

the magazine for town and parish since 1872



800th Year Celebrations

**Rectory Lane
Cemetery**

Hospice of St Francis News

Garden Matters



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

In this issue...

WELCOME TO THE JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION OF YOUR BERKHAMSTED.

We are already halfway through the year – time really does fly. I hope you enjoyed the Jubilee festivities, where ever you were there was something for everyone and what a great mark in history it was. Berkhamsted is still celebrating with the 800th Year of St Peter's and the remaining events are listed in this edition. Julian Dawson has his say with Berkhamsted related news and Jenny Sherwood gives us an extensive history on the past rectors – never short of content on the happenings of our wonderful town. Also more on the Rectory Lane Cemetery and Open Door. I hope you enjoy this edition. Please note the What's On page will be listed separately in the next few days.



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 Pru Murray for the picture of the 800th Year Festival at St Peter's Church

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



As I write we are on the cusp of a series of nationwide rail strikes set to disrupt the country. chronicle-live.co.uk outlined who will be affected, somewhat lazily simply listing every single station and rural halt across the land, including our own. Extensive as the planned action is, one can't help but wonder just how effective it will be. Many of us are so used to working from home these days that the impact of the strike will be limited. Less people have to travel on a regular basis, and so naturally the industry will need to adapt. Change is in the air for us all.

The Diamond Jubilee inevitably received considerable coverage. hemeltoday.co.uk reproduced some wonderful photographs of our Thanksgiving Service kindly supplied by our very own publicity wiz Pru Murray. Those of us who chose to engage with the celebrations felt a welcome relief from the geopolitical and economic troubles of this world, and it did finally seem as if we had met again after a crazy two years. Yet I also felt there was a definite elegiac air to the proceedings. A desperate clinging on to the remnants of a

world that is slowly slipping away from us.

There was the long overdue news that Berkhamsted FC and Berkhamsted Raiders have come to an agreement on a ground share at the former's ground. whitimes.co.uk reports that Cheyce Grant has left Berkhamsted for rivals Welwyn Garden City. This follows the disappointment of our local team narrowly missing out on promotion after losing to North Leigh in a play-off. I always feel the playoffs may make for good drama and TV, but it seems unfair that a league format should ultimately be decided by a one-off match where form on the day rather than across the season counts.

Recent wars have increased the numbers of refugees. We indeed find ourselves with our own refugee family from Afghanistan living in the Court House Cottage. hyperallergic.com reviews a book entitled Zoe Beloff's *Reminiscences of a Refugee Childhood*, which is a coming of age memoir from the Second World War. The author relates the tale of her own

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mother who is herself the daughter of a Jewish couple in Germany. Ultimately the family escape to London, and then escape the Blitz and stay with a German Jewish family in Berkhamsted. Once again there is a definite air of a lost world but with definite echoes today.

dailyadvent.com refers to another story from hemeltoday, this time relating how a Berkhamsted resident Jenny Oldfield is campaigning to raise money to develop a testing system

for pancreatic cancer. Despite a similar number of deaths compared with breast cancer, the condition receives 93 per cent less funding. Inevitably there is only a given amount of money to go round to resolve the myriad of conditions, but it is only right that attention is drawn to this particular disease. The mRNA technology which gave us the miracle of the Covid vaccine could in due course give us solutions to many other afflictions such as this.



Image: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cs8/> Ludhi85 'Crowded bus stop during the tube strikes'

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The list of rectors of St Peter's



The majestic edifice of St Peter's Church stands directly on the route from the medieval castle of Windsor and

Berkhamsted Castle, equally important in its heyday. Approaching the town on the old Chesham Road, the church and the Market Hall are thought to have been laid out by Geoffrey Fitzpiers of Essex who resided at Berkhamsted Castle and who also founded two hospitals and the brotherhood of John the Baptist further west by St John's Well Lane. Royal visitors through the ages have approached along this route, the Prince of Wales, later to be Charles I and the Prince of Wales to become Edward VIII and more recently our Queen Elizabeth II, who having landed by helicopter on the school playing field approached down Chesham Road. All these royal visitors were welcomed at St Peter's before going on to Berkhamsted School.

