

Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

Celebrating a 50th Anniversary! Summer 2017

The Ways & Means Trust is celebrating its 50th anniversary which is a huge milestone for a small, local charity to have achieved in these changeable times. Many people know us as Greenshoots, a horticultural therapy gardening and plant nursery, which has been at Rotherfield Peppard for nearly 20 years. However, the actual charity began some 30 years before it opened this horticultural site.

but back then David was way ahead of his time.

He persuaded Huntley & Palmers to give us an area in their biscuit tin manufacturing building (at the top of London Street, Reading) and Courage Brewery and Suttons diverted some of their packaging work to this newly formed charity, which meant it could provide employment and training to adults

arms of the charity together for the first time.

For those who have not visited the charity, we offer our services to adults who have learning, physical or mental health disabilities, in order to provide training, socialisation and work experience opportunities in a friendly setting to help them lead rewarding lives, realise their potential and build their confidence.



Trainers and trainees working in one of the Greenshoots greenhouses

Dr David Duncan was a consultant psychiatrist attached to Borocourt Hospital, Peppard, who worked tirelessly to help those with mental ill health become fit again, so that they were able to leave that closed, sectioned community. There was little drug management 50 years ago and employment law offered no protection for those who had become ill, so they lost their jobs and due to the stigma of mental ill health, probably their family and friends too; there were few opportunities for patients to retrain and learn new skills.

David brought together Reading's then three main companies, Huntley & Palmers, Sutton Seeds and Courage Brewery, to encourage them to do more within the community in which they operated. Today, we refer to this as a business's corporate social responsibility,

recovering from poor mental health.

During the early 1970s, we moved to premises in Lower Caversham, where the packaging operation stayed until three years ago. We added a large canteen and kitchen training area, to help adults learn catering skills and to look after themselves at home. A large part of this charity has always been socialisation – a safe, friendly area where people could meet and make a contribution.

Three years ago, we faced a huge hurdle; our Caversham landlords sold the building and we had to leave. This news just happened to coincide with another building in Manor Farm becoming vacant. At Greenshoots, we have a very supportive landlord and he helped us to move our warehouse packing work and training canteen, so bringing both

Visit us at Manor Farm or on:
www.waysandmeans.org.uk or telephone
01491 628 933

Frances Hill

Greenshoots

As well as its weekday opening times Greenshoots will be open on Saturdays 27th May and 3rd June from 10:00-15:00 for bedding and veg plants, etc.

We have been accepted as one of the named projects in the area for the Co-op Community Fund. This runs from April to October 2017. If you shop in the Co-op and have a membership card, every time you buy you could be helping us. Just click on www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/9013 - become a Co-op member (for £1) and choose The Ways & Means Trust as your Charity.

Denise Jones

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Our Schools

The Future of Chiltern Edge School

I expect most residents will be aware of the current threat to Chiltern Edge School, but I'll start with a re-cap on the situation.

In March this year the school was subject to an Ofsted inspection. The report was published in April. The report detailed serious concerns about the quality of education currently being provided at the school and Ofsted rated it Inadequate. Ofsted then placed the school in Special Measures. Oxfordshire County Council played no part in the process.

Under Government regulations, two things must now happen: the Regional Schools Commissioner must attempt to find a sponsor for the school if it is to continue operating, while simultaneously Oxfordshire County Council must consider the possibility of closure. The fact that Oxfordshire County Council is considering closure is a legal obligation and does not mean the school must close. The consultation, which opened on Friday 28th April, will run until 16th June and will look into the potential impact of closure.

At the same time, Oxfordshire County Council is supporting the school by addressing the immediate areas of concern raised by Ofsted. The Council will consider the consultation feedback in June and decide whether the school's closure may be necessary. If so, it would publish a statutory closure notice, alongside detailed information including a proposed time-scale and transfer arrangements for current students. A final decision on whether to close the school would then follow.

Meanwhile, I will do whatever I can to assist in the process of finding a strong sponsor for the school. Let me end by stressing that at this stage no decisions have been taken and by stating that I do

not want the school to close if there is any way the problems that have been identified can be rectified so the pupils can enjoy a first-class education.

Cllr David Bartholomew

Chiltern Edge School

The County Council are conducting a consultation to find out information which will enable them to decide whether Chiltern Edge closes or not. That was the rude shock which greeted parents and drew them to a series of three meetings with County Council officers on Wednesday 3rd May.

The school had had a bad Ofsted inspection and has been placed in special measures. My ex-colleague Rob Wilson from Reading East - where there are a large number of parents - and I, believe the future for the school lies in a sponsored academy.

Having spoken with the Secretary of State, we are therefore making enquiries with academy sponsors for one to take on the school. So far, discussions are proceeding. Neither of us wants the school to close and we hope that these talks will come to fruition. We both believe that the views of parents must be given priority.

The irony is that the school is a gainer under the proposed Fairer Funding Formula.

John Howell, Parliamentary Candidate for Henley

Securing Chiltern Edge School

Parents of pupils at Chiltern Edge school were shocked with a double-whammy of bad news in April.

First, there was the publication of the Ofsted report, which judged the school to be Inadequate and placed it in Special Measures; then there was the

alarming news that Oxfordshire has launched a consultation on the school's future.

At this point, no decision has been taken; but in situations such as this, the local authority has two options to consider: one, that the school is closed; or two, be converted into a sponsored academy.

I do not want to see the school closed and have thrown my support fully behind a new academy. This is a matter I discussed as a matter of urgency with the Secretary of State for Education and spoke at length with former constituency MP, John Howell, who shares my position.

The views of parents must be given absolute priority and, with the consultation having now opened, I urge them to contribute using the options available on Oxfordshire County Council's website.

For further updates and feedback, please continue to look at my Facebook page and website (www.winwithwilson.com).

Rob Wilson, Parliamentary Candidate for Reading East

Websites

The following website addresses provide more information on the consultation process and also a petition:

www.consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/ChilternEdgeClosure/consultationHome

www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-local-authority-save-chiltern-edge-school-from-closure

Omitted Articles

The *Peppard News* editorial team extend their apologies for omitting articles submitted by Peapods Nursery School and Kidmore End Pre-School and also for the abridged details in the Friends of Peppard School article. These can all be read, in full, on our website.

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Our Young Achievers

Peppard C of E Primary School

We are very pleased to announce that once again we were over-subscribed for our Foundation class in September. Our New Parents Evening is on 8th June and the new Foundation children will visit the class later in the month.

The Year 6 children have taken their SATs tests and now it's full-on rehearsals for this year's summer production. Our after-school clubs are proving very popular again with rounders and cricket being firm favourites as well as the 08:00 running club on Wednesday mornings.

With updated play equipment, the children are now playing cricket and croquet on the Common at lunchtime and are also, weather permitting, eating their packed lunches on the Common, picnic style!

Twelve of the Dads are undertaking a 60 mile walk in June, aiming to raise money for toilet facilities on the new school site. They will be walking in a huge loop, leaving Peppard Common after the final race on sports day, Friday 16th June. They will take in sights of Wallingford, before following the River Thames around in a loop and arrive at their destination - Peppard Common, twenty four hours later! Please feel free to come and support their return on Saturday 17th June on the Common, where a Summer Party will be taking place. If you would care to donate then see www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Dads-Walk.

Fiona Hilton

FOPS

The Friends of Peppard School plans are in full swing for our upcoming Peppard School Fête to be held on Peppard Common on Saturday 17th June from 14:00-16:00. For further information please contact michelle@bluerush.biz

Michelle Whitfield

Cricketing Star

Peppard Stoke Row Cricket Club (PSR) player Fergus Nutt had the privilege of playing at an international ground when he made his Swansea University debut in their Varsity match against Cardiff at The SWALEC stadium in April.

