

Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

Peppard War Memorial Hall

Summer 2011

This year the Hall celebrates its 90th birthday, having been built in 1921 to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Great War. Public subscriptions totalling £2,000 were raised to fund the construction by local builder, Mr Arthur Butler.

Over the years the Hall has been used to celebrate many things including the coronations of George VI and Queen Elizabeth II and the end of World War II. It was used as a cinema until 1958 and, some of you may remember, was home to a tennis club until 1975. Today it is the home of several local organisations including bowls and table tennis clubs and the highly talented Chiltern Players. In 1962 it was granted charity status, since when it has been run by a group of local trustees, who have a duty of care for its well-being.

Management of such a building is never easy or straightforward. Over the years the various teams of Trustees have struggled to carry out essential maintenance and renovation with limited available funds. However, there has been a concerted effort over the last few years to improve funding, which has been helped by the formation of a small renovations

project team. This team has made great efforts to drive forward change by identifying and prioritising areas for development and then approaching a number of sources for funding. Results of this impetus are there to be seen. Since 2009 a new kitchen and gas central heating system have been installed to bring stan-

(Oxfordshire Community Foundation), 1155 Charity and Chiltern Edge Charity Association.

The list of the remaining renovation work is extensive. Next on the agenda is interior decoration, but larger work phases are scheduled, including installation of a new pitch roof, provision of disabled/upgraded toilets and improved car park

facilities. All these will require a huge amount of funding. While the Trustees continue their work, it is important that the community plays its part in supporting the task by using the hall for family events, parties, charity and commercial presentations. To quote Philip Collings, Chairman of the Trustees, 'The old girl has been going for the last ninety years, let's make sure she's here for the next ninety! If the community doesn't use it, the community



dards up to par and to encourage an increase in bookings. Just a month or so ago the windows and doors were replaced to improve the hall's carbon footprint. To perform these works a sum of around £34,000 was raised, which is a fine indicator of the amount of effort put in by the Trustees and the financial support received from SODC, ORCC (Oxon Rural Community Council), OCF

will lose it.'

The Trustees need your support. If you would like to sponsor particular improvements or have fresh ideas for fund-raising events please contact them. You will find their names on the website www.peppardwarmemorialhall.btik.co.

It's your hall, please support it.

Tony Treglown

Editorial

The first thing I must do is congratulate Ian Fraser on being nominated for membership of the Fellowship of St Birinus. The award is made in recognition of exceptional service to the Community. Amongst all his other community commitments, Ian is the distribution supremo of *Peppard News*. Similarly honoured is Keith Atkinson, a regular distributor of *Peppard News*. Well done, Ian and Keith.

Talking of community, I was heartened by the positive response residents gave to the Community Survey when I delivered my batch of forms. They were pleased to have

the opportunity to contribute to a plan for the village. Results of the survey have yet to be analysed but we will keep you informed as information unfolds.

What a terrific community spirit was unleashed by the 'Big Sing' in May. People from the whole of the surrounding area supported the event, which was a great cross-community success. As a result we can all benefit from the continued dedication of our local First Responders.

Wishing you all a great summer.

Tony Treglown, Editor

Peppard News is a community newspaper published by Rotherfield Peppard PCC with financial support from Peppard Parish Council, and is distributed free to almost all households in the ecclesiastical and civil parishes of Peppard. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the PCC or RPPC unless stated as such.

Peppard News is also available by e-mail.

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Our Schools

Peppard School

A lot has happened since the last newsletter. Tina Nowell, our Head Teacher, will be extremely sad to leave us at the end of this school year. Since joining the school she has, through her tremendous hard work, inspired a talented team of staff and raised the academic standing of the school. This will provide a thriving platform for her successor. We are currently in the process of recruiting a new head to continue our performance towards 'outstanding'. In addition, two members of staff have left and we are looking forward to welcoming two new class teachers to our school in September.

