

Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

What a Team!

Spring 2017

Tony Laithwaite started in the wine industry in 1969 but it is working in partnership with his wife, Barbara, that has brought about the phenomenal success of their company. Tony claims that it was he who had the bright ideas but it was always Barbara who put them into action.

Back in 1965, he went off to Bordeaux in France for a student holiday job working in a vineyard. The owners, an elderly couple, took a shine to Tony. They 'adopted' him and proceeded to teach him all about wine as well as making him improve his schoolboy French. In 1969, taking the name from a road sign, he set up *Bordeaux Direct* and started bringing wine back to the UK.

This was a time when wine was only sold by wine merchants and was not commonly consumed in most households; wine merchants, and even wine waiters, were perceived as rather intimidating. There was simply not the choice available and Tony helped to change this. At the same time, British people started to travel and experience wine drinking in casual, friendly environments and wanted to imitate this at home.

In 1971 he re-met Barbara who he had known at university. Subsequently, he lured her away from a very good job to help run his fledgling company and, of course, married her. They celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary two summers ago.

First came a 'lock-up' under the railway arches in Windsor. Then, fortuitously, Tony spotted an item on wine fraud in the *Sunday Times* that he very much agreed with. He shot off a letter to the editor which generated a full mailbag of enquiries, and was, in turn, invited to do a

'special offer' to their readers. Thus, the UK's most successful wine mail-order service was born.

As the more organised of the two, Barbara took on the role of Managing Director, with Tony as Chairman. Shops and concessions followed and their expansion continued even further with the advent of internet shopping. Their turnover grew to £17 million in the first 15 years – it is now a staggering £350 million with a large staff and buyers all over the world.



Tony & Barbara Laithwaite in Wyfold

Tony's search for wines to bring to the UK market has taken him much further afield. His travels have taken him virtually all over the world in pursuit of good wine – to the US, Australia, New Zealand, South America, even India. Before the break-up of the Soviet Union, it also meant dealing with Eastern European governments to buy their wines. With this expansion, it became very apparent that the name *Bordeaux Direct* was no longer appropriate – and 'Direct' became used by so many internet/mail order companies: it was time for a change. With an unusual and memorable name, it wasn't difficult to choose the company's new name – *Laithwaite's Wine*.

It was inevitable that they should go on to have their own vineyards and now have them in France, Australia, in Windsor, as tenants of the Crown Estate and, of course, Wyfold. Tony is happy to share his wealth of knowledge of wine growing: he will explain the impact of different soils and climates on vines, even the impact on grapes of bush fires in Australia. He also believes that climate change is most definitely occurring – he says that wine growers are the experts as they have always kept records of temperatures and harvests.

While Tony travelled the world, Barbara not only ran the company but also brought up their three sons. All three, Henry, Will and Tom, went to Peppard Primary school and, with Henry's two children as the latest family additions, they all now live reasonably near to their parents in Peppard. During discussions about the future, the boys, as teenagers used to tease their parents: 'One day we'll just sell up and buy a Ferrari each!' Happily, they have changed their views and are now all involved, one way or other, in the industry. When, or indeed if, their parents do retire then all three sons have stated that they wish to carry on with the family business.

Barbara is equally passionate about the Wyfold vineyard and is rightly very proud of its award-winning sparkling wines. According to Tony, she is extremely rigorous in pruning the vines in order to obtain the best possible grapes – and will sacrifice the quantity produced to achieve this.

Now 70, Tony says that eventually the 'Old Man' will have to learn to pull back from work a bit but in the meantime he says 'Wine? Why would I want to give it up? I love it'.

Rita Hadgkiss

Our Schools

Peppard Primary School

Work on our boundary is now very nearly complete. Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Cuthbert for all their hard work demolishing the old fractured wall and replacing it with new fencing.

Our Worship Council have worked very hard and have, with the help of Mrs Annie Byron and Rev Stickings, put together our Church Services, choosing hymns, readings and writing their own prayers. Many thanks to Ian Fraser and his team who arrange the refreshments in the Parish Room after each service. This term, the school focus has been on Integrity with all assemblies and Church services supporting our thoughts. Next term we will be focussing on Courage. At the end of last term we were visited by Mr Richard Walker who came and gave a talk to the children about The Home of Hope, a charity that supports an orphanage in Malawi. To support it, the School Council held a book sale in the playground last week and raised £50. The idea was for children to bring in one book of their own which they would like to donate for someone else to enjoy...for the small price of 50p!

We continue with our weekly trips to Sonning Common Library, each Year group taking a turn. It's a fantastic local resource that we should all use. The children are also enjoying their weekly ukulele lessons with our new teacher, Darren Hillier, who is very impressed with their efforts.

We continue to use Kennylands Gymnastics on a weekly basis. Our aim is to have the most flexible children in Oxfordshire! Coming up in March is the annual Henley Youth Festival with our children taking part in the usual variety of offerings including a production by the Young Shakespeare Company, visiting the Explorer Dome, and taking part in sporting events.

Peppard C of E Primary School

Peppard Common RG9 5JU

Phone: 01491 628354

Headteacher

Nick Steele

Chairman of the Governors

Christine Bradbury

The school has swimming galas and cross country on the horizon and will be sending teams of our best swimmers and athletes to take part. We have some excellent young sportsmen and women so are hoping for success in both areas. We are also very pleased to announce that we will be running another six week Kayaking course beginning in May with the help of Sabine Kirschstein Smith. Future trips will include the Natural History Museum, The River & Rowing Museum and a trip to Oxford.

Fiona Hilton

New Governors

This year we have two new governors at Peppard: Mrs Emma Turner and Mr Richard Bowcott. We interviewed them about their reasons for becoming school governors.

Both new governors want to help our school to be the best it can be. Mrs Turner said, 'I was really keen to get more involved in the school community.' Mr Bowcott said that he wants to 'ensure its continued success.'

Mr Bowcott is a co-opted governor, responsible, along with the rest of the board, for providing strategic leadership and accountability for the school. Mrs Turner is on the Health and Safety Committee. She said, 'We help make sure that the school is a safe place for everyone to come and teach and learn in'. Mrs Turner is following in her mum's footsteps who was also a governor at her primary school.

Both new governors have daughters at the school, Ruby Turner in Year 2 and Harriet Bowcott in Year 1, and both have a second child joining the school in September. Mrs Turner also has an old connection to the school; her uncle was the Bishop of Oxford when Peppard School celebrated its 125th anniversary in 1996. He presented the celebratory plaque that can be seen on the wall of the main building.

When we asked them what they are most looking forward to in the rest of the school year, Mr Bowcott said, 'I'm looking forward to Sports Day the most. Last year was so much fun with so many races. This year some of the Dads are off on a 50 mile walk to raise some money for the school. More details to come!' Mrs Turner said, 'I love Sports Day and the Easter egg roll, but it's got to be the water fight on the common at the end of term!'

Finally, we always ask our interviewees what their favourite type of sandwich is. Mrs Turner said, 'a cheddar and home-made chilli chutney sandwich!' Mr Bowcott said, 'a club sandwich'.

With people as passionate and committed as these two as our governors, Peppard has a bright future!

The Junior Peppard News Editors

Kidmore End Pre-School

This term we are going to read and discuss the lovely book *Owl Babies* before moving on to *The Three Little Pigs*.

It's a term full of other celebrations too and we have things planned for Burn's Night and Chinese New Year.

For further information contact me on 0118 948 4985, e-mail enquiries@keps.co.uk or see our website: www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk or find us on our new Facebook page.

Emma Hawker

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Our Young Achievers

Will Legg

This 18-year-old Peppard Stoke Row Cricket Club teenager is enjoying the opportunity of a lifetime playing cricket at the world-renowned Darren Lehmann Academy in Adelaide, Australia. Having scored more than 1,000 runs for PSR during the past two summers, he went down-under at the start of the year for a three-month stint to further hone his skills.

Last year's Oratory School 1st XI captain began in Group Two at the Academy – set up by current Australia national coach Darren Lehmann - but quickly impressed coaches including Australian and South African internationals Mark Cosgrove and Johan Botha. He has moved into Group One alongside England Under19 star George Hankins and a selection of county -contracted players, including Somerset's left-arm spinner Dom Bess. Legg's roommate, Arthur Godsal, was called up from the Academy by England Under19s for their tour of India late in January.

The training regime is gruelling, focusing on strength and conditioning, with players taken out of their comfort zone doing activities such as boxing and the infamous 'Snake Pit' – a sand-based running track where participants have to run the final lap while carrying water in their mouths.

Legg has been playing club cricket for Brighton CC in the Premier Grade of the Adelaide Turf Association competition, and also replaced Hampshire's Joe Weatherley in playing for the Academy against Future Stars recently. He said: 'It has been an eye-opening but wonderful experience. It has been incredibly tough work but I am sure I will see the benefits. The opportunity to play with professional cricketers has been incredible and the standard of coaching is exceptional, so I am hoping to have a really productive summer when I am back in England. I

have also learned to cook for myself which I am happy about!'

Richard Ashton

Evie Paton

Evie, Year 4, has been very successful in her cross country. As she has worked hard and has been doing it for a long time, we decided to interview her.

She has been running since Year 1 and her furthest distance is 5k. She has been placed 1st—her best ever. Evie likes running in park runs or fields.

Her sister started running first; her Mum wanted her to do sport too and Evie found that she liked cross country.

Finally I asked her 'What is your favourite sandwich filling?' and her reply was 'salami'.

By Lois Powell, Junior Editor

Max Jelowitz

A recent Peppard School leaver and Beech team captain, Max Jelowitz has recently been selected for the U-12s London Irish rugby team.

Max is a member of Henley Hawks rugby club where he trains twice a week and was captain of the Gillotts U12s rugby team. He also trains once a month with London Irish and is currently training to go on tour to Lyon, France, in May where they are going to play some of the best French clubs.