The list of rectors of St Peter's dates from 1222, the date taken as the foundation of the church. They are numerous and some short-lived, probably denoting death from plague, infection 'from the sweating sickness',

or on occasion influenced by political issues. With the odd exception most of the rectors are faceless. We know little of who they were and it is probably very difficult to find anything more about them or to distinguish one from another. The first rector is Robert de Tuardo, who in common with many rectors through the centuries had as his patron the abbot and Convent of Grestein. From 1360 onwards members of the royal family took over the responsibility of patron: Edward III, Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and Ciceily Duchess of York, the last member of the royal family to live at the castle. Then from 1551, we have Edward VI, Philip and Mary and Elizabeth. During the interregnum the rector was presented by Parliament. With the restoration, Charles II took over the duties as patron.

This church, probably one of the largest in the county no doubt reflects the wealth of some of the residents of the castle and that of the many wealthy wool merchants who traded from the town.

In 2022 we celebrate the 800th anniversary of our church and for us all we should, whether churchgoers or not, celebrate this anniversary with pride.

As we progress through the centuries various rectors come to life as we identify something of individual associations. Thomas Newman was a dominant character during the patronage of Elizabeth I. The rector appointed with the restoration of Charles II, John Napier, has the distinction of being buried in wool. From that point onwards it is possible to identify each rector in turn or to associate the person in question. John Cowper is in fact not only the father of the poet William Cowper but also has the distinction of being the first rector who had as his patron not a King but the Prince of Wales as he took over the patronage of the rector of St Peter's.

The rectors of St Peter's were important in considering the history of our church but it is the vast congregation which shaped the history of our town through the ages and we could best consider some of these by linking them to letters of the alphabet;

- A. Daniel Axtell the regicide who lived in Berkhamsted Place during the Interregnum but who was related to others who were well represented as burgesses, or held positions of authority.
- B. Percy Birtchnell was proud of being a Bourne scholar and was a founder member of Berkhamsted's History Society. He was well-known as the proprietor of a gents' outfitters.
- C. Sir Edward Carey, to whom Queen Elizabeth I granted the manor and honour of Berkhamsted who built Berkhamsted Place with materials from the ruined castle.
- D. Donne. Ann Cowper, (nee Donne) wife of rector John Cowper and mother of William Cowper is buried in the Lady Chapel together with several of her children who died in infancy.
- E. Egerton. The name that links the Bridgewaters to the Brownlows and has so very many links with important owners who lived in Egerton house, for example Thomas Whately.
- F. Francis Farquharson, who has a window in his memory. Honourable General Sir John Finch is buried in his ancestral home but his wife is buried in Rectory Lane Cemetery. They lived in Berkhamsted Place.

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- G. Charles Gordon of Breco, Jamaica and 'this place' buried in Pilkington Manor vault. Made his money in the slave trade.
- H. Henry of Berkhamsted. His tomb in St. Peter's Church is one of the largest.
- I. Incent. John Incent founder of Berkhamsted School. His parents died of sweating sickness.
- J. St John's Chantry. Generations of boys worshipped here until the school chapel was built.
- K. Kirkhman a resident of Pilkington Manor.
- L. Lane. Family-owned Lane's Nurseries and Brewery. Henry Lane was a long serving churchwarden.
- M. Murrays were staunch royalists and Anne Murray helped James II escape to France.
- N. R A Norris, former churchwarden, wrote the book 'The Parish Church of Berkhamsted St Peter, Hertfordshire', still a useful reference book.
- O. Osborne and Oliffe; both are well respected Berkhamsted names.
- P. Pechell. There are numerous memorials to this family, most of whom lived in the hall. Much more research is needed. Polly Page - Louis XVIII of France liked being entertained by Polly when he stopped to change horses at the Kings Arms.
- Q. Quincey. Eliza Quincey Lane was the creator and editor of the Hertfordshire Constitutional Magazine. The Quennells wrote the 'History of Everyday Things' and Quennell designed the war memorial.
- R. John Raven was squire to the Black Prince. CH and Noel Ackroyd Rew architects have left numerous memorials to their work including the chapel of Berkhamsted School and All Saints Church.
- S. Smith Dorriens are mentioned on the numerous memorials and on the hatchments. Nor should we forget the fine memorial cross in the churchyard, tomb to John Sayer who left money for the almshouses.
- T. Trevelyan - the historian who lived in Penrose, Kings Road and wrote the script for the 1922 pageant.
- U. Underhill, motor manufacturers.
- V. de Vere Hart-Davies. Rector in difficult times, exchanged his living with Chipchase Stainsby of Essex.
- W. Thomas Whately, well-known local surgeon opposed Brownlow's attempts to enclose the common, has a window in St Peter's and is buried in Rectory Lane Cemetery.
- X. The thousands of Berkhamsted citizens who signed their names with X before they had the chance of schooling.
- Y. Young who merged with Underhill to form garage business.
- Z. No link is required to zoom this article. Just read it unless we have missed a Zacharias.

