

Peppard News' 21st Birthday

Peppard News was started by Hugh Warwick in 1994 before he became ordained. His original idea was for a quarterly newspaper that would enhance Peppard's sense of community, which was church led although not in competition with the existing Parish Magazine. Both St Michael's Catholic Church and Peppard Congregational Church were invited to contribute and the newspaper would encompass other activities going on within the parish. He also approached the school and invited them to make regular contributions.

In those days, *Peppard News* was just four A4 pages and carried a few advertisements to defray some of the costs. It soon expanded to six A4 pages.

In 1997, Peter Longhurst took over the editorship and put his own very personal stamp on *Peppard News* expanding it yet again to eight pages. He retained the principle of having advertisements as a means to support the costs whilst using the newsletter as a vehicle for keeping parishioners informed of events and activities within Peppard.

When Peter retired, the late Lord Silsoe made it his mission to recruit a new editorial team. The new team settled into their respective roles and produced their first full edition for Winter 2005. Three members of that editorial team are still in place today having welcomed three more members in the intervening years.

My mother, Susan Carter, who had lived on Kingwood Common for all of her married life, almost 40 years, was the Editor of *Peppard News* from 2006 – 2010.

Always up for a challenge, it wasn't without some trepidation that she took over the reigns as Editor, first testing the water as Acting Editor. But her impressive organisational skills, knowledge of the local area, and warm way with people meant she was a natural.

During her time as Editor, *Peppard News* expanded to 12 pages and had a redesign - in colour! She was incredibly pleased by this - she always liked to brighten things up and move with the times.

It was with great reluctance that she made the decision to step down from her post as Editor due to her illness the year before she died, but a wonderful and fitting legacy that her last voluntary role was for such a loved and long-established local publication as *Peppard News*.

Louisa Carter

Congratulations

Congratulations, *Peppard News*, on reaching your 21st birthday!

I had the privilege of being a member of the team for just under three years before I moved away from the village.

During that period the team introduced a number of changes to the newspaper. I would like to mention just two of them: Firstly there was the decision to move Peppard News from the stewardship of Rotherfield Peppard PCC into the control of the team and a new publisher, Peppard News Publications. I cannot understate the amount of hard work and soul-searching this move caused the team but with their perseverance and dedication Peppard News survived and remains in excellent shape. Secondly Peppard News focussed more on the young people of the village: a Young Achievers column and eventually the introduction of Junior Peppard News opened up an exciting partnership with Peppard School. *Peppard News* – a voice for youth in the community!

Keep up the good work team! What you achieve is a credit to the village!

Tony Treglown