebrations was a **Pageant of Living Tableaux**, a visual history of Berkhamsted's 750th years which was performed every night for a

fortnight in June in the church. The play was written by Dorian Williams who owned Pendley Manor and researched by Percy Birtchnell, a great historian who used to own Birtchnells men's outfitters on the high street. Many of the congregation dressed up and acted out the town's history whilst a narrator told the story. The Conway's two young daughters were tasked with opening and closing the curtains during the production so they remember it fondly!

The plans for this year's 800th celebrations are well underway and a full programme will be published shortly with events starting in April, after Easter. Highlights will include an exhibition in church by the Berkhamsted Local History society, a series of talks on Tuesdays in May on the past and future of

Berkhamsted, celebrations during the last week of June, a photography competition plus lots more.

Find out more at

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org/800

or by following @StPetersBerkhamsted on social media. Local organisations and businesses interested in getting involved should contact rector Stuart Owen on fr.stuart@gmail.com

St Peter's will be raising funds throughout the year to preserve the church building for future generations to enjoy and to support local charities. All donations will be gratefully received.

Events up to end June 2022

POST EASTER

800th display with Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society in the church.

MAY

Sun 1 – May Madrigals sung from the top of the Tower at 6am.

800th Talk Series

Tues 3rd: History of Berkhamsted – Julian Hunt.

Tues 10th: History of St Peter's – Christopher Green.

Tues 17th: Berkhamsted in 100 years' time – Peter Matthews and Suzie Imber (Planetary Scientist and winner of BBC2 2017 programme - Astronauts Do you have what it takes)?

JUNE

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Sun 26th – St Peter's Patronal Festival Day

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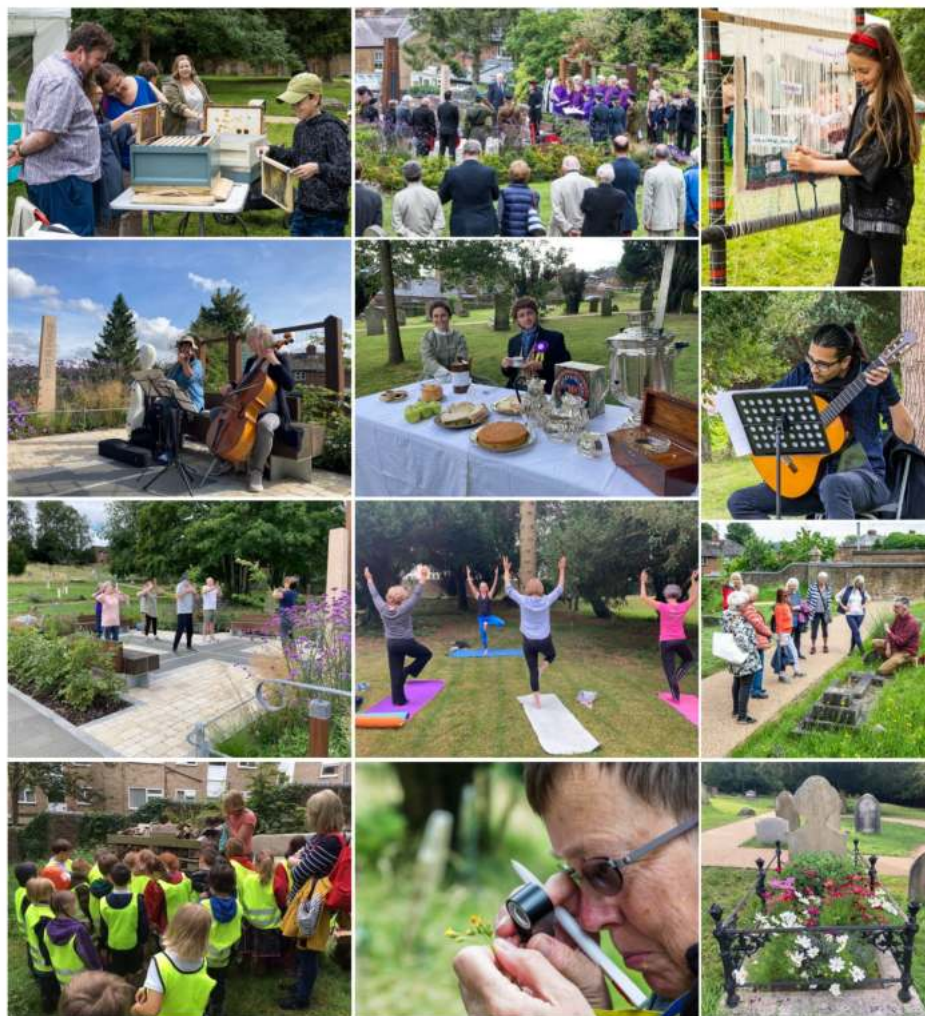
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The restored and landscaped Cemetery is now a peaceful green haven in the heart of Berkhamsted.