The planning application for the relocation of Peppard School has been submitted to Oxfordshire County Council. We are expecting a decision during the summer. If the application is successful we will be working hard to secure funding to progress this important project. We are very excited about the bright future of our school.

The children have been busy with their schoolwork and extra-curricular activities. The pupils put their whole hearts into the Henley Youth Festival this year. They began by competing in the Bell Boating event, coming first out of ten schools. As well as taking part in the whole range of workshops and shows that Henley Youth Festival offered, they showed off their skills by performing at the Kenton Entertainers' Evening. This included children playing instruments, singing, dancing, gymnastics and acrobatics and even stand-up comedy. Five children were invited to repeat their performances at the Gala Evening. The children also entered their individual and class work into the art competition and the Year



Alan Summers from the Music for Schools Foundation

As part of a *Dragon's Den* project Years 4, 5 and 6 visited Cotswold Fayre, which is a gourmet food supplier based in Peppard Common. The children had the opportunity to gain commercial experience by following the order fulfilment process first hand. After placing their orders on the Cotswold Fayre website, they toured the warehouse, helped pack-

2 and 3 children's *Pea and the Princess* model was highly recommended.

Children from Years 2 to 6 had the opportunity to take part in a music workshop when Alan Summers, from the Music for Schools Foundation, visited. Mr Summers brought along his brass and woodwind instruments for the children to try playing. Rachel Hudson, who teaches Years 2 and 3, said: 'Alan made playing the instruments fun. All the children were enthralled for the full hour - it was very engaging'.

Peppard C of E Primary School

Peppard Common RG9 5JU

Phone: 01491 628354

Headteacher - **Tina Nowell**

Chairman of the Governors
David Sell

age the goods, printed the invoice and despatch note and saw the goods shipped to the customer. Next term they will investigate and source a new product, which hopefully will be attractive enough to be added to the product line!

Future activities include the *Festival of Voices* at Dorchester Abbey on 27th June where the school choir will sing a selection of songs. Year 3 children are looking forward to their sleepover at the school. All the children are looking forward to performing in the school summer production of *Alice in Wonderland*. And Foundation children, in particular, will be sad to say goodbye to their friends at the Leavers' Assembly on the last day of term.

Nicola Whittle

FOPS

There have been significant changes to our Friends of Peppard School (FOPS) committee. For the first time for a long time, Peppard School has a male chair - Dominic is the Dad of one of the Foundation children. He and the committee have lots of new ideas for fund raising events. The 80s Night in March was very successful and raised £500 which is being used to help fund a whole school trip to Legoland at the end of June. Future events will include a Race Night, the annual Quiz Night in Peppard War Memorial Hall, which will be held next term, and our Sports Day and BBQ. By the time this newsletter comes out we will have enjoyed the Peppard Fair with the children singing at the opening of the fair and FOPS members manning some of the stalls to help make it a great community event.

New children are always welcome at our school. We currently have some spaces so, if you would like to look around, please call 01491 628354 to make an appointment.

The Parent Governors

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Our Young Achievers

Sonning Common Pre-School

On our Open Day, we were pleased to show everyone our new purpose-built pre-school building that we moved into in April. In the meantime we were extremely grateful to the primary school for accommodating us on a temporary basis.



Pre-School Opening

On Open Day, I was able to thank everyone: staff, parents, children, committee members, the fundraising team and the Lions - for all their efforts and support. We are still purchasing goods! We needed to raise approximately £12,000 to buy new equipment and resources, and our head of fundraising, Nikki Hampton, and her team successfully reached the target. In addition, the Lions donated our staff room furniture and outdoor equipment for which we are very grateful.

We have expanded from 25 to 30 children per session. It is a fantastic building, with a staff room, plenty of children's toilets, larger cloakroom, no more slippery and wobbly steps leading into the building and accessible for all. We have the kitchen within the classroom so we can see children at all times. In addition we can use the outside environment more as we have a nice canopied area. For further information, please contact Clare Saunders: 0118 972 4760, e-mail: info@sonningcommonpreschool.co.uk

A Helping Hand from the Educational Trust

Rotherfield Peppard Educational Trust was set up in 1982 to help young people up to the age of 25 who live in the parish of Rotherfield Peppard.