The 19-year-old, who is studying sports science, made 18 and took a catch as his side lost by 32 runs, Swansea being bowled out for 95 in reply to the hosts' total of 127-4. He performed better in Swansea's opening BUCS Championship match against the University of the West of England, scoring an unbeaten 94 while batting at six to rescue his side from 40-4 to amass 262. They went on to win by 38 runs after bowling UWE out for 224, and then defeated Aberystwyth University – which included fellow PSR player, David Williams, in their ranks – by three wickets. The home side made 216-9 before Swans chased the total down.

Fergus grew up in this area before moving to Bath and studying at Prior Park School, but returned to live in Sonning Common in 2015. He then enjoyed a gap year playing cricket for Riccarton CC in New Zealand, scoring 184 in his last game. The teenager then made 1,825 runs for PSR last year and won the Henley Standard John Searby Trophy for most entries in the Best of the Week section, having recorded a total of 20 made up of 16 50s and four centuries in 2016.

Fergus said: 'It was an honour and a privilege to play at the SWALEC, although it was a shame we lost. Peppard Stoke Row have really helped me improve both my game and as a person and I particularly want to thank the Kites captain for showing such faith in me'.

Richard Ashton

Award Winning Gymnast

Her mother told me that, as a very young child, 14 year old Ellen Fearnside always seemed to be upside down or up trees so it was an obvious move for her to go to Thames Valley Gymnastics in Sonning Common at the age of five. Clearly it suited Ellen very well and she has gone on to compete at county level.



Ellen Fearnside

Earlier this year she was one of 46 youngsters to receive an award at the South Oxfordshire District Council's annual Young Achiever Awards. At the club, now called Kennylands Gymnastics, Ellen started coaching the younger children when she was 13, something she really enjoys.

Ellen lives with her parents and older brother and attends Chiltern Edge School. Each week she trains for three hours and coaches a total of eight hours. A competition covers floor, vault, bars and beam. She competes in the county championships twice a year and, being one of the youngest in her age group, she is up against older and bigger girls. Ellen is also keen on trampolining which she does for an hour and a half every week. She enjoys drawing but gymnastics is her first love and she hopes to make a career as a coach.

Sue Nickson



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The Councils

Parish Council News

We had a successful Annual Parish Meeting on the 29th April. Many issues were discussed, including the decisions that need to be taken with regard to the Sports Pavilion; its poor condition requires action. Other topics included:

- An update on our Community SpeedWatch programme; more volunteers would mean more sessions – perhaps two per month.

- The Great British Spring Clean, thanks to the 24 volunteers who helped in March.

- Superfast Broadband, the three distribution frames (street-side cabinets) and positions have been tentatively planned, survey work has not yet taken place.

September is therefore looking less likely but Better Broadband for Oxfordshire is still confident that the service will commence before December 2017.

- We welcomed a new councillor, Mr Joe Berger, who becomes Chairman of Finance and Staffing following Cllr Cotton's retirement. We thanked Tony Cotton for his eight years' service – many years at Chairmanship level. Cllr Berger is a Chartered Accountant and a Director of a successful banking and investment company based in London.

- We thanked Viv Mitchell, who resigned in January, for her contribution over the last few years. Viv, as Chair of the Sports Pavilion and Field Management Committee organised the surveys conducted in 2016 and increased usage – including Nordic Walking and Circuit Training.

We finished with a very interesting talk from Dr Mark Page, a researcher with the VCH (Victoria County History) Society. Our history is fascinating, from the local commons used for droving sheep from the west towards London to the larger pre-20C parish boundary extending east right down to the River Thames.

Lastly, thanks to all parish councillors (and clerks) for their work and additionally to Cllr Ross for the stunning cakes...even Mary Berry could learn from this Cordon Bleu Councillor!

Let's hope recent county elections were the last taking place under the 'old' system of separate administrations (at County and District level). Two

Parish Council

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

Parish Clerk: Joanne Askin
Orchard Gate, Plough Lane
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.

independent studies commissioned by the councils estimate that ending the inefficiency of running six councils and joining up related services to form a Unitary Council for Oxfordshire would save £100m over the first five years. The proposed Unitary Council would:

- Save up to £20m each year for the first five years (that's a lot of pot-holes that could be fixed!)

- One website, one phone number, one council for all services for the region.

- Boundaries that make sense, e.g. NHS, Police, OxLEP (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership)

- Reduce the waste associated with duplicated administrations (which may mean fewer office jobs)

Despite the downsides, it seems like an obvious way forward. We have several concerns about the proposal: will the money saved be ploughed back into front-line services, is the figure realistic, and does it mean more responsibility and work load at parish council level without any matching increase in resources? The parish council have written to David Bartholomew, our County Councillor, seeking clarification.

Hmmm...we wait to see the details!

Simon Crouch

Fiona Berry

Fiona makes an enormous contribution in her role as Chairman of the Parish Council Planning Committee and I would suggest that we are very lucky to have her working on our behalf.

She moved to the area in 1988: she and her husband were house-hunting for their first house together and Peppard fitted the bill. She admits to being a country girl and enjoys the countryside in this area. Fiona was brought up in Hove and spent many hours walking on the South Downs but says that she loves the variety of landscape that we have here. Living by the sea, watersports were prevalent in her youth and she participated in sailing, rowing and canoeing. She has always been a walker but she has also recently taken up rowing again and says that Henley most certainly beats the industrial Shoreham Harbour!

Her career was spent primarily at ICL (International Computers Limited) which she joined when they sponsored her degree course in computer science. The company was subsequently taken over by Fujitsu and then Siemens. She continued working for them throughout and became the person responsible for the development and implementation of healthcare IT systems throughout the UK. In more recent years, she has wound down a little and has worked part-time doing consultancy which she has been able to do from home.

She joined the Council six years ago and quickly became interested in planning issues. It was around the time of the proposed recycling plant at Manor Farm which also coincided with the Community Survey. Realising that other people care as much about their environment as she does, Fiona was determined to help in a practical way to preserve what we have. Joining the Planning Committee and attending many meetings at local and District level was the way to achieve what she believes is the right outcome.

There was a huge learning curve, made more difficult because of the on-going changes in government policy. At parish council level, it is only possible to make recommendations to South Oxfordshire District Council, the organisation that



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Peppard People

Running for Bereaved Children

Peppard carpenter, James Richardson, 26, began running a few months ago to keep fit. He found he enjoyed it and as he increased both his fitness and interest, he decided to seek sponsorship for a charity. He researched charities and decided on Daisy's Dream as something that would motivate him to keep going. Daisy's Dream is a local charity which offers help and support to children affected by the loss of someone close to them. It offers phone and e-mail support, one-to-one and group support and information on-line (e-mail info@daisysdream.org.uk or 0118 934 2604).

James committed himself to covering 200 miles over this year in half marathons and 10k runs. At the time of writing, he has completed four runs, two of which were half marathons, and has improved his time and fitness.

James had not been involved with any sport since he left school until he decided to run for fitness. His other hobby is snowboarding at the indoor centre in Hemel Hempstead. This year, James has been running every evening, wearing a headtorch on dark winter evenings and, with lighter evenings, enjoying the scenery in the local area. Once a week, he uses an exercise bike to strengthen different muscles.

James' original target was to raise £1000 but he quickly reached that through the sponsorship of friends and family. Sponsorship has slowed but James would love to be able to reach a revised target of £1500 for this worthwhile charity. If you feel you could sponsor James please go to www.daisysdream.org.uk/fundraisers/20-races-200-miles. The charity needs the money and James needs all the help and encouragement he can get!

