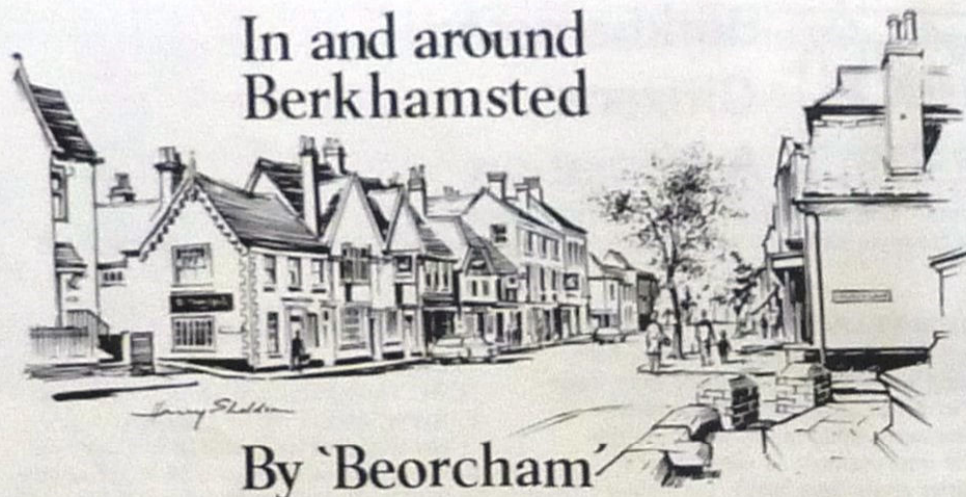


In and around Berkhamsted



By 'Beorcham'

A CHRISTMAS RECIPE

On two successive days I have been shown objects of local interest which were purchased at antique shops elsewhere.

At Market Harborough one of my callers purchased a moustache cup with a very good picture of St. Peter's Church from Castle Street. It was made in Germany and probably late Victorian.

In a village near Whitby, Yorks, another local man found a book on Domestic Cookery with the following inscription: "Berkhamsted Mechanics' Institute. Industrial and Fine Arts Exhibition. Awarded to Miss H. M. Young for special merit, 1886."

This is an interesting reminder of the exhibitions which, in Victorian times, filled the Town Hall and Market House, attracting thousands of people.

The book contained some additional recipes in the handwriting of, I presume, Miss Young. As Christmas is coming you may like to try her recipe for "Brown Christmas Cake": Rub $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. butter into $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour, then add 6oz. each of currants and sultanas, 4oz. blanch almonds, 4oz. chopped orange peel, 3 teaspoonfuls cinnamon, $2\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder, and $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt, add 3 eggs and mix with buttermilk. Put into a large cake tin and bake in a moderate oven for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

THE WRONG DATE

Several readers have commented on an error in my references to Dudswell in last month's *Review*. I was made to say that the Swan public house facing the canal lock closed in the 1980s; a glance at my carbon copy shows that I typed 1890s.

Misprints are far more numerous than they were even a decade ago. But there have always been printers' errors. I recall a Berkhamsted Chamber of Trade dinner with a printed menu card starting with Tomato Soap. The following day the Clunbury Press compositors were well and truly in the soup.

And what about the time when the *Berkhamsted Times* had to apologise for printing "fanatical" instead of "puritanical"?

CHAPELS OF EASE

I have been asked if efforts have ever been made to trace a number of chapels of ease which were said to have existed many years ago in the large parish of Northchurch. If you are not familiar with the term I should mention that chapels of ease were built for worshippers who lived a long way from the parish church.

Sir Henry Chauncy, in a book published

in 1700, said that several of these in the parish of Northchurch were demolished or converted into barns. Cobb, our Victorian historian, misquotes Chauncy by saying that there were many, not several, of these chapels of ease.

But where were they? Marlin Chapel, now in a very ruined state in a field near Rossway, at once comes to mind, but nothing is known about any other rural chapel. I can only guess that they were at such distant corners of the parish as Little Heath or Broadway, three miles from St Mary's Church.

BROADWAY CHURCH

Speaking of Broadway, I must compliment the people of Bourne End on a recent Open Day at St. John's Church, surely the nicest building we see on the way to Boxmoor. It is just inside the ancient parish of Northchurch and somewhat isolated from the village of Bourne End, a great drawback now that the A41 is a noisy race track.

However, weeks of planning culminated in a busy Sunday when the church was beautifully decorated. Many villagers brought along interesting by-gones, including a pair of 17th century shoes found in an attic. For good measure there were many old pictures and typewritten articles of Bourne End interest. With lovely flower arrangements and cream teas nearly everyone stayed for a quite a long time! I met a number of Berkhamstedians who admitted that they had seen the church hundreds of times but had steeped inside for the very first time.

Several people were surprised to learn that

St. John's was consecrated in 1855 by the Bishop of Rochester. This was because we were transferred from the huge diocese of Lincoln to the see of Rochester from 1845-77, when the St. Albans diocese was created.

WELCOME RESTORATION

As one who prefers footpaths to roads I seldom use New Road to Berkhamsted Common, but recently I was pleased to see that the Inns of Court O.T.C. memorial has been splendidly restored. And the 2,000 men who trained in and around Berkhamsted and lost their lives in the first World War are not forgotten; there were floral tributes on the November day old soldiers never forget.

As the monument was damaged by lightning many years ago I hope that a new conductor will be installed.

EARLY MOTOR CYCLES

A change of ownership of the garage which extends from Kings Road to Elm Grove recalls the very interesting history of a business which was started in the early years of the century by Mr. C. E. Southey. He was especially noted for manufacturing what was known as the Southey motor cycle. By the late 1920s no fewer than 900 had been sold.

A friend and frequent visitor was Geoffrey de Havilland, of aircraft fame. In 1912 he caused a sensation by flying to Berkhamsted, landing on a field now occupied by Westfield School. Huge crowds gathered to see the daring young man take off in his flying machine.

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IN AND AROUND BERKHAMSTED

By 'Beorcham' (continued)

What is now a menswear shop at Elm Grove corner was for several years Mr. Southey's showroom. How the youths of the town gazed at the various models, wondering how long they would have to save up to buy a motor bike. As for Mr. Southey, he always found time to organise some splendid holidays for the choirboys of St. Peter's. Indeed, there were complaints that the holidays were far too elaborate and expensive.

WILLIAM PENN'S VISIT

The Buckinghamshire village of Penn, reputedly the home of William Penn's ancestors, recently rang the church bells to mark the 300th anniversary of the arrival in Philadelphia of the famous Quaker after whom Pennsylvania is named.

E. A. Norris, in his book on St. Peter's Church, tells us that William Penn came to Berkhamsted and tried to induce Gulielma Woodhouse to go to his colony. She was the daughter of Christopher Woodhouse, a doctor of medicine, who lived in a house

called The Homestead. With an adjoining house it was pulled down and replaced by three shops opposite the Outspan building. Many older readers will recall that for many years The Homestead was the home of a prominent Quaker family, the Barretts.

Gulielma Woodhouse decided to stay with her father, who was the last bailiff of the borough of Berkhamsted and was said to have the power of curing bewitched persons. He died in 1682 and was buried in St. Peter's Church. Unfortunately, the memorial stone was lost during the restoration of the church in 1870.

William Penn eventually married Gulielma Springett, another girl with the same Christian name as his friend in Berkhamsted.

TAILPIECE

An order was recently received from Bakersfield, California, for a book entitled 'Begone Berkhamsted.'

Get away with you! Let bygones be bygones!