Jenny Sherwood



St Peter's Church



Dedication of Cross

Observations by Dennis Furnell (The Natureman)

SUMMER NATURE

The enforced lockdowns and restrictions of Covid gave many of us the chance to spend more time in the countryside; perhaps the only redeeming feature of this horrid pandemic.... And for a number of people this additional enjoyment of nature has become deep-rooted (forgive the pun). It benefits the watchers and the watched, especially as the longer days and warmer weather of summer brings plants, birds and insects more noticeably into our lives.

The birdsong during spring was remarkable and bodes well for breeding migrant birds as well as our native species. One of our native songsters is the beautiful little goldfinch; a seed eater that appears to have benefitted over the last few years from the fine seed in feeders and also the increase in wild plants like thistles and teasels. Lavender also creates an excellent seed bank much appreciated by them. Their song is quite lovely, rather like the tinkling of silver bells and pairs will nest in gardens where there are plenty of shrubs and wild plant species.

On the subject of plants, our area is one of the finest in the south of England for wild orchids. These fascinating plants are one of the most ancient and thrive best in tropical climes where the flowers are often quite exotic. However, they are also adapted to the less tropical weather conditions in Hertfordshire and about 20 or so native orchids thrive in the Chiltern region. Some are nationally rare and threatened by development and agriculture and, sad to say, thoughtless gardeners who dig them up from their wild sites to try and introduce them into their gardens; despite legal restrictions on collection of wild plants.

Native orchids are extremely specialised and a vital part of the ecosystem in that they support symbiotic fungi and bacteria which live in nodules on the orchids' root system. The orchid depends on the fungi and bacteria to produce food which it needs to survive, and the micro-organisms depend on the orchid in turn. In consequence, if the orchids are moved, they will not thrive and we shall be left to regret the loss of a very special group of plants that have been with us for millions of years.



Picture: Goldfinch



Picture: Common Spotted Orchid



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YOUR CLERGY



I thoroughly enjoyed the recent extended Bank Holiday weekend, in celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's

Platinum Jubilee. Quite aside from the seventy years of service which that weekend celebrated, it was just good once again to be celebrating anything with families, friends and indeed strangers; after a long period of life at a distance, it was a wonderful opportunity for us to once again come together.

My Jubilee celebrations consisted of three quite different events. On the Thursday of that weekend I had my first experience of BerkoFest, and it was such a beautifully sunny day. Seeing so many people relaxing at the cricket ground, and enjoying a fabulous line up of musical talent was just great fun. Our celebrations at St Peter's on the Sunday threatened to be rather less jubilant. The plan had been to have a service of thanksgiving in the churchyard, followed by a Spitfire flypast, and then a picnic at which we could all consume our own bodyweight in tea and cake. The weather had other ideas. The flypast was delayed and then cancelled. The service and picnic moved from the

churchyard to the church; and let's face it, a pork pie is much more enjoyable whilst reclining on a lawn than on a pew. I wasn't optimistic. In the event we had a marvellous turnout and a real sense of celebration. And lastly, on the first week back after the half-term break, I went to Thomas Coram school to bless four trees which were being planted as part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative. It was another beautifully sunny afternoon, and the children looked resplendent in red, white and blue.

Each of those three events were marvellous to be part of, but there was something that stood out in particular about the tree-planting. Those trees were planted to create a legacy, they're there to last, and as part of that nationwide 'canopy' they're there to make a real difference. Here's hoping that those trees won't be the only legacy of that weekend of parties, parades and concerts. A marvellously fitting legacy of that weekend of celebrations, will be if through the street parties and other events that took place, we begin to get to know one another a bit better, so that we continue to shake off those nearly two years of 'isolating' and finding new ways to grow as neighbours.