Rita Hadgkiss

Sue Nickson

makes the final decision on planning issues. Fiona became Chairman of the Planning Committee nearly three years ago and often finds herself putting a case forward and having to argue for the preservation of our green spaces to councillors from, for example, Didcot, who have a completely different criteria for building. Her own taste is in designs where some creativity has been employed – she finds repetition in house design very boring.

She estimates that she spends two days a week on council work and then, quite possibly, extra time will be spent on site visits. As well as keeping up with the ever-changing rules and regulations, she spends an enormous amount of time researching the detail to back up planning decisions. At one time she wrote a 7,000 word report to establish whether an area on Wyfold Lane was classified as a brownfield site or greenfield. Some of her research has been thoroughly enjoyable – she learnt so much ancient history when considering an application for The Dog pub.

Fiona is looking forward to retiring from work very soon but intends to remain very active as well as taking up new leisure pursuits. Recently, she acquired a weaving loom and intends to experiment with creating different textures and patterns. She has also joined Phyllis Court and hopes to take advantage of the various interest groups there.

With two adult boys who, while still living at home, lead independent lives she and her husband can look forward to more travelling: they went to Vietnam and Cambodia earlier this year. Having travelled the UK and seen the interiors of lots of offices, she would especially like to see more of the real country.

In the meantime, our village is in a very safe pair of hands.

Snippets

KPCV

We are a friendly group of conservation volunteers who meet twice a month to work towards more open woodland on Peppard and Kingwood Commons. Bracken is now appearing in quantity and we will need to start cutting it soon. We have been removing top heavy gorse bushes and digging-up bramble roots from the sides of paths. Recent work parties have seen toads and many butterflies.

If you would like to join our twice-monthly work parties, volunteers are welcome for any length of time. We have sessions planned during the summer – see the Diary page for dates. For more details, or to join our mailing list, please contact ShKinghorn@aol.com.

Access to Green Spaces

If you are involved with a voluntary group or company concerned with the local environment you may be interested to know about TOE2 (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment), an initiative of the County Council to help people of all ages and abilities to access the green spaces of Oxfordshire primarily with funding provided by Grundon Waste Management. Contact Fiona Danks e-mail Fionadanks@trustforoxfordshire.org.uk @toe2_oxon, call 01865 407003 or see www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk.

Summer Concert

On Saturday 8th July at Queen Anne's School, Henley Road, Caversham, South Chiltern Choral Society choir will be performing John Rutter's *A Sprig of Thyme* and music by Haydn, Brahms and others. You are invited to picnic in the grounds from 17:00 before the concert starts at 19:00. Drinks in the interval. Tickets £12 (under 21s £6) available from the box office 07500 032840 nearer the date or from: www.southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk.



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Our Village

FISH Volunteer Centre

The programme of FISH minibus shopping and leisure trips can now be received by e-mail each month. If you would like to receive a personal copy please e-mail busmanager@fishvolunteercentre.co.uk with the message 'Bus programme please' and your name. If you do not use a computer or e-mail but have a friend, neighbour or relative who does – they may be willing to receive the programme and print it for you. The programme for every month will be e-mailed on the 20th of the previous month when you can book trips by telephone – see Diary page for details. Details of all the trips can also be found on the FISH website (see Diary page) and also on the FISH notice board by the Village Hall.

The FISH Volunteer Centre AGM will be held on Thursday 8th June at Christ the King church hall, Sedgewell Rd, Sonning Common. A light buffet lunch will be served at 12:00 and the meeting will start at 14:00. All are welcome.

The FISH Charity Sale is to be held on Saturday 14th October 2017 in Sonning Common Village Hall 09:30-15:00. Various charities will be represented, and FISH will hold a raffle and an auction. Items for these (not jumble!) would be very welcome; also volunteers to help set up and organise the sale. If you would like to help, please contact the FISH Office. Tea parties are held in Sonning Common Village Hall on the second Monday of each month, starting at 14:30. Entry is free, and all are welcome. An entertainment is usually held after the tea, and transport can be provided. See Diary page for dates.

Jill Vallis

Library News

Following the demise of the Children's Centre at Chiltern Edge, local health visitors are now holding their Baby Clinics in the library on Thursdays 13:00-14:30. (Although closed at that time the doors are open for those with babies, and for anyone who wishes to use the library self-service)

Our gadget sessions for those with queries/problems with lap-tops, Macs, androids and Smartphones are proving increasingly popular – it's a good idea to book a slot to make sure there's a volunteer on hand to help with your particular query (Thursdays from 10:00).

On the 3rd Thursday of every month an expert from AgeUK visits the library to offer help and advice on age-related problems – come for a chat!

For younger children (under 8s) we have Storytimes every Saturday morning at 10:00. Our next special Storytime will be on 17th June, to celebrate Fathers' Day on 18th. There will be a craft session after the Storytime, aimed at three to eight year olds, and home-made cakes will be on sale. We have Rhymetimes for the under-3s on the first and third Mondays of the month at 10:00 – 10:30, run with the help of able volunteers.

The theme of the Summer Reading Challenge for children this year is Animal Agents. It will be launched in July, and there will be special story sessions with crafts and home-made cakes for sale, starting at 10:00 every Saturday morning in August. Our local PCSO Will Pomroy is hoping to hold regular Have Your Say drop-in sessions at the library on Saturday mornings from 10:30. These are for people who have any comments or concerns about policing in the locality. Check with the library for dates.

Rosemary Dunstan

Short Story Competition

Fancy your hand as a writer? Are you the next J.K. Rowling, Anthony Horowitz or Jeff Kinney? If you've got a great story in your head or had a real life adventure, put pen to paper and turn your hand to story-telling. Friends of Sonning Common Library invites all budding young authors to take part in a short story competition on a topic of your choice. Get writing during the summer holidays and submit your story by 1st September. The competition opens on 1st June and the winners will be announced on Saturday 14th October. Gift tokens will be presented as prizes up to the value of £75 for the best stories submitted in three categories: Seven and under, 11 and under and 16 and under. (Prizes will vary depending on the age group).

Entrants should live or go to school in the local area and submit their typed stories of no more than 750 words attached to an e-mail to friendsofsonningcommonlibrary@gmail.com. Please

indicate your name, age, address and telephone number when submitting your story. More details can be obtained at Sonning Common Library, where computers are available for those who need them. Please ask a member of staff or volunteer for help.

Friends of Sonning Common Library would like to give special thanks to Peppard Building Supplies, Johnson Matthey and Sonning Common Vauxhall for agreeing to support the competition.

Helen Fort

Commons News

You might have noticed that Top Common was cut early in May, primarily those parts that were left uncut last year? This work is now being undertaken by Rod d' Ayala, our Conservation Adviser. Also, areas of bracken and bramble were cleared, and overhanging trees cut back to encourage grassland to re-establish on the edge of the Common. Further cutting will take place later in the summer. Brian Willis cut Top Common for many years, and our thanks to him for the long service and good value provided to the Conservators. He will continue to cut grass on other commons.

Rod gave a talk to The Friends of the Commons in March. His unbridled enthusiasm made us all realise how fortunate we are to share an almost unbroken patchwork of common land comprising grass, heath and woodland habitats.

Both Peppard and Kingwood Commons have significant areas of acidic heathland, the latter possessing some of the best heathland habitat in Oxfordshire. Heath Milkwort has been rediscovered on Top Common and a lone Pignut plant, a small perennial herb, has been found at the northern end of the valley. Whilst not rare, the presence of these species is encouraging. Please contact our clerk, Liz Longley on clerk@nettlebed-commons.org, if you are interested in belonging to our growing group of Friends of the Commons, or if you fancy some healthy outdoor exercise with our monthly Peppard or Kingwood work parties.