Last year he went on tour to the Isle of Wight: both Under11s Henley teams got to the final and had to play against each other. It was really, really tense.

He thinks the best things about rugby are the team spirit and the tours and one day hopes to become an international player for Ireland!

Big congrats to Max!

By Lily Jelowitz, Junior Editor

Award Winning Choristers

Three girls from All Saints' Church Junior Choir have gained their Bronze Bishop's Awards from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Congratulations to 14 year old Charlotte Field, 13 year old Lally Williams and 12 year old Susannah Field. Lally has been in the choir for seven years whilst Charlotte and Susannah joined around six years ago. Lally told me that she was inspired to join the choir after she had attended All Saints' Nativity play when she was six. She thought it looked like fun, thought the story was well told and enjoyed the singing.

Susannah loved singing with Rebecca Bell, Junior Choir Mistress, at school so thought joining the choir would be loads of fun. After seeing their performance at the Henley Choir Festival, her elder sister Charlotte wanted to join too. All three girls had achieved their light blue and then their dark blue choir ribbons before working towards their Bronze Awards. This was their first RSCM external exam. It was a lot of work, including extra lessons to make sure they were thoroughly prepared. They had to sight-read music, sing accompanied and unaccompanied and answer difficult questions about the church. Lally told me she could not read music when she joined the choir but is now working towards Grade Four in singing. Charlotte will be taking Grade Seven next term and Susannah Grade Six later this year. They are all very impressive in their ability to play a range of instruments as well as having other passions, such as sport, dance and drama. They were presented with their awards, along with 16 other junior choristers by the Bishop of Oxford in November last year. The girls all wish to pay tribute to Rebecca Bell for her enthusiasm, encouragement and dedication which has resulted in their success. Silver awards beckon!

Sue Nickson



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The Councils

RPPC Council News

Although the snowdrops are pushing through, with temperatures hovering around zero coupled with a nice fresh Easterly wind blowing outside, it is hard to believe that Spring is nearly with us.

The Pavilion 'Fitness for Purpose' report has now been completed, and as expected, does not make for pleasant reading.

In addition to the minor asbestos problems reported in the last issue (Winter 2016), it states that a new roof is required, also a new window, with showers and changing rooms both needing expanding and up-grading. In short, if we implement the above and add the upgrades that are required today to make access suitable for wheel-chairs we will be looking at a figure in excess of £100,000.

The good news is that none of the issues identified above are critical or very urgent – we have some time to make plans for the future. The Pavilion Sports and Field Committee, in unison with Peppard Stoke Row Cricket Club, feel that a new Pavilion is arguably the best path to follow: With a new Pavilion costing between £300,000 and £400,000, a 'new build' will be eligible for several grants – such that, from parishioners' points of view, it may well be more cost effective than repairing and refurbishing.

A purpose-built, modern Pavilion will serve the Cricket Club and other Sports Pavilion users much more effectively. A new Pavilion will be much more energy efficient and much warmer. Present construction of the walls is only 'single-skin' – very inefficient on energy consumption.

It goes without saying that the new Pavilion will need to fit in well with the rural surroundings and country setting. If, and when, we move forward designs for the new Pavilion will be made available to everyone.

To reiterate, we have time to consider new plans – we believe this is a three to five year project. So, on this basis, we would welcome parishioners' thoughts, views and comments on a new Pavilion. (Please contact our Parish Clerk on clerk@rppc.org.uk).

Superfast broadband is now very much in discussion within the Parish. Approxi-

Parish Council

Chairman: Simon Crouch
e-mail: simon.crouch@rppc.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Joanne Askin
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Shiplake Cross, Oxon. RG9 4DE
Tel: 0118 940 6809

e-mail: clerk@rppc.org.uk

Website: www.rppc.org.uk
SODC Councillors: Charles Bailey
Charles.Bailey@southoxon.gov.uk
& David Nimmo-Smith

David.Nimmo-Smith@southoxon.gov.uk

OCC Councillor: David Bartholomew
07769 808773

david.bartholomew@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council usually meets on 2nd Monday of the month at 19.30 in the Pavilion. Parishioners may attend and observe, and may briefly raise issues of concern to them. All may attend intermediate planning meetings as well - see Diary for dates and times.

mately 75% of the Parish now has access to speeds of 25 to 30Mbps. However, this is of no solace to the remaining 25%! Let us say quickly that it is not the responsibility of RPPC to 'roll-out' or deliver this service; the task falls to BBfO (Better Broadband for Oxfordshire) in turn part of Oxfordshire County Council.

Areas to the north of the Parish, i.e. Kingwood Common and Wyfold, which constitute the 25% are worst affected, and are still awaiting Superfast Broadband. BBfO confirmed at the Parish meeting on the 13th February that they are currently working towards providing a service to these parish regions around December 2017.

Finally, on a very positive note, we welcome two new members to our Council team – Mrs Jennifer Wood (Councillor) and Joanne Askin (Parish Clerk). We welcome them and thank them in advance for their on-going contribution towards our Parish Community.

Simon Crouch

Community Speedwatch

Rotherfield Peppard's Speedwatch programme is now underway. During January they actioned the first Speedwatch hour long session on Top Common. The team reported vehicles that were registered travelling between 36 and 51 mph in the 30mph area. Registration plate numbers were recorded and our local Police (Thames Valley) are writing to the offenders.

Speedwatch sessions are continuing every fortnight (or so) and are co-ordinated with TVP (who kindly provide the Speed detection equipment).

As always, we need more volunteers to enable more frequent monitoring. (Please contact our Parish Clerk on clerk@rppc.org.uk)

The message is clear – *Please keep your speed down when driving through the village!*

Simon Crouch

Great British Spring Clean

This year's theme for cleaning our parish lanes and verges is The Great British Spring Clean. It is taking place throughout South Oxfordshire over the weekend of 3rd-5th March.

For our Parish, the Spring Clean will take place on Saturday 4th March, and will start outside the Unicorn Pub at 10:00. All equipment (gloves, bags, pickers and hi-vis jackets) will be provided. Last year approximately 20 people turned up.

This year we are hoping for 25, so please feel free to join. As for the rubbish we collected, we stopped counting the large refuse bags after we reached 30. It is always very worthwhile.

Simon Crouch

From John Howell, MP

The Government has dedicated a £1,315,000 pothole fund for 2017/18. It is part of a £1.2 billion fund for local roads that the government is allocating to councils to repair and rebuild our transport links.

The total allocation for Oxfordshire comes to £19,409,000. For further information visit John Howell's website www.johnhowellmp.com.



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Snippets

Coffee and Cakes with Dr Burnett

Dr Burnett will be hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 1st April from 10:00 to midday at Sonning Common Village Hall in aid of Sue Ryder. All are welcome.

Egg Hunts

In both Greys Court and Nuffield Place, the National Trust is holding Cadbury Egg Hunts. Hunt for clues to win a Cadbury chocolate bunny prize. Friday 14th - Monday 17th April. £3 per trail

Nettlebed & District Commons Conservators

The Annual Friends of the Commons meeting will be on Wednesday 15th March 19:30 at Nettlebed Community Hall, Nettlebed School, High Street, Nettlebed. Talk by Rod d'Ayala *Our Wonderful Commons – a Haven for Wildlife*. RSVP Liz Longley Tel 01491 641445 email clerk@nettlebed-commons.org.

The Holiday Club @ Chiltern Edge

Childcare for 4-16 year olds. Easter: Monday 10th April – Thursday 13th April. Summer: Monday 24th July- Friday 18th August. Weekdays 08:30-15:30 or 17:30. Daily rate: 08:30-15:30 £30. 15:30-17:30 £8. Contact the school for an application form, 0118 972 1500 or e-mail theholidayclub@chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk.

Electricity Cuts – Priority Services Register

Anyone with a young baby, disability, chronic illness or in receipt of the State Pension is eligible to join the SSE Priority Services Register. For information and the registration form visit www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServicesRegistrationForm or phone 0800 2943259, mobile 03450721900 or text 0800 3165457.

Nomination for Local Crime Writer

When Vera Morris, former headteacher of Chiltern Edge School, had her crime novel, *Some Particular Evil*, published by Accent Press in 2016, she didn't envisage what would happen.

Accent Press have nominated it for the 2017 Crime Writers' Association Crimefest eDunnit Award and, even more thrilling, many of her old pupils have made contact with her via Facebook. Said Vera, 'I've heard from so many Chiltern Edgers, details of their lives, it's fascinating to find out what has happened to them – it's lovely to know they've remembered me'.

The Ways and Means Trust

The charity will have stalls at Beanpole Day at Caversham Court on Saturday 22nd April and Henley Allotment Association Sale in Henley Market Place on Saturday 27th May. Greenshoots will be open on 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th May and 3rd June. For more information phone 01491 628933 or email denise@waysandmeans.org.uk.

Skatepark Safety

Users of the Bishopswood Sports Ground Skatepark should have access to a mobile phone so that they can phone home or dial 999 in an emergency.

The ambulance service has been provided with full details of the park's location. The ambulances will carry bolt cutters so that paramedics can access the site, if necessary.

Details on what to do in an emergency are posted at the park. The skatepark is unsupervised and is used at people's own risk. Any misuse, damage or vandalism should be reported to Sonning Common Parish Council on 0118 972 3616 or Thames Valley Police on 101.

Peppard Unplugged

Peppard Unplugged is entering its third year, a very popular evening held in the Peppard War Memorial Hall on the first Saturday evening every month starting at 19:30.

Dates for Peppard Unplugged: 4th February, 4th March, 6th May, 3rd June, 1st July. Please refer to the website www.peppardwarmemorialhall.btik.com for details of the April event nearer the time.