www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk





It is also a unique venue for commemoration, wellbeing, music, art, poetry, theatre, wildlife study, social history, community volunteering...

Donate (money or time), or bring your event/group/activity here to help this community asset thrive and be there for all.

Please get in touch: team@rectorylanecemetery.org.uk



Annual Winter Art Show and sale returns to Berkhamsted and is a huge success

Local art lover popped along to see our jam-

packed exhibition and art sale and they were not disappointed, say the organisers.

BERKHAMSTED Art Society's annual Winter Art Exhibition and Sale in the Civic Centre was back with a bang just before Christmas – and as promised there was something for everyone, including local youngsters.

The prime town centre venue was jam-packed with fine art, prints, ceramics and greetings cards for the two-day exhibition and sale at the end of November.

Original work by 30 art society members was on show, including pieces by new members Lou Thompson, a Slade Art school graduate who specialises in painting, silk screen printing and illustrative drawing, Katherine Benson who recently completed her art degree and established member Jackie Henderson, who recently reached the final 50 in the Artists and Illustrators Viking Cruises British Art Prize.

Popular local professional artists Mitzie Green, Mary Casserley, Tracy Dudley, Liz Hobson, Terry Mower and Debbie Shrimpton were also exhibiting at the event, plus numerous local amateur painters, a couple of potters and a glassmaker.

The event, which has been a regular highlight of the 90-year-old society's calendar, had to be cancelled last year because of coronavirus restrictions.

This year, the society for the first time produced special art-related worksheets designed to engage and inspire young visitors. Swing Gate School children had the chance to complete the worksheets when they visited on the opening day of the exhibition and sale. The worksheets were also available for other young visitors the following day, the final day of the exhibition.

"We were really pleased to be back with our exhibition at the Civic Centre. It's a super space, right in the heart of Berkhamsted – and the public support from those that popped in and had a look while they are in the High Street, was marvelous" said James Honour (Chairman)

“Admission was free and as promised visitors were not disappointed. There were more than 200 pieces of work on show – original, quality pieces by local people and at affordable prices. It was great to see so many visitors.”

Towards the end of 2021 the society had a life drawing day in Hastoe. This was followed by a Zoom talk from Kate Malone (the Great Pottery Throwdown judge and renowned ceramist), and a Zoom charcoal drawing demonstration from George Winter .

The January 2022 events programme starts with a Zoom demo from Bucks artist Peter Keegan and is followed later in the month with the first Zoom coffee morning of the year, which gives members a chance to chat and catch up. These meetings will be moved to Face2Face gatherings at the White Horse in Bourne End once Covid restrictions are relaxed.

In February the Monday evening winter life drawing evenings resume at the Court House in Berkhamsted and in March the society has Hashim Akib demonstrating how to paint trees in acrylics via Zoom.

April will then see us preparing for the Spring Exhibition at Berkhamsted Civic Centre followed by the exhibition itself in May and the start of the summer sketching evenings.

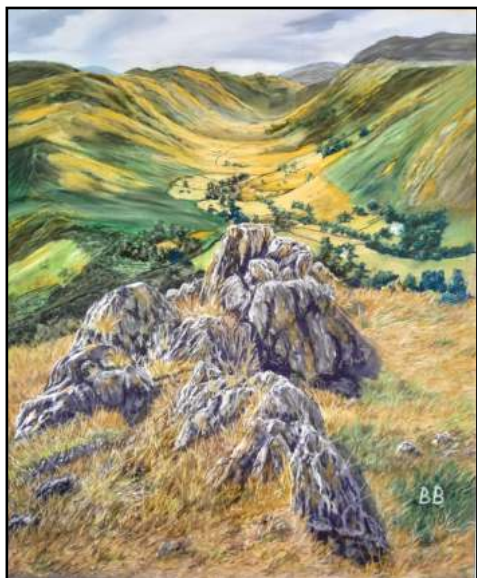
The society welcomes visitors and members of all ages and abilities who enjoy drawing, painting and creating art.