Tony Rancombe

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Junior Peppard News

Introduction

It is now the summer term and we've had lots of tournaments, sunny skies and exciting trips! Peppard Primary School is getting ready for big events. SATs, the school play and many more. It's almost the end of the school year. We hope you enjoy this edition.

By Lily Jelowitz, Junior Peppard News Editor

Peppard School Minibus

Hello, I'm the Peppard School minibus and I love my job!

I do a lot of journeys every week, sometimes more than one a day! I really love taking children around the place. Every week I take the children swimming at Queen Anne's School, gymnastics at Kennyland's Gym, the lovely Sonning Common Library, karate at the Peppard War Memorial Hall and netball in Sonning Common.

I also get to go on lots of day trips. I have taken the children to Greys Court, Windsor Castle to see the Queen (although she wasn't there), Reading museum, Pizza Express, the Hexagon to see *Room on the Broom* and many events at the Henley Youth Festival and the Henley Literary Festival. I go to lots of sporting events, to tag rugby, netball and football tournaments as well as athletics competitions. I'm very excited about my next trip which is to a Sikh temple!

Obviously I can't do all this on my own. I rely on my lovely driver, Mr Tanner. He is a very nice man. He makes sure I am clean, full of petrol and ready for our next adventure!

By Archie Croft and Charlie Upsher



Egg Rolling

On the 7th April 2017 the whole school took part in our annual egg rolling event. The objective of the event is to throw an ordinary chicken egg down a big hill. Before the rolling of the eggs, each child has their own egg to decorate.

'It's very fun and it's a great sight to see people taking part and enjoying the fun of egg rolling.' said Jake Wilde, Year 5.

'It's fun and it's unique because other school don't do egg rolling.' said Jessica Wilson and Francesca Whittle, both Year 6.

There are difference age groups in the competition and everyone loves this event. But the best thing is you get chocolate at the end. FOPS (The Friends of Peppard School) provide the chocolate.

This event is great fun. We look forward to it every year!

By Archie Croft

Junior Peppard News is published by Peppard News Publications with financial support from Friends of Peppard School and Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council, and is distributed free to almost all households in the ecclesiastical and civil parishes of Peppard. It is also available by e-mail.

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e-mail: peppardnews@btinternet.com website: www.PeppardNews.co.uk

Advertising: Ian Fraser - phone: 01491 629631

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Junior Peppard News cont'd

Visit to the Oxford Natural History Museum

When Highmoor went to The Oxford Natural History Museum we learned all about rocks. There are hundreds of different rocks!

First we had a talk about all the different types of rock. A man told us about sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks. He used biscuits as examples and some of us got to eat them.

Next we did a quiz and we went all over the museum hunting for minerals and identifying the rocks we had talked about.

After that it was time to get back on the bus and come home. We had a brilliant day.

By Jonty Hall



Years 1 and 2 Football Tournament

Recently, some of Years 1 and 2 went to a football tournament. Year 1 did really well and came second! Year 2 worked well as a team and came fourth. There were 5 teams in each year.

It was my first tournament and I loved it!

By Max Claridge

The High 5 Netball Final

On Wednesday 5th April 2017 the members of Peppard Primary's netball club attended the Oxfordshire High 5 Netball Final! The team of Years 5 and 6 had recently come third in the semi-finals. This would have meant that they could not go to the final, but they got a letter saying that we could take part.

Immediately the netball hoops came out and they ironed out any flaws and boosted their confidence. They practised whenever they could, ensuring that they played as well as they could.

Finally, the day came. Seven children piled on to the minibus with a big bottle of water and a lunchbox each. Everyone was excited, some were nervous and they were all ready to win!

Once they arrived, they ate their lunch, pumped themselves up and headed down to the pitches. They played a couple of games. They lost some, drew some and won some. But they tried their hardest in all of them.

There were eight schools in the final. All of them played amazingly. The team that won had won all of their games! Peppard team came home tired and disappointed, but they got a McFlurry each so everything turned out fine!

By Lois Powell

Henley Youth Festival Roundup

In mid-March, our school took part in the Henley Youth Festival. This year the theme was Journeys. We took part in a number of great activities. Such as screen-printing, steel drumming and joining in a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

We had Doctor Brian Squabbles come to school with his van and a great art lesson to teach. Doctor Squabbles showed us a video of another school making a machine to go to the centre of the Earth. We split into groups and made things we could make into a story.

For screen printing we went to the River and Rowing museum and printed scenes on T-Shirts that showed a journey. They were all very colourful.

According to everyone, the school had great fun participating in every activity. We can't wait until next year's Henley Youth Festival!

By Lily Jelowitz and Georgia Ruff



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More Young Achievers

A Young Dancer

Freya Kriefman

Freya, a Peppard Primary schoolgirl, has been enjoying success as a young dancer. She has been learning ballet and other styles of dance for six years, since she was two! Currently she is practising for her Grade One.

Freya does two medal tests a year where she performs a dance on stage. These dances are awarded a score and when she gets a really high mark then she goes on to the British Arts competition. Recently Freya went to the semi-finals in Watford and was awarded a merit. She says that she enjoys watching her friends perform and they always support her. Competitions can be nerve-wracking. She said, 'The last one, when I had to do a curtsey my legs were shaking!'

Freya told us that she was inspired to dance by watching *Strictly Come Dancing* on the television with her family. She hopes to do ballroom dancing when she's older and perform on *Strictly* as a professional dancer.

Freya would definitely recommend dance to anyone. She said, 'Sometimes, when the dances are very fast they can be tricky but it is really fun and energetic!'

Finally, we ask every interviewee what their favourite sandwich filling is, Freya loves tuna with sweetcorn.

We think that Freya is going to do very well and we look forward to seeing her dancing on *Strictly*!

By Lois Powell



Freya Kriefman

An Amazing Clarinettist

Kitty Powell

Former Peppard student, Kitty Powell, has recently achieved her Grade 5 clarinet exam with Merit. Because of her success, we have asked her a few questions:

What inspired you to learn the clarinet? A 'music man' came to our classroom and advertised all of the different instruments and I thought 'Ooh I want to do that!'

How do you feel before and after the exam? I'm not actually that worried at the start of the exam because I enjoy playing, but after I get quite nervous because I cannot change what I did.

Would you recommend the clarinet to other people? I would recommend playing an instrument, but choose one that you want to play and one that suits you.

Is there a trick to learning such an interesting instrument? Is it hard to learn? No, you just need to practise. When you start something new it is quite difficult. I would say the clarinet is no harder than anything else.

How long have you been playing the clarinet? Six years.

Do you often play in concerts? Yeah, I do about six a year.

What do you do when you hear something you can play? I normally start singing along.

And finally, what is your favourite sandwich filling? Tuna Mayo!

By Lois Powell

*Don't forget that Junior Peppard News, with all the photographs in colour, can be viewed on our website:
www.PeppardNews.co.uk*

Highmoor Nursery School

Our private nursery is located in the rural village of Highmoor and offers exceptionally high standards of childcare and education.

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Please contact Gwen Pragnell for more information on
gwen@highmoornursery.co.uk or 01491 681837

Our Village cont'd

Sue Ryder

Would you like to fundraise on behalf of Sue Ryder? Maybe organise a tea, host a BBQ or children's party, or maybe show off your garden with a plant sale! We have loads of ideas so please contact us for your Summer Season fundraising kit.

On Sunday 16th July, 11:00 -16:00 the Nettlebed Hospice will hold their Open Garden. There will be refreshments, books and plants for sale and memories of Nettlebed over the years, giving an insight into the hospice and what it does in the community.