Matters of Life and Death

A *Matters of Life and Death* Open Day will be held at Sue Ryder hospice, in association with Sonning Common Health Centre, on Wednesday 1st March, 10:00-16:00 to provide information and advice about advanced care planning. All are invited to attend. The FISH minibus will also pick you up from your home if you do not have your own transport. See our website, www.peppardnews.co.uk, for more details.

Walking Football

This is for anyone regardless of age or fitness. All rules are the same as conventional football but players can only walk. Designed to help people get fit or maintain an active lifestyle. Every Wednesday 10:30, Bishopswood Sports Ground, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. For further information contact Andy Tidswell Tel 07710 875728 or just turn up.

Sue Ryder Events

There will be many events in aid of the Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice this spring. These include getting sponsorship for an outrageous hair style or colour, the Reading Half Marathon and On Your Bike.

See www.sueryder.org or www.PeppardNews.co.uk for details.



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Our Village

Dr Andrew Burnett Retires

Sadly this is the end of a great era with Andrew Burnett at Sonning Common Health Centre.

I first met Andrew at my GP interviews in 1992 and was won over by his dry sense of humour and relaxed but professional approach. I first came to the practice for one month as a GP trainee and soon realised how much I wanted to be part of the fantastic team at Sonning Common. I then spent two years working in hospitals but Andrew kept me focussed on general practice and involved with practice events. My year as a GP trainee was fantastic; Andrew made an excellent trainer, pushing me to attempt things I was less than keen to do and stretching me to be independent and make difficult decisions.

I have many fun memories of tutorials in Andrew's garden eating lollies on a Friday afternoon, hilarious dinners in the ever-friendly Burnett household, Scottish dancing at New Year when heavily pregnant, the odd Friday afternoon tutorial with Andrew nodding off to sleep, garden parties and, of course, lots of sharing of wisdom.

I was delighted to be asked to join the partnership after my training and have enjoyed the last 21 years beside Andrew as a GP partner, where he has gradually moved me from the trainer/trainee relationship to what is sometimes a role reversal and now, as he retires, to becoming senior partner in his place.

He has been a fantastic role model, balancing good business sense with dedication and amazing commitment to excellent patient care and being a supportive employer. He has always been good at making firm decisions when needed. He has had great ideas for development and always pushed us to consider how we could improve further, even when the practice has been praised for its high standards and excellence in patient care.

Andrew has always been very straight and ensured fairness prevailed, being happy to take on more than his share of work, with a positive air and outlook, despite some trying times and disappointing political decisions. I will really miss his immense support, good humour, optimism, positivity and resilience and his attitude of 'can and will do', whatever is thrown our way. I will strive to ensure the practice continues to flourish and maintain the high standards set by Andrew. He leaves huge shoes to fill and a great legacy of success and development to sustain and build upon into the future.

Andrew should be incredibly proud of all

he has facilitated and created in Sonning Common. Happy well-deserved retirement Andrew (at such a young age) and do not go too far away!

Dr Kim Emerson



Dr Andrew Burnett

Andrew came to the practice in 1985 to replace the retiring Dr Peter Hemphill who founded the Sonning Common Practice. It was already well established, with a highly functioning team. So we needed a young dynamic partner and Andrew fitted the bill.

His major contribution in his early years was to take responsibility for fund-holding; a new development which enabled practices to have their own budgets for placing hospital contracts for such things as hip replacements and cataracts. As a result of Andrew's grasp of the details, we were able to reduce our patients' waiting lists for many procedures. He was also intimately involved in the extension of the Health Centre: it was originally only on one floor and smaller than it is now.

Andrew has made a major contribution to medical care in the village and we wish him well in his retirement.

Dr John Hasler, Former Senior Partner

Health Walks

As I write it's raining – again! If you fancy a trudge in the mud, the current walks' timetable continues until Easter, after which the new summer timetable will begin. The current timetable is available from the library, the Health Centre and the Herb Farm, or on the website at www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable. If you'd like to talk to someone about the health walks, phone Colin Davies on 0118 972 2527.

Rosemary Dunstan

Green Gym

In one year's time, the Green Gym movement will be 20 years old. Now there are 60 or more across the UK. Not bad for a venture that started in Sonning Common. But then there's a lot of satisfaction to be gained from keeping fit while enhancing our countryside.

During the next few weeks, we'll be at Ewelme Watercress Beds, Binfield Heath, Bishopswood Sports Field, Greys Court, Nettlebed Common, Borocourt Wood and Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve, and a number of other places. It's always nice to welcome new people, even if you think you're fit, just to keep our countryside looking good. You'll learn new skills, meet a great crowd of people and do something really worthwhile. If you want more information, give us a call on 0118 972 3528 or look at the website www.sonningcommon.tcv.org.uk.

John Hasler

The Passing of Tim Norman

The many, many residents of Kingwood and Peppard Commons who came together in 2002, and fought, with the support of Prince Charles and our then MP, Boris Johnson, to save, and re-open, the Unicorn pub, may be sorry to hear that our popular landlord, before and after the reopening, Tim Norman, has died in hospital, of pneumonia. Tim, with his partner Steve, really enjoyed living in this area. Many walkers, cyclists, FISH lunch parties, Peppard Lunch Club members and, of course, local residents will remember him with fondness.

Rhona Ash

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Junior Peppard News

The Peppard Primary School children are back from their two week Christmas holiday. The children have had some amazing trips and topics, plus the Ofsted inspection, since their return. In this issue you will read about some of the most exciting things the school has been up to. So start reading now!

The Junior Peppard News Editors

An Interview With Reverend James Stickings

Another new face at Peppard School this year is the Reverend James Stickings. He has taken over our church services and is always a welcome and popular visitor to our school. We emailed him about his impressions of Peppard and got to know a bit about his background.

Reverend James moved to Kidmore End with his wife and daughter in early September 2016 from Headington in Oxford where he was the Curate (assistant priest in training) at Holy Trinity Headington Quarry. He told us that this church was famous for being the church of C.S. Lewis, the author of the *Narnia Chronicles* and lots more.

He likes the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of our school, but his favourite church service is a baptism. He says, 'There's a real sense of joy and fresh beginnings – which is what the Christian faith is all about'.

We asked him whether he spoke any other languages and he speaks German from when he lived in Germany as a child and he is learning Italian.

Reverend James talked about religion in the wider world and commented that 'although the religions of the world are in some ways very different, in other ways there's a lot of common ground, especially when you focus on what we can do together, such as working for peace.'

When asked what his favourite church was Reverend James said, 'I love the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York City, which always moves me deeply. It's still unfinished, but it's very beautiful.'

And finally, we had to ask him what his favourite sandwich was, 'Ah, that's an easy one. I love the Reuben sandwich, which isn't something you often see here in the UK. It consists of salt beef, sauerkraut, and cheese on toasted rye bread. But if I can't get a Reuben, I'll settle for chicken mayo on a baguette...'

The Junior Peppard News Editors



Greys Class enjoying their pizzas

Grey's Class Trips

In Grey's Class We love our trips!

When we were learning about healthy eating we went to pizza express. We learned about lots of different types of food and we got to make our own pizza.

Recently we have been learning about life in the 1950s. We went to Grey's Court where we looked at lots of fantastic things from the 1950s. Including a picture of the Brunners in their garden. Then we had a workshop where we made a crown and a patchwork quilt and had a quiz.

We also went to Windsor Castle to learn about our queen. We saw some dolls and a doll's house. I pretended to be the Archbishop and I crowned Queen Astrid. It was an amazing day.

By Jemima Hall

Corrections

Peppard News apologises for two misspelled names in the previous edition.

The following corrections apply: Laila Webb was the Peppard Class art competition winner and Bethan Toward was the Springwood Class art competition winner.

Peppard School Young Musicians

On Thursday 15th December five of our young musicians took part in the Henley Music School performance at Trinity Church as part of the Living Advent Calendar. While the venue is advertised the performers are kept a secret so each night there is a surprise.

This performance included Benedict, Jemima and Jonty Hall playing *Jingle Bells* and *Silent Night* as part of the 'cello ensemble'. They have been learning the 'cello' with the Henley Music School since May last year and loved having the opportunity to perform in front of an enthusiastic audience. Benedict said 'I loved it, it was a great experience.'

Sienna Keyte also played some Christmas music as part of the violin and strings groups while Francesca Keyte put in an outstanding performance of *Frosty the Snowman* and *The Christmas Alphabet* as part of the junior choir. The Junior Choir definitely brought the house down as the final performance of a very enjoyable evening.

By Jonty Hall

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Junior Peppard News cont'd

Young Voices 2017

After practising for five months, the Peppard school choir set off to London to take part in one of the world's largest school choir concerts. Once they had set off, they passed the time by singing, playing top trump cards and generally being excited for the night ahead.



The Peppard School Choir

At around 12:00, they arrived at the O2. Thanks to the fact that they have been three years in a row, they were finding their seats and eating their lunch in no time. By the time everyone had finished, the other schools were making their way back in to the concert hall for the rehearsals. Once they were over, the children happily ate their delicious, but cold, tea.

Eventually, the big show had arrived! All the adults were seated and the band was tuning their instruments. After what felt like hours, the compère waltzed on stage and introduced the conductor.

They sang some old classics like *Bird-house In Your Soul* and *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*. Also they sang Welsh songs and a famous Scottish song. After three hours of singing, there came the finale, a new song that is going to be put forward for a record deal.

The show finished at 21:00 and they slept all the way back home (they got back to school at 23.30!)

In conclusion, everyone enjoyed their experience, and slept very well that night.

By Lois Powell

Football Tournament

In October Years 5 and 6 went to a football tournament at Bishopswood Sports Ground. They played other schools such as Kidmore End and Sonning Common in six aside matches. The Peppard Team won two, drew one and lost two matches.