For more information visit www.berkhamstedartsociety.co.uk

or

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





Bill Bain - Landale Valley



Bill Bain - Landale Valley



Jackie Henderson - Tom Daley



Mitzie Green - Coastal Path



Catherine Archer - MysticHare



Katherine Benson - Boop

Bill Bain - Tiger



Pictures on page 25 are of Exhibition Display and Bill Bain's display.

News from Hospice of St Francis



February - March - April 2022

The Hospice of St Francis relies upon community fundraising to help fund the £5 million needed each year to provide free care. By supporting the Hospice, you are helping 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

Hospice Coffee Mornings

On the last Friday of the month (except December) The Hospice of St Francis hosts a Coffee Morning in the Hospice Bistro and a Craft Fayre in the Acorn Suite. The next event is Friday 25th February. Pop along for a coffee and a chat to find out more about the Hospice and the work that they do. All proceeds from the Craft Fayre go to the Hospice. Contact: Reception on 01442 869550 to book your place.

Returned to Glory Workshops

Join the team at the Returned to Glory for their upcoming workshops including upholstery, lampshade

making and chalk paint workshops! Find out how to book your place here: www.stfrancis.org.uk/workshops

Hospice Skydive

Through popular demand from all you amazing thrill-seekers, The Hospice of St Francis are delighted to have secured a Skydive on March 26th 2022! Visit their website for more details: www.stfrancis.org.uk/skydive

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 its heart. Keep up to date with the shops launch by following them on Instagram: @shopforgood_hosf or visit: www.shop-for-good.org.uk

Moor Park Golf Day

Sign up to the Hospice’s Golf Day at Moor Park on Tuesday 26th April 2022 and walk in the footsteps of champions including Arnold Palmer, Greg Norman, and Sir Nick Faldo...to name just a few. Enter a team of four or register individually and you will be included in a team. Register via the Hospice website: www.stfrancis.org.uk/moor-park

Brighton Marathon 2022 - Charity Places Available

Are you keen to take on a new fitness challenge this year? Sign up to the Brighton Marathon and support your local hospice! You will receive an exclusive Hospice of St Francis running vest and receive dedicated fundraising support from the Hospice's Fundraising team. To register visit:

www.stfrancis.org.uk/brightonmarathon

Ride London 2022

Ride London - Essex 100 will take place on a new 100-mile traffic-free route, starting and finishing in central London and taking in 60 miles in the beautiful Essex countryside. Support your local Hospice and register today!

www.stfrancis.org.uk/ridelondon

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 fill in our short referral form online: www.stfrancis.org.uk/selfrefer

Follow us on Facebook

@TheHospiceofStFrancis, Instagram
@HospiceStFrancis, Twitter
@hospicstfrancis or call us on 01442 869555.



Sunnyside Rural Trust

We have achieved so many things in the last year and have been bestowed with several awards, recognising the work we do.

We were delighted to announce in June, that we were granted The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2021, with special recognition in the pandemic and the equivalent of an MBE for charities. This award is significant recognition of our work and to all our volunteers, team members and 150 trainees at our 3 sites we extend our gratitude for their commitment and care.

We were also awarded

- Hero of Hertfordshire Award
- High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Award
- We were recredited as Gold Standard in Investors In People. Only 5% of companies our size achieves this, and it is wonderful recognition for the strong leadership, systems, and teams we have built over many years.
- Hemel Food Garden won a green flag award from Keep Britain Tidy. This award recognised the excellent community facilities offered to the community and environment from our site.
- Hertfordshire Care Providers Association, Gold standard.

In 2021, we grew beautiful perennial plants for Tom Stuart-Smith's Iconic Horticultural Hero garden design at RHS Hampton Court in July 2021. Trainees were involved at every step of the way and visited on the press day to see the garden in situ. Every site was involved in making Sunnyside products to sell during the Festival week and our team attended each day, to promote the charities work with adults with learning disabilities. The show plants have since been moved to RHS Wisley and our team were invited to work alongside the Wisley gardeners to create a permanent home for them.