Join Sue Ryder #TeamIncredible on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September. Push yourself on the Thames Path Challenge and complete the 100km from Putney Bridge to Henley. There are also half and quarter distance options, as well as the family friendly Henley 10k. See: www.thamespathchallenge.com.

The Nettlebed Hospice has been rated Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission; Deborah Ivanova, Deputy Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care, said: 'We found that Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice was providing an outstanding and very caring service. Staff had the expertise to provide individualised care to the people they support in a way that suits them. The team there should be incredibly proud of the work they do. We were struck by how the hospice supported palliative and end of life care that met the needs of every individual in a genuinely compassionate and caring way. The hospice also understood that recognising the needs of relatives is vital and was doing this in a supportive and inclusive manner.'

To contact Sue Ryder or for more information on any of the above call the fundraising team on 01491 641384.

Catherine Russ

Health Walks

The bluebells are now over, but the Chiltern countryside looks wonderful in any weather! If you fancy a brisk walk, why not join one of our Health Walks?

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 any aspect of the health walks, phone Colin Davies on 0118 972 2527.

Rosemary Dunstan

The Great British Spring Clean

I am a man of few words so this article will be a lot less than all the rubbish an intrepid group of Peppard parishioners picked up on the annual 'clean up' of the village.



The litter picking group plus two donkeys

We met as usual outside The Unicorn. Should we have met inside it I am sure there would have been more of the Flat Earth there. Rather a poor turnout considering the population of Peppard.

For once the weather was kind to us and the sun shone down. The group was dispersed to various parts of the village

and managed to collect a wide variety of discarded and unwanted rubbish. I am sure we will be able to build a car with the remnants collected. Plenty of crisp packets, cans, plastic bags obviously thrown by passing motorists. We meet every year so if you have a couple of hours to spare do join us.

Terry Ryan.

Peppard War Memorial Hall.

The Trustees would like, through *Peppard News*, to thank all the people who have sent messages expressing thanks and compliments for the roofing works undertaken at the hall and the internal refurbishment. The next task is to carry out the internal decoration which, due to financial restraints, will in all probability have to be done with the help of volunteers.

The idea of Friends of the Hall has been well received but as ever we could do with a few more volunteers. Regular readers will know that we have undertaken a

project for each of the Centenary years of the First World War:

2014 A Tea Party to commemorate the start of the Great War

2015 Planting bulbs in the roadside verge.

2016 Reroofing the hall together with new ceiling and LED lighting.

2017 Renovating the Club Room and promoting the use of the Green for parties and outdoor activities.

2018 The idea of a Tea Party to celebrate the end of the Great War (Dairy note: 7th November 2018)

For details of Peppard Unplugged see: www.peppardwarmemorialhall.btik.com

Thank you to all those in our community who enjoy using the hall and continue to. It's such a wonderful facility for all.

Clive Mills



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Where Are They Now?

Green Gym

During the last few months we've been working at many of our usual sites – Kingwood Common, Ewelme Watercress Beds, Borocourt Wood, Bishopswood Sports Field and Spring Wood. We hope you saw the wonderful spread of bluebells at Greys Court and Spring Wood – just one of the many benefits we are able to bring to the local environment. All the time the benefits of regular exercise out of doors are stacking up.

You probably know about weight loss, maintaining mobility and improvement with long term diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and depression. Did you notice the *Heads Together* initiative at the London Marathon? Did you know that socialising is also an important feature of wellbeing and that regular exercise probably slows down the rate of ageing? So can you afford not to join us? Give Robin Howles a call on 0118 972 3528 or visit our website – www.sonningcommon.tcv.org.uk. If you tell us when you're coming we'll make sure there's someone there to welcome you or even take you.

John Hasler

Greys Court

Tree Climbing: Sundays 25th June, 23rd July and 20th August. Highly skilled and friendly instructors will help you reach new heights!

June is the time to explore the Rose Garden as it comes into bloom as well as the display of hand-made sculptures in the walled gardens and Cromwellian building.

Art Classes: every Wednesday in July
Jacques' family games weekend: 15th-16th July. Enjoy traditional garden games, croquet, skittles, giant Jenga, etc., on the top lawn. For more information phone 01491 628529.

Gordon Pound

After many years in Australia, Gordon Pound has returned to the UK and has shared with us his memories of his childhood in the area. To read them go to: www.PeppardNews.co.uk/VillageInformation/SpecialInterest

We are happy to introduce a new column where we feature former pupils of Peppard Primary School.

Michael Humphries, QC

A former alumnus of Rotherfield Greys Primary, Peppard Primary and then Chiltern Edge schools, Michael Humphries QC lived in Satwell, where his parents settled in 1961 upon their return from Nigeria where his father, an architect, designed civic buildings during the transition to independence.

Young Michael, along with 15 or 16 other local children, first went to Rotherfield Greys school and then, when it closed in about 1966, transferred to Peppard school. He has clear memories of sitting next to Gillian Seymour and that one of his best friend was John Stanger.

He went on to attend Chiltern Edge school where his father, who then worked as an architect for Oxfordshire County Council, had designed both the new Science block and Sports' Hall – both cutting edge buildings at that time.

Michael is very proud of being a founder member of Rotherfield United Football Club. There were not enough boys in either Rotherfield Greys or Rotherfield Peppard to form their own village football team so a group of the young teenagers, supported by their Dads, created the club. There were divergent views as each boy wanted to adopt their favourite team's colours for their own team. Michael wanted the colours of his favourite team, Arsenal, who had won the FA cup in 1971 but he knew he would be voted down. So very craftily he suggested their second team's colours – yellow and blue. They all agreed but, in the event, the shop only had livery in yellow and black and hence those became, and indeed remain, the club's official colours.

Michael moved on to, what was then, King James's 6th Form College in Henley to study for his A levels before winning a place at Leicester University. A minor teenage rebellion resulted in him not following in his father's professional footsteps but choosing another vocational degree – the law. It was at

Leicester that he met his wife, Juliet, who was also studying law.

He chose to become a barrister, which meant a post-graduate year of study at Bar School. To fund these studies he became a Henley postman for a year. On one of his rounds he delivered mail to a, then almost unknown, journalist named John Humphreys! He also delivered the mail in Rotherfield Greys where he could pop home for a mid-morning coffee.

Despite the teenage rebellion he came to realise that, due to his father's influence, he was interested in buildings and this heralded his future career in planning law. He became a QC (Queen's Counsel) in 2003 and is now regularly voted one of the top planning law QCs in the country. His great mentor was Lord Silsoe, QC, for whom Michael worked as a junior for several years on the Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry. Indeed, it was through David Silsoe's influence that Michael became involved in large infrastructure projects.

As he has become more senior, Michael has promoted many major infrastructure projects in his own right, including Thames Water's Thames Tideway Tunnel project, known by the London Evening Standard as the 'super sewer' (see www.tideway.london/the-tunnel).

Michael lives in west London and works in the Temple area, off Fleet Street, which means a fairly frenetic lifestyle: it is good, therefore, that he can retreat to the tranquillity of his house in the French countryside to the north-east of Toulouse. There, with Juliet and his children, 25 year old twin son and daughter and 15 year old daughter, he can unwind and enjoy walking and pottering in his garden.

Whilst Michael continues to work on major projects, when he does eventually retire, he doesn't intend to put his feet up: he would like to study something totally different from the law – perhaps astronomy or fine art.

Michael hasn't entirely cut all ties with Peppard; his parents, both alive and well, live in Henley and when Michael visits he often takes the opportunity to walk in the area and relive memories of Peppard School.