James Edgell in Year 6 and Archie Croft in Year 5 were particularly strong goal keepers. Jake Wilde and Joseph Biggin both scored a considerable number of goals.

Jake Y5 commented on the game 'it was good fun'. Joe Y6 said 'I liked it because we got to the semi-finals'. Kits Y5 said that 'the event brings all the schools together'. Olly Y6 commented that 'it was good fun and we did well considering we are a small school'.

James Y6 commented that it was particularly fun as the team was playing other schools'.

By Archie Croft

Netball Tournament

Recently, Springwood class went to Gillots secondary school to compete at a Netball tournament. There were two teams and they both did amazingly. They did brilliantly because they all worked as a unit. Here are some quotes from the team players:

'It was really fun and a great opportunity to meet new schools.' said Amber-Lily, Yr 6.

'We had a great time and it's nice to play netball with other teams.' Said Nina, Yr 5.

It sounds like they really enjoyed it and are willing to do it again!

By Lily Jelowitz

Highmoor Trip To The Victorian Classroom

Highmoor class went on a trip into the past to experience what it was like to be a Victorian schoolchild.

First we got dressed in smart collars and pinafores and then filed into the classroom to meet our Victorian teacher.

Our teacher was ~~extremely~~ extremely strict. Zoe got the ~~teachers~~ hat after we did writing as he/she had plotted it. Our teacher pretended to give Archie the cane as it had been reported that he had kicked a ball into the headmasters window. It was sort of scary but really, really fun!

By Tony Hall



A Victorian Classroom

Brazil

During this term, Springwood class has been learning about Brazil. Everyone has enjoyed the activities and has learnt a ton of facts.

In the first lesson, they learnt about the different climates and compared the Brazilian temperature to the English. There was quite a difference!

Springwood class had more lessons on the subject:

Jessica Wilson, Year 6, said, 'The fat king Momo, needs to be given a gold key before the carnival started.'

Georgia Ruff, Year 5, said, 'Ordem e Progresso, which is on the Brazilian flag, means order and progress in Portuguese'.

Olivia Shepherd, Year 6, said, 'I enjoyed it because it was very creative'.

By Lois Powell

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Peppard Class Trip to See The Room on The Broom

Peppard Class had a wonderful trip to the Hexagon theatre to watch the show *Room on the Broom* on the 31st January. They had been using this story in their Literacy lessons. They had retold the story and changed some characters. The show demonstrated how effective innovating a story can be. The show inspired some lovely art work from the children.

Here are the children's reviews of the show.

Annabelle said 'My favourite part of *Room on the Broom* was when the frog sang his song, it was so funny'.

Dexter said 'My favourite part in *Room on the Broom* was when the broom snapped and all the characters fell off'.

Evie said 'I loved it when the dragon was dancing with the witch and said 'maybe just once I will have Witch without chips for my tea.' It wasn't a scary dragon, it was someone dressed up'.

By Peppard Class

Ukulele and Recorder

This academic year Years 3 and 4 are learning recorder with Mr Pip Marples. The Year 5 and 6 are learning ukulele with Darren Hillier.

It is good to learn an instrument. It takes time and dedication to improve.

The ukulele are all bright colours, red, blue, pink and green. These look quite a sight when the pupils all play in a group. We are learning how to play *You Are My Sunshine* and *Rip-Tide*. Some students that play

Ukulele gave some comments: Kits Y5 said, 'I love playing it's a great experience'. Fran and Matilda in Y6 said 'Yes it's great to play'. Jess Y6 said, 'Yes in my spare time. It's brilliant'.

Pip Marples is a focused teacher of the recorder. He has helped the Year 3 and 4 learn music. Year 4 know notes top D,C ,A,G F sharp, E and bottom D. While year 3 know D,C, A and G. Freddie Y4 said he 'really enjoyed the lessons'. Dylan said he found it 'great fun'.

Learning a musical instrument is great fun and we would recommend it to everybody!



Ukulele lessons

By Archie Croft

Rapunzel - A Tangled Tale

Two children from Peppard Primary School (Sienna Keyte and Charlie Upsher) took part in *Rapunzel a Tangled Tale*. The director and writer of the play was Muffin Hurst. After four months of tears, sweat and rehearsals the first show came around. On the 30th December at 1:00pm the show began.

Charlie Upsher's view on the play: 'I thought it was an amazing opportunity for all. I got to say a lot and sing with Rapunzel and two other singers! I absolutely loved it! I can't wait till the next performance.'

Sienna Keyte's favourite bits: 'I loved it when Hairy Clary Balding did an 'I'm watching you sign' at the end. I also liked it when everyone sang 'pantomime' at the end of the play and I liked Sir Donald Trumpington's accent.'

All in all, the cast had a great time and, I believe, the audience loved it too!



Charlie Upsher in Rapunzel

By Charlie Upsher

Mrs Hall Interview

Mrs Hall has started in Peppard Primary School as a TA in Springwood class. She also helps out in the Peppard *Junior News*. We have asked her some questions:

What's your favorite sandwich filling? 'Egg mayonnaise with cress.'

Did you have a job before you were at Peppard? 'I worked in IT for 11 years until I had children.'

Have you so far enjoyed working at Peppard Primary? 'I love working here its a great school.'

Do you think you are learning anything at Peppard? 'There are things to learn everyday but I am particularly enjoying learning the Ukulele.'

Whats your favourite thing about Peppard? 'The fantastic, inclusive and caring environment.'

Do you wish in any other time in your life to become a teacher? 'I am very much enjoying being involved in education and I can imagine wanting to become a teacher in the future.'

What's your favourite type of tea? 'I love herbal teas, but nettle is my favourite.'

Do you like Fish 'n' Chips? 'Of course I do, who doesn't?'

Mrs Hall has been a great help in the school and we are glad to hear she enjoys her job at Peppard.

By Archie Croft and Charlie Upsher.

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Our Village cont'd

Mrs Mollie Walker's 108th Birthday!

Belated best wishes to Mrs Walker from the *Peppard News* Team! Kingwood's oldest resident remains well and living in her own home with support from her daughter, Sheila, who lives locally, and her son who comes to stay one night a week. Sheila tells me her mother received over 20 cards on her birthday earlier this month including one from the Queen. Mrs Walker enjoys the company of her dog and going out shopping with her daughter. She normally cooks her own meals but on her birthday took a break from cooking and enjoyed a roast prepared for her by the Unicorn Pub.

Sue Nickson

Peppard War Memorial Hall.

In December we had an Open Morning where the improvements undertaken to the hall and the refurbished Club Room and the outside area, formerly the bowls green, could be seen. Councillor Paul Harrington, Chairman of South Oxfordshire District Council, unveiled a plaque naming all those over the last eight years who have helped with the hall renovations. All the facilities are now available for hire including the Club Room for smaller events. Alongside all of this, is the availability of the outside area for summer parties, receptions, etc.

We launched the idea of 'Friends of the Hall' and a number of visitors signed up to this idea. We are looking for others so that in future we can email around asking for volunteers to do odd jobs such as maintaining the planters in the open area, hedge cutting or outside decoration, etc. A few hours is all we are asking for on an occasional basis. We look forward to hearing from you, please email: p.w.m.h.bookings@hotmail.co.uk.

Clive Mills

Library News

Children's storytimes take place every Saturday at 10:00, and our next 'special' storytime will be for Mothers' Day, on 25th March. On every 3rd Thursday of the month, Age Concern holds a drop-in session at the library from 10:45-12:00, for all your age-related questions. Also every Thursday from 10:00-12:00 we have a Gadget Drop-in session, with volunteers on hand to help with your smartphone/laptop/tablet related questions. This is proving to be so popular that it is advisable to book!

We will be closed on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday, but for the first time in living memory will be open on Easter Saturday (15th April). We have a Scrabble Club every Friday (except Easter) from 10:00-12:00. Rhythmetimes for pre-school children and babies are held on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 10:00.

Rosemary Dunstan

Friends of Sonning Common Library

The Friends has recently been revived and has held its first AGM. More than 80 people have now joined, paying an annual subscription of £10. We have also received donations, including two very generous gifts from Sonning Common WI and Nottakwire. Cuts by OCC and the loss of the library's individual book fund have made this money vital for our survival; it will go towards buying books and other resources. We have also lost the mobile library, but it has not stopped Peppard Primary School pupils who now make regular visits in their minibus.

FoSCL wants to ensure that the library remains at the heart of village life and are planning fund raising activities for

later in the year. This vital local service survives with the help of a team of volunteers; please support them and the dedicated library staff, either by joining FoSCL or simply by using the library. Becoming a Friend is easy, pop into the library in Grove Road and fill in a form.

Helen Fort

Nextdoor

Nearly 50 people have joined the Rotherfield Peppard neighbourhood network on www.Nextdoor.co.uk. We hope to help each other in a number of ways - sharing recommendations on goods, services, collaborating with information updates and buying things like oil as a group to save everyone money. Do join online if this sounds helpful - or call me on 07785 308378 if you would like to know more.

George Elkington

Peppard and Kingwood Commons

A piece of good news: the Parish Council is increasing its support for the commons. Top Common will now have two annual cuts which will improve grass quality. In addition to the cut carried out by the County Council, the verges that border commons will be cut. Grass cutting is our largest single expenditure and the Council's contribution to this cost, together with maintaining its grant for other conservation activities, will be very significant. The Council's generosity reflects recognition that the commons are at the heart of the parish and very much define its character and charm.

Fly-tipping continues to be a problem with builders' rubble being dumped on Top Common. Whilst SODC quickly deals with it, the culprits are rarely held to account. CCTV has been deployed at similar sites, and may be an option here.

Please contact our Clerk, Liz Longley, e-mail clerk@nettlebed-commons.org if you



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Peppard People

think you would like to join the monthly work parties. See www.nettlebed-commons.org for more information.