The trustees consider applications for funding towards educational activities such as school trips, school projects, university field courses, gap year projects, specialist music courses and so on. The following article was written by a young BMX enthusiast who applied to the Trust in 2008 for help with expenses for competing in the European Championships in Germany. This was a rather more unusual request but demonstrates the diversity of projects considered for funding. The trustees have limited funds available to them but welcome all applications from eligible young people. Contact Sylvia Overbury (01491 628245) for more information.

From Emily James:

BMX racing is a sport in which up to eight riders race around a 300-400m track with jumps and berms (banked corners). Each rider competes in three motos (heats) and the top riders will progress to the next race and eventually to the final.

I started BMX when I was four with encouragement from my dad. Since then I have competed regionally, nationally and internationally. My greatest achievements include being National Champion, British Champion and making a World Final. Thanks to Peppard Educational Trust and its generous grant, I was able to travel and compete in the European Championships in Weitenstadt, Germany in 2008. I was pleased to make the quarter finals there as it allowed me to race against world class riders and gain some experience competing in such a competitive class. Since then I have been balancing training whilst studying at

university and finished fourth in the national series for 2009. After this, my aim was to podium in the nationals which I achieved as I am now ranked second in the Elite Female Class. I also competed in the World Championships in 2010 which were held in South Africa. However, I was disappointed with my result as I was close to making the final but crashed in the final round. Since then I have been training really hard as I am now determined to make the World Final this year in Copenhagen, Denmark. My improvements would not have been possible without the help of my coach (now also my fiancé) who is training hard himself to qualify to race in 2012 Olympics for Ireland.



Emily in Action

Sonning Common Young Authors' Competition

This competition is open to 11 to 16 year-olds attending local schools and/or clubs. Remember to register between now and 1st September, at www.sonningcommonparish.co.uk

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The Councils

Parish Council News

My first task is to welcome the Council's new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Helen Lewis, who was appointed to take over from Barbara Marston on 1st March 2011. Helen is returning to work after a maternity break and brings significant experience from her previous appointments. We are delighted to have found such a worthy successor to Barbara.

Helen has had a busy time. April and May have been dominated by the local government elections and the Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council has been through this process since the last report. Although it is perhaps a relief that we have not been engaged in a gritty no holds barred battle for our parish council seats, in a way I am sad that we were returned unopposed with two vacant chairs ready for new councillors. The positive side is that it saves us about £1,000 in election costs but the downside is that a lack of competition for seats is not good for local democracy. If parish councils die, the unique characteristics of their villages and communities will be eroded and we would never recover the loss. One is aware of the boundary changes looming at all levels. The number of both district and county councillors will be reduced and their areas of responsibility therefore extended. So please, if you care, consider supporting Peppard by becoming a parish councillor.

To compensate for our lack of an election campaign we have been asking you to complete a questionnaire in support of our Community Plan. Most councillors have spent much of their time explaining the purpose of the questionnaire and recovering your responses. I must thank Tony Cotton for all his work and the contributions of Clive Mills and Fiona Berry, which created editions for both adults and young people. We hope to broaden our interest beyond the more mundane to increasing our sense of identity and community. So my final thanks are to you, our community.

Please note our new postal address and contact telephone number: Mrs Helen Lewis, Clerk and RFO to Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council, 21 Rowan Close, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9LD,

Parish Council

Chairman: Nick Launders
01491 628243

Parish Clerk: Helen Lewis
07572 979416

Website: www.rppc.org.uk

SODC Councillors: Paul Harrison
0118 972 2665

& Alan Rooke—01491 572919

OCC Councillor: Carol Viney
01491 680887

Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council usually meets on 2nd Monday of the month at 19.30 in the Pavilion, though there is no meeting in August. Parishioners may attend and observe, and may raise briefly issues of concern to them. All may attend intermediate planning meetings as well - see Diary for dates and times.