Rita Hadgkiss

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Clubs and Societies

Peppard Tennis Club

The club held its Open Day in April and had such a fantastic attendance that the Chairman was prompted to declare it the best so far! The crowds were treated to fabulous facilities and all enjoyed the activities on offer during the day which included the renowned Chairman's BBQ.

The on-going success of Teach Me Tennis has enabled the club to attract many new family memberships. The general consensus is that the club creates a great family atmosphere and provides an excellent opportunity for all ages and abilities to enjoy some terrific exercise.

If you were unable to make the Open Day, you are more than welcome to come along to the Club Sessions for adults, held every Tuesday and Thursday from 18:30 and Sunday mornings from 10:00 – some very sociable tennis is to be enjoyed. The club has a great clubhouse and six courts, four of these courts are floodlit, providing excellent facilities for year round tennis.

For more information, please visit www.peppardtennisclub.co.uk or call 0118 947 4051

Richard Dilger

ClubSC

During a very busy spring, numbers have continued to grow and there has been a strong emphasis on sport and exercise. We enjoyed special multi-sport and Arts and Crafts evenings – both provided by Oxfordshire Youth. We have also been fortunate enough to take the older members paintballing. This was possible because of very generous donations from local organisations and individuals. It was an action-packed day and great fun - members managed to fire a massive 700 paintballs each!

For the younger members, we have an evening of trampolining to look forward

to. Once again generous donations enable us to offer this trip free.

We have been delighted to welcome some new volunteers this term, as well as having an older member who helps with the younger group, as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award. Volunteers are always welcomed with open arms, even if you can only do it on an occasional basis, do please consider it if you enjoy working with young people. We would like to remind members that ClubSC runs throughout the year (except for the Christmas period) so come along as usual during the school holidays. For more information contact georgieclubsc@gmail.com.

Georgie Bird

Peppard Lunch Club

Lunches will be on Wednesdays 21st June, 19th July and a tea on Wednesday 16th August 14:30 for 15:00. There won't be a lunch in September due to holidays of volunteer cooks.

Betty Butler

Circle Dancing

Dancing takes place at Christ the King Church on the first Sunday of each month 15:30-17:00.

We dance to a variety of music ranging from traditional folk tunes from around the world to modern popular music.

First session is free. For more details contact Ros on 01491 874220.

Ros Jennings

Peppard WI

We postponed our Annual Meeting until April and were very fortunate to have Rolf Richardson who gave a talk on *A Drive Around Australia*. Those absent were told they missed a treat. Our

County Chairman, Pauline Goddard, joined us and I was invited to wear the President's badge for at least one more year. At our first committee meeting Veronica Townsend agreed to continue as our Treasurer, and Ruth Whitaker as our Secretary.

The year-long celebrations for our Centenary will begin with our Birthday Lunch on Wednesday 27th February 2019 – just 22 months away. Those of you who have planned big occasions will know it is not too early to start making preparations. However WI life goes on before that with a trip to Hearing Dogs for Deaf People at Princes Risborough in June. In July we are hoping to travel to Charlbury for our Garden Meeting at the home of Liz Waterfall, our former president.

One of our resolutions at the NFWI Annual General Meeting is concerned with Alleviating Loneliness. I would go as far as to say Peppard WI is one step ahead on that one. A warm welcome awaits any lady who would like to join us at any of our meetings. We also pride ourselves in keeping in touch with former members now living in care homes or in their own homes unable to get to our meetings anymore. Friendship has been our 'password' for 98 years.

Irene Lindsay

Peppard Stoke Row Cricket Club

The club has enjoyed their busiest ever pre-season with ten matches – including a pre-season tour to Leamington.

Fergus Nutt leads the way in the batting charts with 285 runs including the only century to date, a superb 100 against Woodcote in a 36-run victory. Rich Ashton follows with 228 runs, while Chris Humphreys (102) scored his maiden half century with a fine 71 in a 29-run success against ISIS.

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Humphreys also leads the bowling stats with an impressive 13 wickets to date, while Olly Nicholson has eight and Matt Kimber, six – all are left-arm spinners.

The juniors have begun in fine style with the Under 15s winning two games and being given a bye in the County Cup after Kidmore End conceded, while the U13s beat Mortimer West End to advance.

If anyone is interested in joining the club as a senior player, please contact chairman Gerry Bacon (07785 771847) or as a junior, Andy Watts (07884 931906).

Richard Ashton

Greys Green Golf Course

A new driving range has been opened to the public, there is coaching, junior and ladies clinics at weekends, membership is available and Pay and Play is open every day.

For more information contact nancy@greysgreengolf.co.uk or see www.greysgreengolf.co.uk.

Lee Rawlings

Peppard Revels Film Club

During the summer the club has a rest after last winter's very successful programme. However you may like to make a note of the dates of the next films in the autumn.

On 20th October we'll be screening *The Imitation Game*. This drama is based on the Bletchley Park work of Alan Turing, the man who managed to break the German Enigma machine during the Second World War. Then on 24th November it will be *Paddington*. Based on Michael Bond's book, it tells the amusing tale of a young Peruvian bear who comes to London to seek a new life. Named after the railway station, he finds shelter with the Brown family.

John Hasler

Wyfold RDA had an EGGciting Easter!

We had a very exciting delivery of over 100 chocolate eggs at Wyfold this Easter to give to our riders and drivers so we all had lots of fun doing Easter Egg Hunts. We have to say a big thank you to the Reading Abbey Rotary Club for the delivery and also the Thames Valley Vultures for collecting them from the local supermarkets. One of our former volunteers, Liz Jones, chose us as her charity when she ran the Brighton Marathon in April. She has so far raised £1,800 for us and finished in 3hrs 45mins. We are very proud of her and she is an inspiration to all 55 year olds. This money will go towards the new hats that we have to purchase for our riders in line with current regulations and also towards the renewal of our paddock fencing.

In June we shall be holding a Summer Fun Day where all our supporters, volunteers, riders and drivers are invited to come and celebrate our wonderful charity. This will be on Saturday 17th June from 12:00-15:00. If you haven't visited us before, please come along and see what we do. Let's hope the weather is kind to us this year (unlike the last time when we experienced a tropical monsoon!).

On Sunday 23rd July we shall have a stall at The Henley Sheepdog Trials at Hambleden and then on Saturday 26th August we will be at the Stonor Craft Fair.

We are currently looking for a good sturdy horse to join our team, steady, reliable and happy just to hack out and do arena work. If you know of one please email details to gillr400@btinternet.com

Gill Rushworth

Sonning Common & District Tennis Club

Family membership until March 2018 is only £30 and, if the courts are free, you can play whenever you want, for as long as you want. Yes, we are ridiculously cheap! And we want to keep it that way to continue to provide the opportunity for families and newcomers to the sport, to give tennis a try. So do you like the idea of keeping fit and having fun? Are you or your family new to tennis? Then why not give it a try and come and join our club?

We have two excellent quality tennis courts in a wonderful setting, located just past the Greyhound on the Gallowstree Road. Stop by when you are passing and take a look. For more information see: www.sonningcommontennisclub.org

Dave Pinder

Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club

We recently celebrated our 50th season in the Reading & District League.

In Division 1, the A team finished in a creditable 5th place and B team finished bottom and are relegated. In Division 2 the C and E teams finished in mid-table, however the D team was relegated to Division 3. The F team, finished in 2nd place and was promoted. In Division 5 the H team lost their final match. The G team finished in 10th place with junior Jamie Legg going on to win the Handicap Singles at the recent Club Championships.