Tony Racombe

Greenshoots

We had record wreath sales before Christmas and our students really enjoyed making them, especially trying their hand at a bespoke design or colour. We now have some lovely pots of spring bulbs for sale, which would be perfect for Mother's Day or Easter presents.

The spring growing plans have begun - this week our students were making scarecrows ready for the annual pigeon battle! If you are thinking about sorting out your wardrobe or linen cupboard this spring, we would really appreciate donations of pillow cases, sheets and old clothes, so we can make some more.

The big news for us is that we begin our 50th year birthday preparations this February, so are busy planning some events for the next year to celebrate this achievement. Don't forget! - if you would like to volunteer, fundraise, or bring a group for a team build event, please call me on 01491 628933.

Frances Hill

KPCV

We are a friendly group of conservation volunteers who meet twice a month to work on our commons. We are working towards a more open woodland on Kingwood Common, small glades with healthy type/acid grassland plants under a light canopy of sparse trees. As we work in a glade any cut material is stacked into habitat piles to provide cover for reptiles and small mammals, etc. We will continue to maintain the glades and will re-use existing habitat piles, so that nutrient enrichment is concentrated; this is important for the type of habitats we want, i.e. very low nutrient grassland and heath.

Volunteers are welcome, and we usually break for coffee and cake at about 11:00. Please see the Diary on the back page for work party dates. For more details, or to join our mailing list, please contact ShKinghorn@aol.com.

Sheri Kinghorn

Georgie Bird

Georgie is the ultimate Peppard girl. Now 20, she has lived in Peppard all her life and attended local schools. She went to Gillotts in Henley, then on to Henley College for A levels. Since September, Georgie has been on a course for Allied Health Professionals at Reading College, which she completes this summer.

She combines this with running Club SC, the youth club located in Chiltern Edge School, volunteering one morning a week at Townlands Hospital Physiotherapy Department, where she helps to run a rehabilitation class for people recovering from injury, working at children's sports camps in the holidays and a busy social life. She took a year out after A levels and ran the after-school sports club at a Reading primary school for several months, as well as doing bar and shop work, before going travelling in March last year.

She went to Australia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam but unfortunately her trip was cut short, when she broke several bones in her foot and had to fly home for surgery at the Royal Berks Hospital in Reading. Her injury and subsequent recovery has increased her interest in making a career in physiotherapy. She hopes to gain a university place to study physiotherapy in the future.

Georgie has had a lifetime interest in horse riding and had her own pony from a very young age. She played netball at school and Henley College and, following her injury, is getting back to running and going to the gym again.

In September she took over as Youth Leader at Club SC which runs for two evenings a week: Tuesday evenings are for the older age group of 14-16 year olds and Wednesday evenings for 11-13 year olds. The older group consists of mainly boys at the moment, who enjoy football, basketball and dodgeball and for the younger group she has organised an animal road show, arts and crafts and karaoke. A Youth Support Worker works alongside Georgie.

She has always enjoyed living in such an attractive part of the country which has given her opportunities to pursue her outdoor interests. Georgie's love of sport and fitness seem to make her ideally suited to her future career choice as a sports physiotherapist.

In the meantime, with her ready smile and engaging manner, she is making a major contribution to the well-being of local youngsters as a Youth Leader. Peppard can be proud of a young person who is using her time to such good effect.

Sue Nickson

Reader's Letter

I recently came across Sue Nickson's enjoyable book *In Common Memory* and many memories came flooding back. I was born in Sonning Common in 1939 and was initially educated at Sonning Common County Primary school - we lads spent much time on the two commons, they were all part of the vast playground that we youngsters were able to enjoy in those days.

I subsequently attended Burford Grammar School and Seale-Hayne Agricultural College. Apparently destined for a career in agriculture it all changed when I was conscripted in to the army in 1960. I obtained a commission in the Royal Artillery before transferring to the Australian Army in 1964.

I served in that Army until 1984 retiring as a lieutenant colonel having had postings in various parts of Australia and Asia including two tours in Vietnam. On retirement I took up a position with the Defence Scientific and Technical Organisation before retiring completely in 1994. I spent almost fifty years in Australia, returning to the UK only recently. I now live near Lymington in Hampshire.

I am interested in re-establishing contact with any locals who may remember me; some of the ladies' Christian names in the book are familiar but many surnames will have changed over the years.

Looking forward to any contact (via *Peppard News*).

Sincerely, Gordon Pound

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Clubs and Societies

Peppard Revels Film Club

The club continues to be popular and we are regularly turning away people because we are overbooked. On 24th March we'll be screening that classic film – *Chariots of Fire* – about the 1924 Olympics. After that we will be pausing as usual for the summer but we'll be back again in October when once again people will be able to vote for the films they'd like to see next year. The films for this autumn are *The Imitation Game* and *Paddington* – dates will be announced later on the website and email list and in *Peppard News*.

John Hasler

Peppard Stoke Row Cricket Club

The club is gearing up for its biggest ever summer of cricket. The club's three Saturday sides will be gunning for glory in the Berkshire Cricket League Premier Division while the Sunday Unicorns are having a first ever crack at the National Village Cup. The Sunday Maharajas have an expanded fixture list with more than 20 games. Midweek Twenty20 games will take place on Wednesday and Friday nights, meaning whatever standard you play the club can offer something suitable.

Junior sides will run competitive league teams from U9-U19, with fun cricket on Sunday mornings for U6-8 at Peppard Common. Girls of any age are welcome to join. The club already has ten games in April starting on 9th April, and including a first-ever three-day tour to Leamington at the end of the month. PSR are committed to upgrading their off-field facilities and hope to buy a new roller and electronic scoreboard before the start of the season. If anyone is interested in joining the club as a senior player, please contact chairman Gerry Bacon on 07785 771847 or as a junior, Andy Watts on 07884 931906.

Richard Ashton

Chiltern Players

Our next production in April will be *Duets* by Peter Quilter.

This is a funny comedy with four sets of characters experiencing four crucial 'life' moments. They have to negotiate the bittersweet, quick-change comedic complications of a blind date (again), sticking with an unpromising office relationship, negotiating a divorce with the help of Spanish cocktails, and getting married for the third time!

See our website:

www.chilternplayers.co.uk or the Peppard Dairy (page 16) for details.

Geoff Stokes

Sonning Common and Peppard Table Tennis Club

The club's 50th anniversary season in the Reading & District Table Tennis League has been a good one so far.

This season the F team's Angus Jones is on particularly good form and the H team's Gerry Bacon, Mike Casserely and Julian James are all hard to beat.

Finally in the G team, youngsters Oliver Sayers, Mikey Legg and Jamie Legg are all getting some impressive results.

The club was saddened to hear of the recent death of one of its club stalwarts, Albert (Shep) Shephard. Shep joined the club a year after its formation in 1967 and was a regular player until a few years ago. He died in January and our thoughts are with his wife, Thelma.

Anyone interested in joining the club next season can contact me at n.maltby587@btinternet.com.

The club also continues to run junior coaching sessions on Monday evenings - contact D.wavell@talktalk.net for further information.

Nigel Maltby

Circle Dancing

If you aim to keep mind and body in good condition there's not much to beat dance and what better than to join with others in a relaxed setting where there are no mistakes, only 'variations' and where no partner nor experience is needed?

Why not give us a try first Sunday of the month at Christ the King Hall, Sedgewell Road Sonning Common 15:30 to 17:00. First time free to include refreshments to keep you going. Dates: 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June. More details call 01491 874220.

Ros Jennings

Peppard Tennis Club

The club will be holding their AGM on Wednesday 8th March in the clubhouse starting at 19:30: drinks and nibbles will be provided. The club invites all members to attend to assist the committee with the on-going success of the club.

We will once again be holding our fabulous Open Day on Sunday 30th April, with the festivities from 10:00 until 15:00. The club extends a very warm welcome to existing club members, new members and any first time visitors who would like to view and utilise the fantastic facilities available. There will be a range of events and, of course, the renowned Chairman's BBQ.

The popular club sessions continue to run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 18:30 and also Sundays from 10:00. It has been very encouraging, despite the temperatures, to see so many people braving the conditions and keeping their skills honed during the winter months - fortunately the warmer weather is on the way!

If you require any further information please visit www.peppardtennisclub.co.uk or call 0118 947 4051.

Richard Dilger

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Church Lane, Peppard



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Fund for support of educational activities

The Trust supports educational activities undertaken by under twenty-fives from Peppard. It can help with purchase of books, educational visits, special projects, and the like. If you may be eligible, or know of others who may wish to apply, please call:

Sylvia Overbury (01491 628245)

Peppard Lunch Club

Thank you to the children at Peppard School who came and sang carols for us at Christmas. Everyone enjoyed their singing. Welcome to our new members who joined us at the end of last year and in January this year. Our lunch dates are 15th March, 19th April and 17th May.

Betty Butler

A Very Big Thank You from Wyfold RDA

Our Christmas Fayre took place on a cold, miserable, drizzly day but by no way did this deter our loyal supporters. They also joined in the carol singing and bought generously from our great selection of stalls. Father Christmas and his reindeers eventually managed to find us and brighten up the day and he was kept very busy all afternoon. We were very grateful to The Hill Primary School Choir who came to sing carols and Christmas songs and there was plenty of audience participation. The event raised a wonderful £1,700 towards our funds.

Earlier in the week we had a spot at Tesco's in Henley and took £400 and also a night at The Henley Living Advent Calendar and collected £240. All this goes towards our annual target of £40,000 which is what we need to raise to keep our wonderful charity going.

We must also say a big thank you to all our local supporters who have given us donations over the Christmas and New Year period. These vary between £20 and £500 and we value every pound as just £5 buys a bale of hay to feed our hungry ponies over the harsh winter months.