Telephone Number 07572 979416,
e-mail clerk@rppc.org.uk.

Our website is updated frequently by Linda Collison, please visit it at www.rppc.org.uk

Nick Launders

MP's Constituency Notes

Amongst other items raised in John Howell's Notes for May, was the issue of local broadband, which continues to be a key issue across the constituency. Although Oxfordshire was not amongst those rural communities to receive additional funding from The Secretary of State, the Secretary did acknowledge that 'broadband is becoming as essential to homes as electricity and telephone lines'.

In his notes Mr Howell also acknowledged the community spirit and hard work which resulted in a large number of events to celebrate the Royal Wedding. He attended ten such events and extends his apologies to all those whose events he was unable to visit on the day.

The complete set of notes is available online at www.johnhowellmp.com.

Know Your Councillor

Carol Viney

I don't know what I was expecting. Well, yes, I do – I was expecting to meet a rather loud, bossy woman. In fact I found Carol to be absolutely charming, not bossy at all and even on the quiet(ish) side!

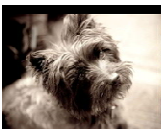
Born in Sonning Common, she attended Stoke Row Primary School and then Sonning Common Primary School. Carol now lives, with husband Mike and one daughter, in Stoke Row where they have been since building their own house 13 years ago. Their other daughter lives with them part-time and their son lives, with his wife and children, in France.

Her parents were not political but had what she describes as a 'can-do' attitude to life. Her mother, in particular, would encounter a problem and simply set-to to solve it. She was, undoubtedly, Carol's role model.

A statistician by profession, her own career had to take a back seat as the family lived overseas for many years due to her husband's career. Upon their return to the UK and the area, she became involved in local politics, first as a member of Sonning Common Parish Council, then as its Chair and lastly, after some arm-twisting, as a County Councillor. She finds the work rewarding and enjoyable and, although in her 60s, she has no plans to retire yet.

Carol spends around seven days a month sitting on various committees, in full Council meetings, meeting officers, attending briefings and yet still makes time to respond to individuals who appeal to her for help. She has helped parents with specific concerns about their child's schooling and deals with many problems concerning our roads, e.g. accidents, speed limits, road signs and, of course, our potholes. Parish Councils, too, approach her for assistance. She has fought hard to keep Sonning Common Library open and she is currently actively involved on the management committee to retain The Edge Youth Club.

She is a member of the Conservative party but has never had ambitions to join national politics; it is purely local politics in her own area that interests her. She enjoys helping people and solving problems

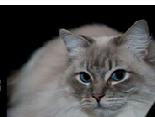


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– all stemming, she believes, from the family can-do approach. That she followed her brother into local politics was less direct influence, more a co-incidence - simply a result of their upbringing.

Carol is a modern woman and is delighted with the Kindle electronic reader that she received as a Christmas present as it allows her to indulge in her love of reading easily. Never happy doing nothing, she can carry her Kindle, with her choice of electronic books, with her at all times.

Normal holidays will be going to France to see her three grandchildren – but craftily she and Mike go in their camper van so that they can retreat to privacy at night! They are wondering where to go next and, having toured the United States a few years ago, feel now that Spain beckons both them and their camper van.

The one local issue that has had Carol's attention for many years, and still does, is retaining a clear boundary between the South Oxfordshire villages and Reading – she would hate our area to become a suburb. She intends to carry on fighting!

Rita Hadgkiss

Snippets

The Switchover is Coming ...

This September, the analogue television signal will be switched off and replaced with digital. Your TV equipment will need to be digital-compatible, otherwise you will not be able to watch TV!

The two switchover dates are 14th September (BBC2) and 28th September (all remaining analogue channels).