For full results and listing see www.tabletennis365.com/Reading

We hold practise sessions every two weeks, commencing Thursday 1st June. Junior coaching sessions will continue on Monday evenings. Interested? Then call me on 0118 946 3191 or e-mail n.maltby587@btinternet.com.

Nigel Maltby

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 Churchwardens: Adrienne Heriot 01491 629254
 Kathie Anderson 0118 972 2694

From The Rectory

It's hard to believe that Gillian, Judith and I have now been here in the Benefice for just over seven months. Whilst we continue to settle in and get to know the area, as every day passes it begins to feel more and more like 'home'.

Almost exactly a year ago as I write this, my family and I went to Greys Court for the afternoon, to enjoy the beautiful wisteria and visit the house. At the back of my mind were the details of a post that was being advertised for Rector of a Benefice just to the south-west of Greys Court. I was mulling over whether or not to apply. Well ... the rest, as they say, is history!

One of the things I did that day was to buy an Ordnance Survey map, and very useful it has proved in exploring the local area. Walking is truly one of the great pleasures of living in the countryside, and the summer will hopefully afford ample opportunities for us to walk – either the brief stroll or the more ambitious hike.

It's a hackneyed thing to say that walking provides a metaphor for the spiritual life. We're on the way, following Christ – even as Christ himself is the way, the truth, and the life. But what I keep on discovering is that walking is not just a metaphor – in itself, it can bring us closer to God. We get in touch with God's creation (of which we are a part!); we switch off from the constant noise of modern life; and we are given the chance to live in the present.

This summer I shall continue to explore my new home. Perhaps I shall see you this summer as I go out walking!

James

News from All Saints'

We have now celebrated Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter and the music has been thrilling.

Several members of our choir joined those at St. John the Baptist for services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. A diverse repertoire of music, stretching across the centuries, included Antonio Lotti's *Miserere Mei* to *Ubi Caritas* by contemporary Icelandic composer Hreidar Ing Thorsteinsson.

At All Saints' Festal Evensong for Easter Day the service covered music by Ayleward and Sir John Villiers Stanford, including his anthem *Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem*.

Seven junior choristers attended the RSCM Oxfordshire's Three Day Course when parents and choir members attended the concluding choral service, held each day in the Chapel of Exeter College. A small group preceded this by enjoying afternoon tea at The Randolph!

Recently, the Parochial Church Council of All Saints' held their Annual Meeting. The Annual Report on the life of the Church and Accounts were presented and approved. Adrienne Heriot and Kathie Anderson were both re-elected as Churchwarden.

After some 13 years of conscientious and diligent service, which she has always undertaken in a quiet and modest way, Pat Fraser relinquished her position as Secretary. James, our Rector, thanked her for her devoted and long service and presented her with a beautiful orchid.

Looking ahead – Holy Communion for Ascension Day will take place at Christ the King on Wednesday 25th May at 20:00.

There will be a Benefice Communion Service at All Saints' on Sunday 30th July at 10.30 when refreshments will be served afterwards. This is a good way to meet local parishioners. You would be made very welcome.

In the meantime, we pray for the speedy appointment of a House for Duty Priest.

With blessings,

Jenny Wingrove

Three Successful Lent Lunches

If you came to any of the bread and soup lunches at Christ the King Hall during Lent you will know that they were very popular with as many as 50 people attending at one of them.

We invited speakers from three different charities to talk to us about their work and donations were given by those who came and enjoyed lunch and a good chat. A magnificent £1,043 was raised overall!

The first charity was Yeldall Manor Alcohol and Drug Rehab Centre, Wargrave which gained £256.

The second was Helen and Douglas House Children's Hospice, Oxford. That one was extremely well attended and £517 was raised.

The third charity was Oxfam where the speaker talked about the charity's work in Syria and left with donations of £270.

Many thanks for your support if you were able to be there, if not we hope to see you for lunch next year during Lent!

Sue Nickson

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St Michael's Catholic Church

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

Fr Michael Sharkey took up residence as our parish priest at the end of November. Daily Mass is now celebrated at 09:30 each weekday except for Thursday when it begins at noon. Our weekend Masses remain at the same times but there is now the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation at 10:00 and 16:45 on Saturdays.

In January, we were delighted to host the annual Christian Unity service and welcome many people from the other churches in the local area. The service was

developed by the Christian churches in Germany for Christian Unity week and involved the construction and demolition of a brick wall.

We were pleased to join the other churches for the Walk of Witness around Sonning Common on Good Friday. It is hoped that there will be other opportunities to get together during the year.

During Lent we once again made a special effort to support the Reading food bank with donations of food and money. A number of parishioners took up the challenge to live on a £1 a day for at least five days during Lent and donate the money saved to Readifood.

During this year's Easter Vigil, two men were received into the church. One was baptised and both were confirmed and received Holy Communion for the first time. It was an occasion of great joy and celebration.

An important aspect of the life of St Michael's parish is to minister to the needs of those Catholics who are unable to attend church due to illness or frailty. If you know of anyone housebound or in a care home who wishes to be visited and Holy Communion brought to them please contact the parish office.

Brian Theobald



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

The church community regularly meets on Sunday mornings from 10:30 till noon and services are relaxed, vary in style and include tea and coffee. All are welcome and prayer is available for anyone who would like to be prayed for.

Springwater also undertakes practical workshops and events; on Friday 19th May we will be supporting Mihael Matetic, a young gifted Croatian guitarist, who is studying at the Royal Academy in London, as he presents a classical guitar concert at the church, starting at 19:30.

On Saturday 17th June, we will host our regular youth film night that is available for young people aged 12 and over. - 19:00-21:30.

On Saturday 1st July between 10:00-

14:00, the ARK will be holding a Community Fun Day in support of Mary's Meals, to which all are welcome.

We are in the process of organising Compassionate Camera, which will be a summer workshop that assists people to use the creativity of a camera and photograph to engage with God.

Other events and workshops connected to bread making, anti-human trafficking and spiritual development will be implemented during the summer.

For more information see our website www.springwaterchurch.org.uk or to be kept informed by e-mail contact contactspringwater@gmail.com or by phoning.

Kevin Potter

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Peppard Diary

JUNE	
Sat 3	Peppard Unplugged/PWMH/19:30/01189 723609 Greenshoots Manor Farm/Plant Sale/10:00-15:00
Sun 4	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15:30-17:00/01491 874220
Mon 5	Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com Peppard School Starts
Thu 8	FISH AGM/Christ the King/12:00
Sat 10	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30
Mon 12	RPPC Meeting/19:30/Pavilion FISH Tea/SC Vill Hall/14:30
Wed 14	WI/Donkeys Dolphins Foxes Fish/PWMH/14:00
Thu 15	Age UK/SC Library/10:45-12:00 CE Hort Soc coach/BBC Gardeners' World/NEC B'ham
Fri 16	Peppard School Sports Day
Sat 17	Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com Wyfold RDA Summer Fun Day/12:00-15:00 SC Lib/Fathers' Day storytime/10:00 Peppard School Summer Fete/Pep Commn/14:00-16:00 Springwater Youth Film Night/19:00-21:30/01189724519
Wed 21	Peppard Lunch Club/PWMH/12:00/01491 681780
Sat 24	RPPC/Planning/10:00/Pavilion Nottakwire/the 60s/SC Vill Hall/15:00/Tkts Occasions
Sun 25	Nottakwire/the 60s/SC Vill Hall/14:30/Tkts Occasions
JULY	
Sat 1	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30 Springwater Church ARK Fun Day/10:00-14:00 Peppard Unplugged/PWMH/19:30/01189 723609
Sun 2	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15:30-17:00/01491 874220
FISH Office: 0118 972 3986 (Mon-Fri, 09.30-11.30) office@fishvolunteercentre.co.uk	
SC & Peppard Table Tennis Club/Mem Hall/Juniors – Mon 17.00/0118 946 3191	
Walking Football/Bishopswood Grnd – Tue 10.30/0118 972 2188	