We needed to have a lot of our paddock fencing renewed as it had rotted so we have been saving money for this and the work is presently being carried out. Just before Christmas we took delivery of our new 4-wheel carriage which will be able to carry a wheelchair. At the moment all our driving volunteers are having training with the new carriage which should be in action soon so you will see it around the village this spring. Do give us a wave as we go by!

Gill Rushworth



The new Wyfold RDA carriage

Peppard WI

Our members are still finding reasons, or excuses, to celebrate: we welcomed friends from other WIs in our new Beechwood group and, of course, some husbands to our December meeting.

We enjoyed mulled wine with the background music played by Tim Valentine. Ruth Whitaker welcomed everyone and reminded members of forthcoming events. Tim led us in some well-known carols and songs of yesteryear and everyone enjoyed the buffet. Father Christmas arrived with a present for everyone. After drawing the raffle, Ruth wished us all a Merry Christmas and we left the hall feeling we had had a most relaxed and enjoyable occasion.

Recently a group enjoyed a visit to the Mill at Sonning for lunch and an excellent performance of *High Society*. I was a fan of Bing Crosby in my youth so those actors had a lot to live up to and indeed they did!

In February we are celebrating our 98th birthday with a lunch at the Pack Horse. We will soon be making plans for the whole village to join us to celebrate our Centenary in 2019.

We consider ourselves very fortunate that a number of men, husbands and friends kindly help to prepare the hall and pack away after our meetings - a job which many of our members struggle to do. We welcome men to join us at any meeting when the talk is of interest to them and, of course ladies, visitors and new members are always made very welcome at Peppard.

Irene Lindsay

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Rector: Rev'd James Stickings 0118 972 1459
Churchwardens: Adrienne Heriot 01491 629254
Kathie Anderson 0118 972 2694

Dear Friends,

From the Christian perspective, thinking about spring always involves thinking about Lent and Easter too. If you're a word buff like me, you may already know that our word 'Lent' comes from the Old English *lencten* which simply meant spring or springtime. As the days lengthen and the weather warms up (hopefully), we will see the rebirth of nature mirroring the Resurrection, which for Christians is, of course, the central fact around which everything else revolves. But before we celebrate the Resurrection at Easter, we will enter into the forty days of Lent. I don't think this is because the Christian faith is about gloominess, but because all of us in our own lives know that 'the darkest hour is just before the dawn', as the proverb has it. Or, as Jesus put it, 'Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit'.

Do join us for our observance of Lent this year, when we will pray for this fruit to appear in our own lives, as we journey with Christ on the 'Way of the Cross' to the joy and celebration of Easter Day. This year there will be a Lent Group using the York Course entitled *Receiving Christ*. This will run at Christ the King at 14:00, for five weeks starting on 8th March. If you would like to attend, please do send me an e-mail to revjstickings@gmail.com, so we can order the correct number of course booklets (for which there will be a small charge). All welcome!

God bless

James

From All Saints'

It was encouraging to see so many people in Church over Christmas week and we have much to celebrate in 2017. Our new Rector, James, and his family have settled in and plans are under way to find a new House for Duty Priest.

Keith Atkinson has celebrated 50 years in the choir and at a special Festal Evensong was presented with an RSCM Medal and Certificate for long service. Choir girl, Esther-Mae, was presented with *Ancient & Modern Hymns* for good attendance throughout the year.

The Choir has sung Evensong for Epiphany at All Saints' and five members joined the combined Choirs of RSCM and Christ Church Cathedral, under the direction of Stephen Darlington, for an Epiphany Festival service. The Choir also took part in the 8th Henley Choir Festival, at the end of January. The main work was *The Requiem* by Fauré and a substantial sum was raised for the Henley branch of Parkinson's, UK.

Looking ahead, Mothering Sunday falls on 26th March; during this Family Communion service there will be a blessing of posies and the children will hand them to all ladies in the congregation.

On Good Friday, a Benefice Service will be held at St. John's, Kidmore End. Sung Eucharist for Easter Day will take place at 10:30 on 16th April at All Saints'. We would love to see our beautiful Church full, once again. It would be good if you could come.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting will take place at All Saints' on Tuesday 25th April at 20:00. Finally, our Licensed Lay Reader, Stewart Morgan, will be ordained as Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral in the summer. This is a truly wonderful achievement.

Jenny Wingrove

Charlotte Starmer-Smith Award

This award was set up by the Starmer-Smith family in memory of their teenage daughter who died of a rare condition.

It is made at the discretion of the Incumbent or Lay Chairman of the Parochial Church Council in consultation with the church wardens of All Saints' Church and is given to a young person (under 19 years) who has participated in a combination of activities such as service to the Church or choir, youth activities and sport or charity work, etc.

Shortly before Christmas, Henry Bell received the award for attendance at church, taking part in various church activities, serving at Communion services, reading lessons and raising money through sponsorship while taking part in long distance swimming events such as swimming across the Camel Estuary in Cornwall.

Adrienne Heriot

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year it will be celebrated on Friday 3rd March at 10:30 at St John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End.

This year's theme is 'Am I being unfair to you?' The service lasts about an hour followed by refreshments. All local churches are involved, everyone welcome, not just women. More information from Jane Starkey 0118 972 2741.

Jane Starkey

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Bread and Soup Lunches

Last year's Lent lunches were a great success and we hope it will be the same this year. All will be held at Christ the King Church Hall. At all three lunches you will be given delicious homemade vegetable soup, bread, fruit and tea or coffee. Please come at 12:15 on Wednesday 8th March, Wednesday 22nd March and Wednesday 5th April.

At each lunch there will be a presentation from a different charity and an opportunity to give a donation to that charity. Wednesday 8th March: Sue Hedger from Yeldall Residential Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre, Wargrave., will talk about *A Christian Response to Addiction*.

Wednesday 22nd March: Lauren Kemp of the Helen and Douglas House Children's Hospice, Oxford will talk

about the work of the hospice. Finally, on Wednesday 5th April: Oxfam's James Webb will talk about its work in Syria.

We hope you will join us. Come to all three or just one or two if you can't make them all.

Booking is essential, Tel Sue Nickson 0118 972 4520 or Ann Butler-Smith 0118 972 1871. Lifts can be arranged.

Sue Nickson

St Michael's Catholic Church

Father Michael Sharkey
Deacon Brian Theobald 0118 972 2796
e-mail: stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk

St Michael's now has daily Mass, usually at 09:30, but 12:00 on Thursdays. Our Sunday Masses begin with the Vigil Mass at 17:30 on Saturday evening; then 09:00 and 10:30 on Sunday morning. Lenten Talks on Wednesdays at 19:45 in church. Lives of the Saints: John Henry Newman,

John Vianney, Edith Stein, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Francis of Assisi. Starts on 8th March.

Our weekly newsletter is available on our website:
www.saintmichaelssonningcommon.org.uk
Father Michael Sharkey

St Michael's has a new resident parish priest. He is Father Michael Sharkey. He has been transferred from Lichfield where he spent the last 18 years. Prior to that he had various other appointments including teaching theology in the seminary at Oscott College, 11 years in the Vatican, and four other parish placements.

Holy Week			
Monday	19:30	Penance Service	
Holy Thursday	19:00	Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Good Friday	Assemble 10:00	Walk of Witness	Christ the King
	12:00	Children's Stations of the Cross	
	15:00	Solemn Passion	
	19:00	Stations of the Cross	
Holy Saturday	20:00	Easter Vigil	
Easter Sunday	09:00 & 10:30	Mass	



Kevin and Linsey Potter
0118 972 4519
www.springwaterchurch.org.uk

warm, friendly and welcoming environment for parents with babies & toddlers aged 0-3 (specifically up to the term after the child's 3rd birthday); Various prayer and bible studies are ongoing, please contact *Springwater* for more details; The church community regularly meets on Sunday mornings from 10:30 till noon and services vary in style. All are welcome and prayer is available for anyone who would like us to pray for them.

Springwater also periodically undertakes workshops, over March and April we will run bread-making workshops in partnership with *Compassionate Loaf*, and all are welcome to attend. Please use the email below for further information. You can be kept informed on any additional workshops and get the details of all the gatherings at *Springwater* by checking out the new website www.springwaterchurch.org.uk, by emailing contactspringwater@gmail.com or by phoning 0118 972 4519.

Kevin Potter

Currently there are several activities in Blounts Court Road on-going during the week.