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800 and a half!



We're already at the summer, over six months through the 800th anniversary of St Peter's church,

and have enjoyed historical talks, music recitals plus lots of celebratory tea and cake!

800th History Talk Series

Local residents were lucky enough to have enjoyed a series of talks in the church about Berkhamsted's past, present and future on Tuesdays in May. Dr Julian Hunt joined us first to say Berkhamsted has always been a 'place you want to be seen (!)' The settlement was recorded as a borough in the Domesday book which was apparently rare and back in 1086 days we had a vineyard, 64 oxen grazing common land plus two mills.

Next up was Dr Christopher Green who took us on a tour through St Peter's history. We learnt that in 1880, £800 was needed for external repairs (£53,000 in today's money) and only £22 was raised in the first six months of the fundraising campaign! Hopefully, as we look to repair the roof again within the next few years, we will raise our funds more quickly!

Christopher told us about a blocked off door leading to a second storey

by the south door, a fire engine being kept in the West end in the 19th century and there being 114 examples of Mason's marks representing ten different masons who worked on erecting the building in the thirteenth century.

Our final talk featured Peter Matthews and ex-Berkhamsted resident-turned-astronomer Dr Suzie Imber who gave us an insight into what life might be like here in 100 years' time. From solar farms in space, astronauts on Mars by 2050, smart offices that remember your preferences, robots creating robots creating robots, automation in so many more jobs and space stations on the moon, life will be very different. We're looking forward to the journey!

History Exhibition

Organised by The Berkhamsted Local Museum and History society. It is well worth visiting the church to see the excellent audio visual presentation (just over 10 minutes long and easy to access via the south door opposite Fred & Ginger's) about the church's history plus view display panels about Berkhamsted over the last 800 years. The exhibition has been extended until the autumn and is available to view, for free, when the church is open.

Jubilations in June

June was also a busy month for St Peter's with a service of thanksgiving and tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee plus St Peter's Festival afternoon featuring entertainment, games, refreshments and more, plus a visit from past rector Mark Bonney (1996-2005) who came as a visiting preacher for the Patronal Festival service.

Berkhamsted / Celebrates

Sponsored by EIC Insurance who are donating the prize money, don't forget to enter our 800th photography competition open to all adults in HP4 postcodes and children attending HP4 schools on the theme of either Berkhamsted or Celebration. The closing date is Friday 28th October.

Future 800 Anniversary Events

There's lots more to look forward to including:

Beating the Bounds – Sunday 3 July 11:30am and 1pm

Take part in an eight or five mile walk taking in St Peter's parish boundary, following the old tradition of 'Beating the Bounds'. Walks are free, although donations encouraged. Followed by tea and cake in the Court House.

Celebration Evensong - Sunday 10 July 6pm

A special celebration Choral Evensong to mark 800 years of music at St Peter's with music from 16th to the 21st centuries

Hertswing Jazz Concert – Thursday

14 July

Come and listen to celebratory Big Band Jazz which will 'raise the roof' of the church.

Heritage Open Days – Friday 9 September

St Peter's will be open during Heritage Open Day weekend in September with special tours and talks including one on medieval heraldry and one on graffiti found in church.

Bike 'n Hike - Saturday 10 September

Bike and Hike fundraising event, walking and cycling between local country churches. Anyone with a bike can get involved and help raise some income for our church.

Oktoberfest – 9-11 September

St Peter's will once again be celebrating all-things Germanic during September.

Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Friday 16 - 19 September

All welcome at the Annual Parish Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk, led by Fr David.

David Pearce memorial lecture - Robin Knox Johnston – Saturday 8 October

Come and listen to old-Berkhamstedien talk about his adventures, with all ticket sales going to support the 800th fund.

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Parish Dinner – Friday 28th October.

We will be marking the occasion of our 800th with a special dinner and auction in the historic Berkhamsted school hall. All welcome.

All details and ticket information can be found on the website –

www.stpetersberkhamsted.org/800

We're also launching a special 800th heritage fund and would be delighted to accept contributions (coins/gifts and legacy donations) to maintain the upkeep of the church (which costs £700 a day to run) so that generations in 100, 200, 800 years will be able to enjoy the building. Donate via our website!