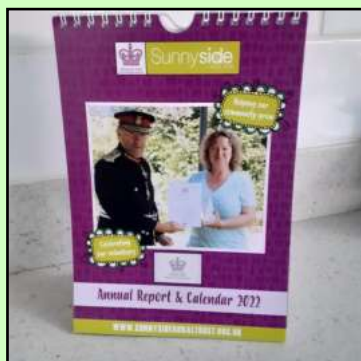
The Activity Centre have developed a new community growing project to enable everyone to learn how to grow vegetables, herbs, fruit, and salad. The community bakery was built at Hemel Food Garden and offers therapeutic courses and bakery goods for the café and farm shops. Our Northchurch site, in conjunction with Age UK Dacorum, now runs a friendly and sociable weekly gardening club for those who are looking for a healthy and sustainable local activity.

We have also worked in partnership with Community Action Dacorum on the Repair Shed project and developed further sheds across our sites.

The future looks bright for Sunnyside. We are continuing to expand our reach and impact in a number of different and sustainable ways. We have plans for a new site, developing our community businesses and restructuring our model so we can meet demand and build capacity. We are looking forward to developing our Orchard Project with Tom and Sue Stuart Smith in 2022. The project will be offering work experience and paid opportunities to our trainees alongside wider therapeutic work in horticulture. The partnership of horticulture, social care and therapy will deliver enormous benefit to a wide range of people.

Thanks to:

1. Kings Langley Sixth Form School are fund raising for us over the next couple of months and have some great ideas such as a Christmas hamper raffle, a quiz night and a movie night at the school.
2. Berkhamsted School held a 'talent show' and were raising monies for us.
3. Gade Valley Harriers – we are their charity of the year.



Your Berkhamsted Team

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

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

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GARDENING MATTERS

Last year I gave you ideas month by month for jobs in the garden. I am now going to suggest some walks and gardens to visit at particular times of the year.

One of my favourite local walks is down Dennys Lane, along the footpath on the right and across fields to the overgrown ruins of St Mary Magdalene. The chapel was probably built for Sir Lawrence Broc in the thirteenth century. The de Broc family were the owners of the large manor of Maudelyns which stretched from Berkhamsted to Northchurch and also included land in Buckinghamshire.



Johns Lane

Walking past Marlin Chapel Farm the footpath leads to a lane which comes out onto Northchurch Lane. On the corner of which sits Clamber Cottage; the cottage's garden is on the other side of Northchurch Lane and is beautifully kept with manicured lawns and colourful flowering plants. The way back to Berkhamsted is along Northchurch Lane taking in Furzefield and Firs Woods to Pancake Wood. There are also a number of walks in Pancake and Hockeridge Woods which are on either side of Johns Lane.

Late Winter is a wonderful time of year with all the new growth in the garden. The bulbs poking up through the soil – snowdrops, winter aconites and so many different varieties of narcissus (daffodils).

I would recommend a visit to Ascott Park and Garden to see the daffodils en masse. It is a truly spectacular sight. For opening information <https://www.ascottestate.co.uk/> There are also beautiful views over the fields to the Vale of Aylesbury. Ascott House was originally built as a farmhouse and is thought to date from 1606. It was moderately enlarged in 1874 and then again to form a hunting lodge before more building work to make a substantial Edwardian country house. The house and gardens were donated to the National

Trust in 1949 by Anthony de Rothschild. It remains the country residence of the de Rothschild family.