Tuesday morning at 09:45: ASPIRE, a women's group, meet to share life and discuss a topical book; Wednesday morning at 10:00: THE ARK provides a safe,

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Peppard Diary

MARCH					
Wed	1	Sue Ryder/Matters of life & death/10:00-16:00/01491641384	Wed	12	WI/Round Australia/PWMH/14:00
Fri	3	Women's Wrld Dy of Prayer/St John's KE/10:30/01189722741	Fri	14	Egg Hunts/Greys Ct/Nuffield Place
Sat	4	Peppard Unplugged/PWMH/19:30/01189723609			SC Library closed
		Great British Spring Clean/Unicorn/10:00	Sat	15	Egg Hunts/Greys Ct/Nuffield Place
Sun	5	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15:30-17:00/01491 874220	Sun	16	Easter Day
Mon	6	Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com			Egg Hunts/Greys Ct/Nuffield Place
Wed	8	WI/Annual Meeting/PWMH/14:00			SC Library closed
		Lent Lunch/Christ the King/12:15/0118 9724520 or 9721871	Mon	17	Egg Hunts/Greys Ct/Nuffield Place
Fri	10	FOPS Quiz Night			SC Library closed
Mon	13	RPPC Meeting/19:30/Pavilion			Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com
Wed	15	Peppard Lunch Club/PWMH/12:00/01491 681780	Wed	19	Peppard Lunch Club/PWMH/12:00/01491 681780
		Frnds of Cmms Annual Mtg/Nettbed Sch/19:00/01491 641445	Sat	22	RPPC Annual Parish Mtg/10:00/Pavilion
Sat	18	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30			Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com
		Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com			Greenshoots at Caversham Ct/01491 628933
Wed	22	Lent Lunch/Christ the King/12:15/0118 9724520 or 9721871	Mon	24	Peppard School Term begins
Fri	24	Revels Flm Club/ <i>Chariots of Fire</i> /PWMH/19:00/07747762871	Sat	29	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30
Sat	25	RPPC/Planning/10:00/Pavilion			RPPC/Planning/10:00/Pavilion
		SC Library/Mothers' Day Storytime/10:00	Sun	30	Peppard Tennis Club/Open Day/10:00-15:00
Sun	26	Mothering Sunday	MAY		
Thu	30	Chiltern Players/ <i>Duets</i> /PWMH/20:00/0118 9722632	Sat	6	Peppard Unplugged/PWMH/19:30/01189723609
Fri	31	Chiltern Players/ <i>Duets</i> /PWMH/20:00/0118 9722632	Sun	7	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15:30-17:00/01491 874220
APRIL			Mon	8	RPPC Annual Mtg/Council/19:30/Pavilion
Sat	1	Chiltern Players/ <i>Duets</i> /PWMH/20:00/0118 9722632			Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com
		Dr Burnett's Coffee morning/SC Vill Hall/10:00-12:00	Wed	10	WI/Resolutions/Writing yr life story/PWMH/14:00
		Peppard Unplugged/see PWMH website for details	Wed	17	Peppard Lunch Club/PWMH/12:00/01491 681780
Sun	2	On your Bike/www.onyourbikesonningcommon.co.uk	Fri	19	Woodlane Dentistry/Open Day/15:30-20:00
		Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15:30-17:00/01491 874220	Sat	20	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30
Wed	5	Lent Lunch/Christ the King/12:15/0118 9724520 or 9721871			Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com
Fri	7	Peppard School Term Ends	Sat	27	Greenshoots/Henley Market 01491 628933
Sat	8	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30			RPPC/Planning/10:00/Pavilion
		S Chiltern Choral Soc/Uni of Rdg/19:00/07500032840	Mon	29	Peppard School half-term
Mon	10	RPPC Meeting/19:30/Pavilion			
FISH Office: 0118 972 3986 (Mon-Fri, 09:30-11:30) office@fishvolunteercentre.co.uk					
SC Library/Age UK Drop-in/Thu 10:45-12:00/Gadget drop-in/10:00-12:00			Walking Football/Bishopswood Grnd – Wed 10:30/07710875778		

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SC Library/Age UK Drop-in/Thu 10:45-12:00/Gadget drop-in/10:00-12:00

Walking Football/Bishopswood Grnd – Wed 10:30/07710875778

Church Services

Sunday Services at All Saints'	MARCH				APRIL					MAY				NOTES
	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	14 th April – Good Friday:
10.30 Communion (sung)		✓		✓		✓	✓		B		✓		✓	10.00 Matins and Litany
10.30 Matins	✓				✓					✓				14.00 Liturgy of Good Friday at Kidmore End
10.30 Family Service			✓					✓				✓		A Festal Evensong
10.30 Sunday School		✓					✓				✓			X No service
18.30 Evensong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Spring Calendar

Wednesday 1st March	20.00	Ash Wednesday	Holy Communion
Friday 3rd March	10.30		Women's World Day or Prayer – Kidmore End
Sunday 26th March		Mothering Sunday	
Sunday 9th April		Palm Sunday	
Sunday 16th April		Easter Sunday	
Sunday 21st May		Rogation Sunday	
Sunday 28th May	20.00	Ascension Day	Holy Communion at Christ the King

Sunday Services at Springwater (Peppard Congregational Church)

Family Service: 10.30 - 11.45 ♦ Sunday School 10.30 - 11.30

Mass at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church

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Our Schools

Kidmore End Pre-School

Hello from the pre-school. We hope that you have all had a very pleasant and restful Christmas and New Year. At pre-school, both children and staff were certainly ready for the holidays after a busy final few weeks of the year but now we are raring to start the new term, wrapped up in big coats, woolly hats and gloves! As our topic of Baby Animals has proved so popular, we have decided to continue with it for a little while longer.

This term we are going to be reading the lovely book *Owl Babies* and discussing owl habitats and all things owl, before moving on to *The Three Little Pigs* where we will be discussing the different houses and doing craft activities involving the different types of housing materials they used to tie in with the story. When I was in pre-school the other day, the children were loving *Owl Babies* and enjoying acting out the story with Nicky's beautiful soft toy owls. A wonderful log/branch had been fashioned out of corrugated cardboard, and the children were enthralled!

It's a term full of other celebrations too and we have things planned for Burn's Night, Chinese New Year with our noodle days and many other activities so that we shall not even notice if it is cold and grey outside. Excitingly, the pre-school has now got a Facebook page. Do look us up and like and share what you see. We're hoping to reach lots of you with our news on a regular basis.

We are a small pre-school set in a rural location, with session numbers limited to 14 children. We are always looking for new committee members, not necessarily with children still at the pre-school. If this is something that you might be interested in taking on – it's not a huge time commitment, but it is a really important contribution to the running of the pre-school – please do not hesitate to let us know. We would welcome the support.

I do still have a limited number of spaces on the register so if you would like more information about our wonderful pre-school, or you would like to add your child to our waiting list, please do not hesitate to let me know. You can contact me on 0118 948 4985 or e-mail enquiries@keps.co.uk. Please see our website at www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk for further information or find us on Facebook.

Emma Hawker

Our Young Achievers

Will Legg



This 18-year-old Peppard Stoke Row Cricket Club teenager is enjoying the opportunity of a lifetime playing cricket at the world-renowned Darren Lehmann Academy in Adelaide, Australia. Having scored more than 1,000 runs for PSR during the past two summers, he went down-under at the start of the year for a three-month stint to further hone his skills.

Last year's Oratory School 1st XI captain began in Group Two at the Academy – set up by current Australia national coach Darren Lehmann – but quickly impressed coaches including Australian and South African internationals Mark Cosgrove and Johan Botha. He has moved into Group One alongside England Under19 star George Hankins and a selection of county-contracted players, including Somerset's left-arm spinner Dom Bess. Legg's room-mate, Arthur Godsal, was called up from the Academy by England Under19s for their tour of India late in January.

The training regime is gruelling, focusing on strength and conditioning, with players taken out of their comfort zone doing activities such as boxing and the infamous 'Snake Pit' – a sand-based running track where participants have to run the final lap while carrying water in their mouths.

Legg has been playing club cricket for Brighton CC in the Premier Grade of the Adelaide Turf Association competition, and also replaced Hampshire's Joe Weatherley in playing for the Academy against Future Stars recently. He said:

'It has been an eye-opening but wonderful experience. It has been incredibly tough work but I am sure I will see the benefits. The opportunity to play with professional cricketers has been incredible and the standard of coaching is exceptional, so I am hoping to have a really productive summer when I am back in England. I have also learned to cook for myself which I am happy about!'

Richard Ashton

Evie Paton

Evie, Year 4, has been very successful in her cross country. As she has worked hard and has been doing it for a long time, we decided to interview her.

She has been running since Year 1 and her furthest distance is 5k. She has been placed 1st—her best ever. Evie likes running in park runs or fields.

Her sister started running first; her Mum wanted her to do sport too and Evie found that she liked cross country.

Finally I asked her 'What is your favourite sandwich filling?' and her reply was 'salami'.

By Lois Powell, Junior Editor



Award Winning Choristers

Three girls from All Saints' Church Junior Choir have gained their Bronze Bishop's Awards from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). Congratulations to 14 year old Charlotte Field, 13 year old Lally Williams and 12 year old Susannah Field. Lally has been in the choir for seven years whilst Charlotte and Susannah joined around six years ago. Lally told me that she was inspired to join the choir after she had attended All Saints' Nativity play when she was six. She thought it looked like fun, thought the story was well told and enjoyed the singing.

Susannah loved singing with Rebecca Bell, Junior Choir Mistress, at school so thought joining the choir would be loads of fun. After seeing their performance at the Henley Choir Festival, her elder sister Charlotte wanted to join too. All three girls had achieved their light blue and then their dark blue choir ribbons before



From left: Charlotte Field, Lally Williams and Susannah Field

working towards their Bronze Awards. This was their first RSCM external exam. It was a lot of work, including extra lessons to make sure they were thoroughly prepared. They had to sight-read music, sing accompanied and unaccompanied and answer difficult questions about the church. Lally told me she could not read music when she joined the choir but is now working towards Grade Four in singing. Charlotte will be taking Grade Seven next term and Susannah Grade Six later this year. They are all very impressive in their ability to play a range of instruments as well as having other passions, such as sport, dance and drama. They were presented with their awards, along with 16 other junior choristers by the Bishop of Oxford in November last year. The girls all wish to pay tribute to Rebecca Bell for her enthusiasm, encouragement and dedication which has resulted in their success. Silver awards beckon!

Sue Nickson

Max Jelowitz



A recent Peppard School leaver and Beech team captain, Max Jelowitz has recently been selected for the U-12s London Irish rugby team.

Max is a member of Henley Hawks rugby club where he trains twice a week and was captain of the Gillotts U12s rugby team. He also trains once a month with London Irish and is currently training to go on tour to Lyon, France, in May where they are going to play some of the best French clubs.

Last year he went on tour to the Isle of Wight: both Under11s Henley teams got to the final and had to play against each other. It was really, really tense.

He thinks the best things about rugby are the team spirit and the tours and one day hopes to become an international player for Ireland!

Big congrats to Max!