If you already have Freeview, Freesat, cable TV, or satellite TV you don't need to worry, you're already compatible. If not, you'll have to convert your TV. Remember, *every* TV you want to watch after Switchover must be digital.

A Peppard Childhood

Molly Lindlaw, nee Beeton, was born in Peppard in 1934 and still lives here so seemed just the person to tell me about life in the village a few decades ago. She was an only child and her family lived at Ferndale, now called Tudor Cottage - a tiny beamed cottage in Shiplake Bottom. Despite being very small, it was shared with another tenant. They grew their own vegetables, kept chickens, rabbits and a pig: when the pig was killed and the bacon cured half would be sold to the Ministry of Food. Piped water was connected when Molly was a toddler, giving the family a single cold water tap. The privy was outside and all waste water from the house had to be carried to the ditch. Cooking was done on the kitchen range, they had an oil lamp in the living room and candles elsewhere. Meat and butter were kept cool in a bucket down a rain water reservoir. Local farms delivered milk directly to householders and bread and cakes came from Kews the Bakers in Blounts Court Road.

Molly's father was a farm worker at Peppard Sanatorium Farm working the shire horses, ploughing, sowing, harvesting and hand milking the cows. Cereal crops were grown in Beech Rise, then a field, and Molly remembers helping to stook the corn sheaves and riding back home on one of the heavy horses.

For the May Day celebrations, Molly's father helped her make a wire frame and cover it with bunches of wild flowers for a shepherd's crook and a bell, which were both winning designs in the competition to make floral decorated items.

Molly walked to Peppard School across the common from the age of four and transferred to Grove Road School at seven before moving on to Henley Grammar School at ten. The children were issued with gas masks during the

war and had to do air raid drill. They also had to practice reading aloud wearing their gas masks.

At Christmas the postman delivered presents from *The Man in the Moon*. It was years later that Molly discovered they came from Mrs Faber who ran the Post Office! The children played in Old Copse at the back of Shiplake Bottom and enjoyed talking to the Canadian soldiers camping there, who were awaiting their D-Day orders.

The War Memorial Hall was central to village entertainment with film shows, singers, recitations and two sisters who played piano accordions. Families walked on spring and summer evenings and as a special treat Molly recalls lemonade and a packet of crisps in the garden of the Dog Public House every Sunday evening.

On Boxing Day there was a party at the sanatorium for all the children of the farm, garden and maintenance staff. The children were welcomed by the matron, given a wonderful tea and presents made by the patients and entertained by a member of staff who was also a magician.

It is clear from talking to Molly that the war years did not present a lot of hardship for people like her in Peppard. Families such as hers were used to hard work and self sufficiency. The war simply made them more self reliant and resourceful. Fathers, like Molly's, were exempt from the army as farm workers were needed to produce essential food. However, several of Molly's school friends had fathers away at war, some spending years in prisoner of war camps. But everyone helped each other – typical of a small village like Peppard. A great party was held on the common when peace was declared in 1945. 'Peppard' says Molly 'is a special place and in spite of many holidays in other parts of the British Isles, I've never wished to live anywhere else.'

Sue Nickson

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Our Village

Kingwood Common Preservation Group

Following the application made by Nettlebed & District Commons Conservators to fence 24.9 hectares of Kingwood Common for the purpose of grazing six to eight cattle twice yearly to promote the maintenance of heathland, I am pleased to say that the Planning Inspector, Heidi Cruickshank has ruled that the application be refused. The inquiry was held over two days in April at the Nettlebed Community School where we were represented by William Upton, Barrister.

I would like to thank all the many supporters of the Group who donated not only time but also money.

Ted Dadley, Chairman

Commons News

Grazing Project

You may have read that the application to fence a part of Kingwood Common to allow seasonal grazing has been refused. The Conservators have always said that they would accept the Inspector's decision. The Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Act, which has served us well for over one hundred years, did not legislate for conditions that prevail in the 21st century and this was the principal reason for the failure of this application. Importantly, the Inspector felt that the consultation process appeared to have been open and transparent to those who took an interest at the time.