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St Peter's lit up at night



Dr Suzie Imber and Peter Matthews



Brownies with bunting they made for the Patronal Festival

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Berkhamsted Art Society



Berkhamsted Art Society is supporting St Peter's Church 800 year celebrations. Inspired by the clay builds in St Albans

created by the Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild (of which I am also a member) over the last couple of years I thought it would be an ideal event for Berkhamsted to celebrate this occasion.



They may not look much, but this is the start of the former for the Clay Build to be held on 2nd July inside St Peter's Church starting at 11 o'clock. The dimensions of these maquettes are in inches taken from a print out of the floor plan and will be translated into feet. The final model will be 6 feet long and 4 feet high. There will be one large former that will make up the model and built in cardboard (Thank you Neal Bros Packaging in Northbridge Road). They will then be covered in plastic sheeting (courtesy of dry cleaners Clean and Sew and Johnsons) and left until the evening of the 1st July when they will be set up in St Peter's Church on tables and covered in slabs of clay and covered in more plastic to keep the clay damp overnight.

The main features such as windows and doors will have been marked in the clay so that on the Saturday at 11.00 am the general public (adults and children) can start to provide all the finer detail using additional clay and modelling tools. Children especially will be encouraged to add their own personality to the model by creating small clay figures. This is a collaboration between the Art Society, Open Door Community Space and the Dacorum and Chiltern Potters Guild. The aim is to promote pottery and ceramic activities to Berkhamsted. We may even get a few more potters to join BAS.

Ian Jones

SUMMER DRAWING EVENINGS – 6.30pm

4th July David Satchel's house, Puddingstone, Leighton Buzzard Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP1 3DL. Parking by the house or on the verge if full.

11th July Sunnyside Allotments, Berkhamsted. Park there or on Ivy House Lane

18th July Boxmoor, canal bridge, tow path and river at the end of Old Fishery Lane. Park in Camelot Rugby Club car park.

25th July Ashridge Management College. Free car park or on the road.

1st August Broadwater car park by the canal. Drawing action at the Bowls Club if available.

8th August Meet at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Tring. Main car park on the right, coming from Berkhamsted, as you get near the town centre.

15th August "Patchwork", 22, Hall Park Gate, Berkhamsted. This is a beautiful garden opened especially for us. £5 each but well worth it with free tea and coffee. Park in Hall Park Gate.

22nd August Sunnyside Allotments, Ivy House Lane, Berkhamsted.

Berkhamsted Art Society's Spring Exhibition was busy and buzzy, with lots of Berkhamsted shoppers being alerted to the event by the signs outside and the flyers that were handed out around town.

Children from Swing Gate School were invited for a less impromptu visit on Friday to look at artworks and meet the artists. Prior to their visit the children had produced art related to St Peter's Church. Sarah Stone, a teacher at Swing Gate School wrote, "We are delighted to once again be part of the Berkhamsted Art Society's Spring Exhibition. Our Year 2 classes were full of joy after the Winter Exhibition and we are sure this one will be just as fantastic. St Peter's Church holds a special place in Swing Gate School's heart as it hosts our annual Harvest and Christmas Carol Concert. We are thrilled to be a part of the celebrations of 800 years of St Peter's Church and cannot wait to see a variety of artwork inspired by our local area." Many of the artists' friends and family members dropped by to give support and admire the wonderful art!

The children's creative table was a popular attraction and drawings continued to be added to the display that already featured art by Swing Gate School pupils – inspired by pieces in the exhibition, the 800th anniversary of St Peter's Church and the children's amazing imaginations. It was lovely to chat to visitors to find out which were their favourites and why, and to talk about all things art. The visitor book is testament to the range and quality of the pieces, with many commenting on how very impressed they were.

Susan Cook and Katie Jones



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I offer high quality Reflexology and Aromatherapy treatments for women of all ages from conception through to all life stages. The aim of my treatments is to create a nurturing environment where you can find stillness within and to switch off from the stress and strain of

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).



#YourPreciousLife

STFRANCIS.ORG.UK



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.