By Lily Jelowitz, Junior Editor

Snippets

Sue Ryder Fundraising Events

The following events are for the Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice:

February - Hair-raising: get sponsored to try a hair-raising style or colour.

Thursday 23rd February: BBO Big Band Concert British Legion Club, Marlow.

Friday 10th March: Southern Women of Achievement Awards - celebrating amazing women from across the region.

Sunday 19th March: Reading Half Marathon - support the hospice by joining the team.

Sunday 2nd April: On Your Bike - family cycle ride through Sonning Common lanes.

Friday 28th – Sunday 7th May: Dorchester on Thames Festival - Sue Ryder is their chosen charity this year. Sunday 14th May: Walk with Me - a 26 mile walk along the Ridgeway starting and finishing at Moulsoford School, volunteers always welcomed.

If you might be able to help contact Margaret Thomas at Sue Ryder margaret.thomas@suerydercare.org or call on 01491 641384 ext 274.

Matters of Life and Death Open Day

Sue Ryder Nettlebed hospice is holding a Matters of Life and Death Open Day on Wednesday 1st March 10am-4pm, providing information and advice about advanced care planning.

Advanced care planning is a discussion with loved ones and/or health care providers about wishes and preferences. This includes where you may wish to be cared for in your final days, who will speak for you when you are no longer able to do so, and learning more about your options and what services are available locally.

A recent survey from 'Dying Matters' showed 68% said they were confident in discussing these subjects, 36% had made a will, 29% had let someone know about their funeral wishes, 6% had written down their plans for when they were no longer able to make their decisions and 51% living with a partner were unaware of their partner's wishes.

The Open Day at Nettlebed Hospice on 1st March is in association with Sonning Common Health Centre and will offer various speakers, presentations, advice and informative stands about the importance of having plans in place. This in-



Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice

cludes funeral directors, organ donation, solicitors, counselling, and religious and spiritual needs, to name a few. The Open Day is free to attend and will offer tours of the hospice, hand massages, therapeutic seated yoga, and tea/coffee and snacks will be available.

If you or someone you know would benefit, please do come along to Nettlebed Hospice, Joyce Grove, Nettlebed, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 5DF, anytime between 10am – 4pm. Call: 01491 641384 for more information.

Our Village

Peppard and Kingwood Commons

A piece of good news: from this year, the Parish Council will be greatly increasing its support to the Conservators for Commons' maintenance and conservation. This will enable Top Common to be cut twice annually, including collection of cuttings, which will do much to improve and maintain grass quality.

Also, to supplement the single cut now undertaken by the County Council, an additional cut will be carried out on roadside verges that border commons within the Parish. Grass cutting is the Conservators' largest single annual expenditure within the Parish and, for its part, the Council will now make a very significant financial contribution towards this cost, together with maintaining its grant for other conservation activities on Peppard and Kingwood Commons. The Council's generosity reflects recognition that the Commons are at the heart of the Parish and very much define its character and charm, and contribute greatly to its attractiveness as a place to live.

Unfortunately, fly-tipping continues to be a problem, builder's rubble being the latest thing dumped on Top Common. Whilst SODC quickly deal with reported tipping, the culprits are rarely held to account. CCTV has been deployed at similar sites, and may be an option here. The annual meeting for the Friends of the Commons will take place at Nettlebed Community Hall on 15th March. Rod D'Ayala, our Conservation Adviser, will be giving a talk: *The Commons, a Haven for Wildlife*.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend or just learning more about our conservation work, please contact our Clerk, Liz Longley, e-mail clerk@nettlebed-commons.org, about attending the meeting. Also contact Liz if you think you would like to join the monthly Peppard and Kingwood Commons work parties. See www.nettlebed-commons.org for more information.

Tony Racombe

Nextdoor

'Nextdoor.co.uk - why bother with another social network?'

When we already have Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Instagram, Strava, dating sites, sites for pets etc why might we need another social network?

Well, Nextdoor was founded in the US in 2010 and within 4 years, 1 in 4 US

neighbourhoods had joined the website. It is designed to be used for a range of purposes from recommendations on local services (restaurants, plumbers, car servicing etc) through to organising events and sharing alerts on issues with local services, e.g. power cuts. In reality members report it helps to supplement "traditional neighbourliness": if you need help or advice it becomes easier and quicker to ask 20-30 people from your phone, tablet or computer.

The network entered the UK last year. I remembered reading about it when the electricity company warned us about a power cut one Sunday last month in Church Lane. I believe having a local network would help us act as a more powerful community 'voice', e.g. 'Please do not cut power on xyz date because abc elderly/vulnerable people will be without heat'. Since then nearly 50 people have joined the Rotherfield Peppard neighbourhood on Nextdoor.co.uk.

We hope to help each other in a number of ways - sharing recommendations on good services, collaborating with information updates (e.g. "BT says Broadband is expected to be reconnected at 4pm today") and buying things like oil as a group to save everyone money and reduce congestion in the village.

Do join online if this sounds helpful - or call me on 07785308378 if you would

Greenshoots

Thank you to everyone who visited us before Christmas: we had record wreath sales and our students really enjoy making them, especially trying their hand at a bespoke design or colour. We have some lovely pots of spring bulbs for sale, which would be perfect for Mother's Day or Easter presents; home-made Seville marmalade is back in stock, alongside our regular jams and chutneys.

The spring growing plans have begun - this week our students were making scarecrows ready for the annual pigeon battle! If you are thinking about sorting out your wardrobe or linen cupboard this spring, we would really appreciate donations of pillow cases, sheets and old clothes, so we can make some more.

The big news for us is that we begin our 50th year birthday preparations this February, so are busy planning some events

for the next year to celebrate this achievement. Don't forget! - if you would like to volunteer, fundraise, or bring a group for a team build event, please call me on 01491 628933.

Frances Hill

Peppard People

Georgie Bird

Georgie is the ultimate Peppard girl. Now 20, she has lived in Peppard all her life and attended local schools. She went to Gillotts in Henley, then on to Henley College for A levels. Since September,



Georgie has been on a course for Allied Health Professionals at Reading College, which she completes this summer.

She combines this with running Club SC, the youth club in Sonning Common, volunteering one morning a week at Townlands Hospital Physiotherapy Department, where she helps to run a rehabilitation class for people recovering from injury, working at children's sports camps in the holidays and a busy social life. She took a year out after A levels and ran the after-school sports club at a Reading primary school for several months, as well as doing bar and shop work, before going travelling in March last year.

She went to Australia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam but unfortunately her trip was cut short, when she broke several bones in her foot and had to fly home for surgery at the Royal Berks Hospital in Reading. Her injury and subsequent recovery has increased her interest in making a career in physiotherapy. She hopes to gain a university place to study physiotherapy in the future.

Georgie has had a lifetime interest in horse riding and had her own pony from a very young age. She played netball at school and Henley College and, following her injury, is getting back to running and going to the gym again.

In September she took over as Youth Leader at Club SC, located at Chiltern Edge School. The club runs for two evenings a week: Tuesday evenings are for the older age group of 14-16 year olds and Wednesday evenings for 11-13 year olds. The older group consists of mainly boys at the moment, who enjoy football, basketball and dodgeball and for the younger group she has organised an animal road show, arts and crafts and karaoke. A Youth Support Worker works alongside Georgie.

She has always enjoyed living in such an attractive part of the country which has given her opportunities to pursue her outdoor interests. Georgie's love of sport and fitness seem to make her ideally suited to her future career choice as a sports physiotherapist. In the meantime, with her ready smile and engaging manner, she is making a major contribution to the well-being of local youngsters as a Youth Leader. Peppard can be proud of a young person who is using her time to such good effect.

Sue Nickson

until a few years ago. He died in January and our thoughts are with his wife, Thelma. Anyone interested in joining the club next season can contact Nigel Maltby at n.maltby587@btinternet.com. The club also continues to run junior coaching sessions on Monday evenings - contact D.wavell@talktalk.net for further information

Nigel Maltby

Tennis for Teens

Are you over 12 and fancy giving tennis a try? Not played tennis before or perhaps just a little? We have new session starting on Wednesdays 18:00-19:00 at Peppard Tennis Club that will be ideal for you! Not everyone has to start tennis very young and this session is perfect for keen beginners looking to learn our sport in a comfortable environment.

Teach Me Tennis run term-time coaching programmes all year round for children aged 3+ and adults, along with holiday camps during the school holidays. Easter Camps are coming up, running from Monday 3rd to Friday 21st April for children aged 4+.

To register your interest for the new Wednesday junior session or to enquire about term-time courses or Easter Camps please call 01419 728080 or email info@teachmetennis.co.uk

If you would like to see what Peppard Tennis Club has to offer please pop along to our Open Day on the afternoon of Sunday 30th April. A great chance to see the facilities, meet the committee and members of the club, have a game of tennis, meet the coaches with sessions running for children to try and enjoy some refreshments!

More details will follow soon on www.peppardtennisclub.co.uk

Louise Fry

Clubs and Societies

Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club

The club's 50th anniversary season in the Reading & District Table Tennis League has been a good one so far. The A team are comfortably mid-table in Division 1, the top division. The B team are currently bottom but recently had the satisfaction of gaining their first point of the season after a 5-5 draw with Kingfisher C. In Division 2 the C, D and E teams all look set for mid-table finishes, as do the F team in Division 4, although they may yet fancy a late promotion push with Angus Jones in particularly good recent form. The H team are currently 3rd in Division 5, just a couple of points off a promotion place with Gerry Bacon, Mike Casserely and Julian James all hard to beat. Finally the G team are mid-table in Division 5 with youngsters Oliver Sayers, Mikey Legg and Jamie Legg all getting some impressive results. The club was saddened to hear of the recent death of one of its club stalwarts, Albert (Shep) Shephard. Shep joined the club a year after its formation in 1967 and was a regular player