Daffodils at Ascott House

Another National Trust owned property is Waddesdon Manor which was also owned by the de Rothschild family. The house was built between 1877 and 1883 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild who wanted the exterior of the house to be in the style of the French Renaissance chateaux of the Loire Valley. The parterre at the back of the house has a changing variety of flowers throughout the year. As at Ascott the display of daffodils is amazing. Details of opening - waddesdon.org.uk (Picture on next page Early Spring; the Parterre at Waddesdon Manor)



If you followed my advice last year to put food out for the birds, a number of different species should be welcomed visitors. The RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch takes place every year; this year the dates are 28th-30th January. All you need to do is count the number of birds to visit your garden, balcony or a local park for one hour. Once all the results are collated this helps monitor how our birds are faring. You can also watch live streams over the weekend for expert commentary from across the UK, as well as interviews and chat with special guests and wildlife experts. If you register in advance you will receive 20% off and free P&P on purchases from the RSPB shop. All the information you need is here; <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Sarah Dawson

What's On

CLIVEDEN, PASSION, PLEASURE & POLITICS

Wednesday 2 February

Wigginton History Society, Village Hall, Wigginton, 8pm. £4 inc refreshments. An in-depth look at Cliveden's stories, from devilish dukes to scandalous headlines to political notoriety. Speaker David Pullinger. Contact: cliff.mills@outlook.com

URBAN PEREGRINES

Thursday 3 February

Online, 7-8.30pm. Learn about these amazing hunters and residents of the skyscrapers and tall buildings of many of our towns across Hertfordshire, with naturalist and author, Ed Drewitt. <https://www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk>

EAST WEST MAXWELL STREET

Thursday 3 February

Blues Bar, Tring. 8.30pm. <https://bluesbartring.co.uk>

TREASURES FROM THE SOCIAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Friday 4 February

St Leonards Parish Hall, 8pm. From Buckinghamshire County Museum collection. Speaker Will Phillips. Contact: localhistorygroup@cholesbury.com
<https://cholesbury.com/>

MASONS OPEN DAY

Saturday 5 February

Pendley Manor, Tring. 9.30-11.45am (AM Session) & 12.30-2.45pm (PM Session). £5 per person contribution. An opportunity to meet the team, ask questions about trips and make your bookings for the year ahead. www.masonscoachhire.co.uk

QUATUOR CONFLUENCE

Saturday 5 February

Berkhamsted Civic Centre, 7.30pm, £16.
Beethoven: Quartet Op 59 No 3
'Razumovsky', Brahms: Quartet Op 51 No 2. <http://www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk>

TINA TURNER THE MUSICAL

Thursday 10 February

The Tina Turner Musical chronicles the life of the rock 'n' roll legend who brought us hit songs like 'What's Love Got to Do With It', 'Proud Mary', 'The Best', 'River Deep Mountain High' and 'Better Be Good To Me'. www.masonscoachhire.co.uk

THE DIME NOTES

Saturday 12 February

Civic Centre, Berkhamsted, 8pm. <https://bjazz.org>

TRING FARMERS MARKET

Saturday 12 February

Market Place, Brook Street, Tring, 9am-12.30pm. 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Fine produce from around the district. tringfarmersmarket.co.uk

BDCC NETWORKING LUNCH

Wednesday 16 February

Copper House Bar, 12.30-2.30pm. See website for more details.
<https://www.berkhamsted-chamber.co.uk>

THE HEAD HUNTERS BLUES BAND

Thursday 17 February

Blues Bar, Tring. 8.30pm. The return of Liverpool's hottest blues outfit playing everything from Robert Johnson to Mud-dy Waters. bluesbartring.co.uk

BERKHAMSTED FARMERS MARKET

Sunday 20 February

High Street, Berkhamsted, 10am-2pm.
An opportunity for local customers to buy high quality produce direct from the producer. www.facebook.com/berkofm

BACK TO BURGUNDY

Monday 21 February

Berkhamsted Civic Centre, Also Tue 22 Feb. 8pm. Non-members £5 at door.
Three siblings reunite to save the vineyard they've inherited and over four seasons and two harvests rediscover their trust in each other.
berkhamstedfilmsociety.co.uk

ST PETER'S BERKHAMSTED 800TH ANNIVERSARY

Thursday 24 February

St Peter's Church, Berkhamsted. Also Sun 27 Feb, 11am. Launch event. More details to follow. <https://www.stpetersberkhamsted.org.uk>

YUKON HO!