Hospice Coffee Mornings and Craft Fayres

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 29th July. 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. Find out more here:

www.stfrancis.org.uk/CoffeeMornings

Hospice Summer Series 2022:

The Hospice will be hosting a series of fabulous events across the summer

period, in their exclusive Event Field in Dudswell, Tring Road, near Berkhamsted, HP4 3TA. Please see below for the events. Event page: **www.stfrancis.org.uk/summerseries**

Car Boot Sales

Sell your unwanted items at the Hospice's second Car Boot Sale Series! Multiple dates including Saturday 9th July and Saturday 13th August. Reserve your pitch now on the Hospice website: **www.stfrancis.org.uk/support-us/events/detail/car-boot-sales**



June Car Boot Sale 2021

Classic and Special Interest Car Show

Join the Hospice for their second Classic Car Show on Sunday 17th July

featuring a range of impressive cars each lovingly cared for with their own personal history. A range of market stalls, refreshments and family activities will be available, with free onsite parking. All proceeds to the Hospice helping support our special care. Buy tickets here on the Hospice website: www.stfrancis.org.uk/ClassicCars or contact the team if you would like to feature your car in the series on fundraising@stfrancis.org.uk



Classic Car Show

Dog Show

In 2019, the Hospice had their first ever dog show at the Garden Party and back by popular demand... they will be hosting another in September! Keep an eye on their social media to see how you can enter your pup into our pawesome dog show and see whether they will be crowned best in their category!

Taking place: Saturday 24th September. More details coming soon!

www.stfrancis.org.uk/support-us/events/detail/dog-show

Dacorum Steam & Country Fayre

This is a fun day for all the family in aid of the Hospice. Highlights including steam engines, classic cars, vintage tractors and birds of prey! Hosted at Green Croft Farm, Potten End, HP1 2SG - Sat/Sun 30th/31st July. For more information:

www.stfrancis.org.uk/support-us/events/detail/dacorum-steam-country-fayre-2022

Hospice Golf Days - Various Locations

The Hospice will be back at Stocks Golf Club on Friday 5th August and Ashridge Golf Club Wednesday 7th September... but places are filling up fast! Book your team today for 18 holes, on-course competitions and a three course evening meal! For more information visit: stfrancis.org.uk/golf

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. There’s a variety of fabulous products available, including sustainable themed Well-Being Boxes with a selection of products, hand-crafted items from our volunteer Creates & Makes Team at Returned to Glory and indulgent treats. Keep up to date with the shop by following Shop For Good on Instagram: @shopforgood_hosf or visit:

shop-for-good.org.uk/

Ashridge Garden Party - Sunday 11th September, 12-5pm



Join us for the biggest event of the year and treat yourself to delicious

food and drink on the lawn, enjoy live music and browse the many stalls in our shopping village.

Or simply take advantage of the opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens of Ashridge House, and stroll through its avenues of trees.

Tickets are on sale now and are just £5 when booking in advance

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, 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.

PARKINSON'S^{UK}



WALK FOR PARKINSON'S

St Pauls Walden Bury, Hitchin
2 or 6 Miles, 10am
Sunday 11 September
[events.parkinsons.org.uk/
walkstpaulswaldenbury](http://events.parkinsons.org.uk/walkstpaulswaldenbury)
0800 138 6593

#WalkforParkinsons



Parkinson's UK is a registered charity and a registered fundraising charity. It is a member of the Fundraising Regulator. It is a registered charity in England and Wales (1042904) and in Scotland (SC015094). It is a registered charity in the Republic of Ireland (154000000). It is a registered charity in Northern Ireland (154000000). It is a registered charity in Jersey (154000000). It is a registered charity in Guernsey (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Isle of Man (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Channel Islands (154000000). It is a registered charity in the British Virgin Islands (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Cayman Islands (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Falkland Islands (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Gibraltar (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Hong Kong (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Macao (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Marshall Islands (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Micronesia (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Mongolia (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Myanmar (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Nepal (154000000). It is a registered charity in the New Zealand (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Niue (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Norfolk Island (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Northern Mariana Islands (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Palau (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Papua New Guinea (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Philippines (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Pitcairn Islands (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Samoa (154000000). It is a registered charity in the San Marino (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Singapore (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Solomon Islands (154000000). It is a registered charity in the South Africa (154000000). It is a registered charity in the South Korea (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Sri Lanka (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Sweden (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Switzerland (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Taiwan (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Tajikistan (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Thailand (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Timor-Leste (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Tonga (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Trinidad and Tobago (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Turkey (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Turkmenistan (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Tuvalu (154000000). It is a registered charity in the United Arab Emirates (154000000). It is a registered charity in the United Kingdom (154000000). It is a registered charity in the United States of America (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Uzbekistan (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Vanuatu (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Vatican City (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Venezuela (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Vietnam (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Wallis and Futuna (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Western Sahara (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Yemen (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Zambia (154000000). It is a registered charity in the Zimbabwe (154000000).