The proposed scheme was similar to the many other successful grazing schemes encouraged by DEFRA and there is still the challenge to find the best means of conserving the lowland heathland. To do nothing has never been an option and will soon lead to further encroachment of scrub on this beautiful common unless a strategy is implemented. We would hope to encourage more homeowners who campaigned for the Public Inquiry to be more pro-active by way of hands-on, or financial support through The Friends, so that they may continue to enjoy the benefits of Kingwood Common.

The Conservators will continue to strive for a solution for a successful management scheme to preserve the lowland heathland on Kingwood Common and will welcome any genuinely sustainable proposals.

Erosion on Peppard Common

Efforts are being made to restore the roadside verge along the top common on Colliers Lane, where motorists frequently veer onto the common rather than wait for on-coming cars to pass safely. A raised grass verge is being created with numer-

ous crossing points to allow pedestrian and wheelchair access to be maintained. This approach was introduced on Church Lane where years of worsening erosion was halted and the grass verge successfully restored. For information see: www.nettlebed-commons.org

Nigel Wooding

Teamwork Pays Off!

After a night of heavy rain, a veritable army of volunteers worked their socks off to prepare the arena and showground (aka Peppard Common) for this year's Peppard Village Fair on Saturday, 11th June. They were rewarded when the sunshine returned early in the morning and literally hundreds of villagers turned up to enjoy an afternoon of various activities.

The Fair commenced at 14.00 with a musical welcome by Peppard Primary School children. This was followed by a very competitive tag rugby competition in the arena, fought out by four primary schools, Badgemore, Kidmore End, Peppard and Stoke Row. It was Kidmore End who showed great teamwork to end up as worthy winners.



The Busy Craft Tent

The arena was surrounded by different activities - games and stalls - for both the young and old. These included a bungee run, giant inflatable slide and the ever popular golf putting challenge. There were donkeys to stroke and owls to hold - new attractions for Peppard Fair. The craft tent, including a spinning and weaving display, was packed all afternoon. The barbecue and candy floss stall (much visited by the younger

members of the community!) were complemented by the Tea Tent and Bar, which both did a roaring trade. A splendid display of home-baked cakes predictably disappeared very quickly.

There were many generous sponsors and supporters of the event and when these are combined with the well supported raffle and silent auction, early indications show that this event, organised by a village committee, will have raised substantial funds to the benefit of both the school and All Saints' Church.

Ian Fraser

Peppard 10K Run/Walk

On Sunday, 4th September, the Feed the Children (UK)'s Samuel Hood Memorial 10K Peppard Run/7K Walk starts and finishes at Greys Green Golf Course.

Entry forms are available at www.feedthechildren.org.uk. Registration commences at 09.30. Entry fees: Runners: £10 in advance; £12 on the day. Walkers, £5 in advance, £6 on the day. Children under 16, £1. The Best Fund-raiser (group or individual) will be awarded the Samuel Hood Memorial

Shield and trophy. Every participant will receive a certificate with awards presented to first man, first woman, first veteran (over 65) first boy and first girl (under 16).

'We hope to attract a wide range of participants for this year's Peppard 10K run and 7K walk,' says Feed the Children's Chief Executive, Brian Main. The charity works in areas of desperate need: administration costs are very low with 90% of donations going towards its work

Library News

People still have until the end of September to consider their response to the Council's proposals. OCC proposes to keep all Oxfordshire libraries open, and funded up to a point, but the 16 smaller ones (including Sonning Common) will need to find many willing volunteers from the local community to help to run them. It

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would be good if all local residents could respond to the consultation (either on-line at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraryserviceconsultation, or on forms available in the library), whether they're library users or not, so that the council can get a full picture of local opinion.

Meanwhile, the annual Summer Reading Challenge for children will begin in July. Children are asked to visit the library four times over the summer, and read (or share with a parent) six books in that time. In return, they will be given stickers and various small rewards, and a medal at the end. The theme for this year is 'Circus Skills', and the library will hold a special storytime and activity each Saturday in August from 10.00.