AUGUST	
Sun 6	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15:30-17:00/01491 874220
Mon 7	Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com
Sat 12	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30
Wed 16	Peppard Lunch Club Tea Party/PWMH/14:30/01491 681780
Thu 17	Age UK/SC Library/10:45-12:00
Sat 19	Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/Shkinghorn@aol.com RPPC/Planning/10:00/Pavilion
Sat 26	Wyfold RDA at Stonor Craft Fair

Church Services

Sunday Services at All Saints'	JUNE				JULY					AUGUST				NOTES
	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X	X No Service
10.30 Communion (sung)	✓			✓		✓		✓	B		B	C	D	A Festal Evensong for Whit Sunday
10.30 Matins		✓			✓					✓				B Benefice Evensong at All Saints'
10.30 Family Service			✓				✓							C Benefice Eucharist at Christ the King
10.30 Sunday School	✓					✓								D Benefice Eucharist at St John the Baptist
18.30 Evensong	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Sunday Services at Springwater
(Peppard Congregational Church)
Family Service: 10:30 - 12:00 ♦ Sunday School 10.30 - 11.30

Mass at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church
♦ Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 09.30 Thursday 12.00 ♦
Saturday 17.30 ♦ Sunday 09.00 & 10.30

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Omitted Articles

Peas of All Shapes and Sizes

Peapods Nursery School continues to thrive on Manor Farm in Peppard. We opened the doors to Little Peas (our new baby room) in September 2016 to cater for one year olds wishing to join Peapods earlier in life. It has proved very popular for both new families and current siblings. It has all been designed especially for a smaller sized pea, smaller furniture, lower level pegs & basins, sleeping pods and underfloor heating; in fact, the only thing that is not smaller is the space itself, with sunlight flooding into the high vaulted ceilings and a limited number of children, Little Peas has a lovely atmosphere.

We have also been making changes to our outside spaces. The courtyard now has a covered wooden pergola where peas of all sizes can play with sand/water under shelter from the sun or the rain. Our beautiful field is maturing nicely and the sapling trees planted by the children two years ago are growing. The field is also finally getting some of the exciting features it has been crying out for. A new 30 seat log circle is done; a large sandpit edged with giant boulders is nearly finished, but is just awaiting its shade sail overhead to give protection from those harmful UV rays and our new rustic mud kitchen is underway, with the walls already in place but still in need of shelves, log tables and, of course, glorious mud!

We have constructed a small hill for the children to climb up and roll down (with or without a pail of water) but the lack of rain over the last few months has made growing new grass from seed very tricky. We are full to bursting this term but have spaces from September. We will also be running a holiday club during May half term and throughout the summer holidays, so please email

louisa@peapodsnurseryschool.com to book a space.

Daniel and Louisa Hopcroft

Kidmore End Pre-School

Hello from the pre-school. We hope you all enjoyed a pleasant Easter break. The Summer term promises to be very busy and we are keen to get stuck in! We welcome six new families this term.

We shall be continuing with our explorations into the world of baby animals with lots of activities planned both inside and outside, weather permitting! Our new Mud Kitchen is proving very popular with our children: the free-play opportunities it provides them with have been embraced with gusto, and the new waterproof dun-

garees and staff over-trousers have proved invaluable to all!

This term sees the start of our popular Preparation for Big School sessions. Taking place all day on a Monday, these sessions are reserved for our older children who will be moving on in July, and are designed to help them to be 'school ready'. Thus, in addition to starting to learn some phonics to help with reading skills, we will be practicing getting changed for PE and all sorts of other important age-appropriate developmental skills. These sessions, which we run every year throughout Terms 5 and 6, are very popular and help the children through what can be a tricky time for some. We are anticipating lots of other fun activities throughout the term. From our French lessons to our Little Lambs monthly church visits, from a picnic in the park to races in our garden: the summer is looking excitingly busy! And of course we all enjoyed our annual outing to Legoland at the beginning of May!

Kidmore End Pre-School is a small pre-school set in a rural location, with session numbers limited to 14 children. We recently held an Open Afternoon for potential new parents that was very well attended. 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 as soon as possible. Please see our website at www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk for further information or find us on Facebook @[kidmoreendpreschool](https://www.facebook.com/kidmoreendpreschool)

Emma Hawker

Those Were The Days

Nottakwire sings the 60's on Saturday 24th June 15:00 and Sunday 25th June 14:30 in Sonning Common Village Hall on. Tickets from Occasions, Wood Lane from 1st June. Adults £10, 7-12yrs £5, 6yrs and under free. Ticket price includes all refreshments. All proceeds to Sonning Common charities.

Margaret Moola

Abridged Articles

KPCV

The Kingwood and Peppard Common Volunteers (KPCV) are a friendly group of conservation volunteers who meet twice a month to work on Kingwood and Peppard Common. We are working towards a more open woodland on Kingwood Common, small glades with heathy type/acid grassland plants under a light canopy of sparse trees. Everything on the common is now growing apace. The blossom has been beautiful and the blue haze of the bluebells has been spectacular! However the bracken is now appearing in quantity and we will need to start cutting it soon. We have been removing top heavy gorse bushes and digging-up bramble roots from the sides of paths. As we work in a glade any cut material is stacked into habitat piles to provide cover for reptiles and small mammals, etc.

Recent work parties have seen toads, as well as Orange Tip and Speckled Wood butterflies. If you would like to join us the work parties run on the 1st Monday and 3rd Saturday of each month, from 09:30 to 12:30. Volunteers are welcome for all or any part of that time, and we usually break for coffee and cake at about 11:00. We have work parties planned during the summer – see the Diary page for dates. For more details, or to join our mailing list, please contact ShKinghorn@aol.com.

Sheri Kinghorn

Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club

The club recently celebrated its 50th season of competing in the Reading & District League. The A team saw juniors Joe Barraclough and Thomas Perkins step up to join Gary Morgan and Jason Roberts, and they performed well as the team finished in a creditable 5th place in Division 1. The promoted B team were always going to struggle and despite some good performances from Nigel Maltby, Brian Meheux and Brian Meheux they finished bottom of Division 1 and are relegated.

In Division 2 the C and E teams finished comfortably in mid-table, however injuries and unavailability saw the D team drop into the bottom two in the final week of the season and they are relegated to Division 3. New recruit Andy Robertson did well, finishing on 68%.

Success came via the F team in Division 4, who after a slow start to the season eventually finished in 2nd place and are therefore promoted to Division 3. Angus Jones was their star performer on 84% while Eric Walker, Derek Wavell and Simon Blake all played their part.

In Division 5 the H team missed out on a promotion place after losing their final match to Reading FC C 8-2. Just a point from a 5-5 draw would have seen them go up, however Mike Casserley, Julian James and Gerry Bacon will regroup during the summer. Also in Division 5 the G team finished in 10th place with juniors Oliver Sayer and Jamie Legg doing particularly well. Jamie went on to win the Handicap Singles at the recent Club Championships, beating Division 1 star Gary Morgan in the final. Gary had earlier won the Singles competition, holding off a spirited performance from Danny Dockree. Father and son, Derek and Simon Maltby won the doubles event.

The 2017/18 season gets underway in September. In the meantime the club will be holding a number of summer practise sessions every two weeks, commencing on Thursday 1st June. Anyone interested in joining can me on 0118 946 3191 (e-mail n.maltby587@btinternet.com). Junior coaching sessions will also continue through to July on Monday evenings.

Nigel Maltby