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Editor @yourberkhamsted.org.uk

Garden Matters

Last year I bought the May edition of Gardener's World magazine that had a 2for1 entry booklet to gardens around the UK. This has encouraged us to explore gardens relatively near to us that we hadn't known about. This time we are heading out of our home county to Oxfordshire.

Last August bank holiday we visited Broughton Castle, near Banbury. It is a moated and fortified manor house which is the family home of the 21st Lord and Lady Saye & Sele and has been in the same family ownership since 1447. The core of the house was built in 1306 but most of which you can see today dates from the 1550's. The gardens have a wonderful array of roses in the Ladies Garden and mixed border. Other plants of note are delphiniums, alliums, geraniums, sisyrinchium, phlomis and verbascum. broughtoncastle.com Postcode OX15 5EB



The Ladies Garden,
Broughton Castle

Rousham House Gardens near Steeple Aston are open every day all year round. It is completely unspoilt as there isn't a tea room or shop. However, there are toilets and plenty of places to picnic. The landscape garden designed by William Kent remains almost unaltered with many features such as the cascades, ponds, Temple of the Mill and seven-arched Praeneste still in situ. The Praeneste is a lovely spot to picnic overlooking the River Cherwell. The seventeenth century walled gardens are filled with herbaceous perennials which spill over the paths and another path lined with espalier apples takes you into the kitchen garden. The house built in 1635 by Sir Robert Dormer, and added to by William Kent, is still in the ownership of the same family and is open by appointment. rousham.org Postcode OX25 4QU



Rousham House



The Long Border - Rousham House



River
Cherwell
at
Rousham
House

teaming with wildlife; damselflies, tadpoles, water boatmen, newts and two frogs. I can thoroughly recommend the café and outside tea garden where you can sample delicious homemade cakes and a choice of teas. Light lunches are also served. gothagardens.square.site Postcode SG7 6SQ



Gotha
Gardens

A new area for some lovely walks we discovered in 2020 is Eythrope near Stone. Parking is available on Eythrope Road off the A418. Walking is through fields, by the River Thame and through the park of Eythrope House. It is a very tranquil place with lots of wildlife; kingfisher, red kites and dragonflies to name a few.

Sarah Dawson

Back in Hertfordshire we recently visited Gotha Gardens at Pembroke Farm, near Baldock, again recommended from the Gardeners World 2for1 guide. This is a relatively new garden only started in 1990 created from an arable field mostly based on chalk. It was originally developed as a woodland garden to attract wildlife and pollinators but has evolved to include a topiary garden, knot garden, orchard and cottage garden beds full of roses. When we visited, the rill pond in the topiary garden was

Rectory Lane Cemetery



As well as being a lovely space to sit and relax, meet friends and experience the calm of nature in the middle of the town, Rectory Lane Cemetery has been the venue

for a number of community events, both large and small recently.

April's ***Easter Discovery Trail***, in collaboration with Age UK Dacorum, saw many children excitedly following Lizzie Martell's beautifully illustrated clue card to find out about the cemetery, and being rewarded with a small chocolate egg, while parents and grandparents were able to avail themselves of the many seats around the site.

The ***Hospice of St Francis*** invited volunteers along to be thanked with a visit to the Cemetery and a dedicated tour by a couple of our volunteers – followed by refreshments.

Berkhamsted Brownies visited to learn more about bees – bumblebees, solitary bees and honeybees. Turned out they already knew quite a lot, particularly about honeybees, but our Bumblebee Conservation Trust walker shared some fascinating facts (they have five eyes; bees are responsible for pollinating one third of all the food we eat, and more) and answered lots of questions. They then set about creating some solitary bee homes for the Cemetery, using materials they had brought with them, filling the structures which Chiltern Conservation Volunteers had made for us earlier out of a pallet. These will be hung on a sunny wall and we hope that solitary bees and other insects will find some of the little corners and holes desirable to raise their young.