Friday 25 February

Old Town Hall, Hemel Hempstead, 8pm.
Jennifer Irons' riotous one-woman show, detailing her upbringing, life and ultimate escape from Canada's frozen north.
<https://www.oldtownhall.co.uk>

THE SHUFFLEPACK

Thursday 3 March

Blues Bar, Tring. 8pm. bluesbartring.co.uk

POP UP ART WEEKEND

Friday 4 March

Chilterns MS Centre, Wendover. To 6 Mar. Includes live demonstrations from some of the artists, plus lunch and refreshments served from the café.
<https://www.chilternsmcentre.org>

AYLESBURY OPERA GROUP JENUFA

Friday 4 March

Court Theatre, 7.30pm. Also Sat 5 Mar.
Jenufa is a raw, powerful soap opera of a story. Set in a rural Czech village, it tells the story of a woman's efforts to protect her stepdaughter who has borne a child out of wedlock. The opera will be sung in English. <https://courttheatre.co.uk>

ARTS AND CRAFTS ARCHITECTURE IN CHESHAM BOIS AND AMERSHAM

Friday 4 March

St Leonards Parish Hall, 8pm. The role of the Matthews Family, Builders and Brickmakers. Speaker Alison Bailey.
<https://cholesbury.com>

SACCONI QUARTET

Saturday 5 March

Berkhamsted Civic Centre, 7.30pm, £16.
Haydn: Quartet Op 54 No 2, Ravel: Quartet in F Major, Mozart: Quartet No 16.
<http://www.berkhamstedmusic.co.uk>

BERKHAMSTED ROTARY HALF MARATHON AND FUN RUN

Sunday 6 March

The Half Marathon tracks through attractive Chilterns countryside and is ideal for runners coming back to competitive running after winter training. The Five Mile Fun run is very popular with local runners, family teams, schools and community groups who raise sponsorship for their own charitable causes. Enter online by 13 Feb. <https://berkorotary.org>

HARLEY KIMBRO LEWIS

Sunday 6 March

Court Theatre, 8pm. From Knoxville to Nashville via Hertfordshire, Martin Harley, Daniel Kimbro & Sam Lewis collaborate for the first time on a slow cooked, laid back album reminiscent of an early American songbook. courttheatre.co.uk

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Monday 7 March

Natural History Museum Tring. To 19 Jun. The free exhibition showcases a selection of 34 images recording the beauty and fragility of wildlife, from tiny insects to massive mammals. www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/tring.html

VASILIS XENOPOULOUS QUARTET

Saturday 12 March

Civic Centre, Berkhamsted, 8pm. Dexter Gordon Tribute.
[https://bjazz.org](http://bjazz.org)

JOHN COOPER CLARKE

Tuesday 15 March

Court Theatre, 8pm. JCC goes into fascinating detail about his early life in Manchester leading up to punk superstardom, drug addiction and then the massive comeback as major poet he enjoys today.
<https://courttheatre.co.uk>

THE GOLDEN AGE OF POSTERS IN BRITAIN

Wednesday 16 March

High Street Baptist Church, Tring, 8pm. £4. Speaker: Graham Twemlow.
www.tringlocalhistorymuseum.org.uk

MATTHEW MINORS A CELEBRATION

Saturday 19 March

Court Theatre, 7.30pm. The concert is being held to celebrate the life and contribution Matt made to two of his favourite charities. Standing gig, limited seating in the bar area only. courttheatre.co.uk

BERKHAMSTED FARMERS MARKET

Sunday 20 March

High Street, Berkhamsted, 10am-2pm.
www.facebook.com/berkofm

FOREVER FLOWERS

Monday 21 March

Celebrate and remember a loved one with a beautiful 3-headed Forever Snow-drop, uniquely designed and hand crafted by British Ironworks. The Forever Snow-drop installation will remain on display to the general public for two weeks
www.fnhospice.org.uk/events/forever-flowers

BDCC NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Wednesday 23 March

Berkhamsted Cricket Club, 7.15-9.30am.
www.berkhamsted-chamber.co.uk

EVERY FAMILY HAS A STORY

Thursday 24 March

Our Bookshop, Tring, 7.30pm. Join Julia Samuel as she discusses her new book Every Family Has A Story – How we inherit love and loss. Each ticket includes a free drink on arrival.
www.tringbookfestival.co.uk

KINKY BOOTS

Tuesday 29 March

Court Theatre, 7.30pm. To 2 Apr. Sat matinee 2.30pm. Originating from the book by Harvey Fierstein this show is based on the Miramax motion picture.
<https://courttheatre.co.uk>

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