For more information or clarification, contact: Rosemary Dunstan, Library Manager on 0118 972 2448

Greys Court

Soak up the atmosphere of this intimate family home and find out about its role at the heart of the nation's WI movement. A colourful family guide containing simple craft and recipe projects is on offer to younger visitors, who can also enjoy baking and jam-making demonstrations in the kitchen. Outside, the gardens reveal sumptuous scent and colour from roses and lavender. The pretty walled kitchen garden is brimming with fruit and vegetables, much of which is for sale daily. Families can explore the medieval ruins, wildflower meadow, orchard and woodlands following self-guided trails.

Children are invited to design and plant up their own 'Secret Garden' with the garden team on 10th August*, whilst 'Get Your Wellies On' leads them beyond the boundaries of the gardens, to discover how food finds its way from the estate on to our plates (24th August*)

A packed summer programme includes special evening tours of the house (8th and 22nd July*), and sparkling nights of music and comedy from outdoor theatre productions, as well as Greys Court's popular *Music & Moonlight* event – the chance to dress up, picnic and enjoy live entertainment (30th July*). *Ticketed events, to be booked in advance.

For information on all our events: 0844 2491895 or www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Greys Court Appeal for Fabric

WI volunteers are embarking on a project to create a quilt for Lady Brunner's bedroom. They are appealing for pieces of mid-20th century cotton fabric of any size. For further information contact Greys Court's House Steward, Laura Gangadeen: phone 01491 628004 or e-mail lauragan-gadeen@nationaltrust.org.uk

FISH

By the time Peppard News goes to print, FISH will have held its 32nd (or is it 33rd?) Annual General Meeting. For all registered charities, the Annual General Meeting is a mandatory requirement of the charity commissioners; it allows all the members of the charity and members of the general public to come along and ask questions of the officers of the charity. Traditionally FISH has combined its Annual General Meeting with a get-together of all the volunteers involved in the work of FISH. This year was no exception and more than 40 volunteers and ex-volunteers of the charity turned up at the Sonning Common Village Hall.

FISH, like most charities, is always in need of more volunteers: a year ago, we were in desperate need of more bus drivers but over the last few months we have been successful in recruiting new bus drivers, both male and female, and as of today we have adequate bus drivers available to us. Now we need more office helpers. The role of our office helpers is to come into our office in the Village Hall and work for two hours from 09.30 to 11.30 answering the telephone and greeting visitors - most of whom are contacting us to arrange either a medical visit where they need a driver or a trip on the big yellow bus. If you're comfortable talking to

people face-to-face and over the telephone and are happy to give up a couple of hours in the mornings, maybe once a week or once a fortnight or even once a month, then we would love to hear from you. Please give us a call on 0118 972 3986 or e-mail fishvolunteercentre@googlemail.com, and Caroline Stockill, our Office Co-ordinator, will contact you and talk through what's involved.

Phil Clark, Chairman

Flying Scotsman



Watched by a large crowd of onlookers, young and old, 82 vintage cars booked into the time control at the Red Lion on 1st April. Of these all but nine cars reached Edinburgh - 720 miles and two days later. Unfortunately, the very rare Squire, a car built in Henley-on-Thames, of which only seven were ever sold, blew up its engine 20 miles from the start at Brooklands. Undeterred, the driver 'rang a friend' who very kindly lent him one of his vintage Bentleys so that he could continue and arrive on time. Along the scenic route, which used the most challenging roads in the Welsh Marches, the Yorkshire Dales,



Photo courtesy of Dave Watson

the Pennines and South West Scotland, the weather remained clear and sunny. This was a great relief to the father and son crew in their small open two-seater Riley, with no weather protection at all, who were the overall winners – proving that size, power and expensive restorations are not the only answer.