Final preparations for the ***BerkoFest Children's Book Festival*** were being made at the time of writing – with an exciting line-up of authors and activities for young families in the town.

Meanwhile the management and improvement of the physical space continued – with some gloriously colourful grave gardens created by volunteers and a full-on mowing challenge during these growing months. The ***Garden of Remembrance***, looked after by members of the Berkhamsted Gardeners Society, is in full bloom. The fused glass tiles of the Celebration of Life wall bring in more

colour and powerful sentiments of life and love. Tiles can be commissioned via team@rectorylanecemetery.org.uk

Borders and boundary areas are always left long for wildlife habitat and a major effort is being put into improving the biodiversity in the cemetery through a long-term project to create an urban meadow in the top third of the cemetery. As a start, volunteers have removed the overly-rich topsoil in some small sections and replaced it with low nutrient soil and seeded with summer flowering annual wildflowers. 340 perennial wildflower plug plants have also been put into prepared nursery beds to acclimatise and grow on. Other areas have been covered with black membrane to suppress the coarse grasses over the winter, to make their removal easier in the spring, when the perennial wildflowers will be transplanted into them. To help bring this transformation about, a new initiative was launched at our recent volunteer social – a mid-week group, probably a Wednesday PM, which will meet up at the Retreat – a cosy base which has been under-utilised as a result of pandemic restrictions – to tackle the tasks which need doing on a weekly basis while enjoying each other's company. If you're interested in helping, email team@rectorylanecemetery.org.uk

Kate Campbell



Cont page 32

Rectory Lane Cemetery, Three Close Lane, Berkhamsted HP4 2DH
www.rectorylanecemetery.org.uk





Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels



This stunning young lady is Ruby Spark a petite red lurcher who was born in 2017. She is a confident girl who enjoys being out and about. Due to her high prey drive she would need to be exercised on lead and would be best suited to a rural home with a secure garden. Ruby needs to be an only pet in a home where any children are 13+.

For more info please see her album on our Facebook page. Visit our website for details of the rehoming process and an application form.

To support our work you can make a one-off donation of £3 by texting APPLE to 70111, or donate via Paypal using the 'DONATE Support a Cause' option. Cheques are very welcome too!

Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY e-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com Website:

www.appledownrescue.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram!

OPEN DOOR NEWS

As ever, there is a lot going on at Open Door, your local community and arts space. Since covid, Open Door has bounced back due to the incredible work and dedication of a lot of volunteers, and the (very very small!) staff team. As of today....

- we are open 6 days a week, for 5 hours a day
- our community café operates during these times, 10.30am-3.30pm, serving customers with drinks and homemade cakes inside and in our garden, on a donation basis meaning people pay what they can/want to
- we have an exhibition on most months, often with associated talks or workshops
- both inside and outside of our opening hours we host at least 15 wellbeing/fitness classes per week
- we host or run ourselves around 5 art/craft activities or classes per week, plus 3 book groups per month
- we host or run support groups for many groups - those from Ukraine, young people, parents of neurodiverse children, mixed race families, men, and more
- we hire out our venue for other events, parties, talks etc at all times throughout the week
- we run a monthly Repair Café, weekly Memory Café and monthly charity soup club
- we provide a welcoming venue to those running classes, counselling services and more.

So please, come, get involved, learn something new!

- Check the website What's on listings at www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/whats-on
- Download a PDF version from the same link if you'd prefer, or collect a hard copy from Open Door
- Register for our monthly newsletter to hear what's on - www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/subscribe

Things coming up in the next month or so:

we are finalising plans for bringing a pottery studio to Berkhamsted - watch this space!

- more Make & Mend classes
- needle felting classes
- a plethora of interesting art exhibitions

And of course, we couldn't do this without volunteers. We would love your support, even if it's for a few hours a month! If you're interested, please contact Iain, our Volunteer Coordinator for a friendly chat on:- volunteering@opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk or go to www.opendoorberkhamsted.co.uk/get-involved



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