Alan Smith

<p>Make a bee line to BRAMBLES for Fresh Flowers, Bouquets, Plants and more 0118 9721240</p>	 	<p>Wedding flowers Funeral tributes Opposite village hall car park exit 42 Wood Lane Sonning Common</p>
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Our Churches

All Saints' Church of England

www.allsaintspeppard.org.uk

Rector: Revd Canon Graham Foulis Brown 0118 723987
 Asst. Priest: Revd Barry Olsen 0118 924 2812
 Churchwardens: Adrienne Heriot 01491 629254
 Toby Greenwood 0118 972 2861

From the Rector

I spent three days looking after the Common Entrance candidates at the school where I taught in the 1970s. And I talked to my daughter about her Year 6 class in west London where they have SATs coming up. We put our young people in stressful situations fairly early on but it serves only to prepare them for life as it will become for them as they grow older. The weekly essay, seminars and tutorials, and then whatever comes next. On those three days that I drove over to Bucklebury, I joined the queue to get out of the village rather than saunter into my study at the Rectory. And I know the time many of us in this community leave for work and get home again. And I know the demands at home too. It is too easy to get taken over by it all and go round in ever decreasing circles. As a parish priest I have often said to someone that they should slacken off a bit, take more holiday, or to ignore something.

It's a few years ago now that one Saturday morning I walked along from the Rectory to my other parish church wearing something like jeans and a sweatshirt, not clericals. Someone I had never seen before stopped me and said, "You people are privileged to live here, you know. And I bet you never think about it" and he walked off. I am very guilty for never stopping to think and to notice the beauty of our villages and our lanes – always trying to remember where the next passing place is on the road. And it quite worries me what else I might not notice. Maybe if we did stop to notice a bit more it would

make a critical difference to the quality of our lives.

Graham

The Fellowship of Saint Birinus

Two long standing and well known members of All Saints' Church have recently been nominated for membership of the Fellowship of St Birinus in recognition of exceptional service to the community.

Ian Fraser, in addition to driving the FISH bus, works tirelessly both inside and outside the church, particularly in ensuring that the church yards are kept looking their best. Compliments are regularly entered in the visitors' book.

Keith Atkinson has been involved with church music for many years especially with the Royal School of Church Music in Oxfordshire. He has done much to promote festivals throughout the county and is very supportive of the junior choirs.

Membership of the fellowship will be conferred by the Bishop of Dorchester at a special service at Dorchester Abbey in July and many congratulations are due to both Ian and Keith.

Two Special Celebrations

In April 1861, the first edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern* was dedicated and the 150th anniversary was marked at a service on Sunday, 10th April. Well known hymns sung at that service all appeared in the first edition including

Soldiers of Christ, Arise, Lord, thy word abideth and Abide with me.

On 15th May a large and appreciative congregation, including representatives from neighbouring churches, joined together for a service to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible.

Area Dean

The Reverend Canon Graham Foulis Brown, who has served as Area Dean for the last seven years, is due to step down later this year. The post will be taken over by the Revd. Kevin Davies, Team Rector of the Langtree Team. Grateful thanks to Graham for having fulfilled the role so well and best wishes to Kevin on his appointment.

Adrienne Heriot

Christian Aid 2011

On behalf of Christian Aid, we would like to thank all the people of Peppard and Greys who gave so generously during Christian Aid week. The charity will benefit from a total of £2,310 (including reclaimable Gift-Aid tax). This amount was raised from the house-to-house collection and the retiring collection taken at the excellent *Of Life and Love* concert. The money, as always, will aid many of those people made desperate by natural disasters around the globe.

As always, we are very grateful to the team of collectors for their help and support. Thank you also to Marion and Nigel for giving their large audience at All Saints' Church on 14th May such an enjoyable evening. We don't think ours were the only feet tapping away to Marion's rendition of Gershwin's *I Got Rhythm!*

Ian and Pat Fraser

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Do you know which book is the best-seller of all time? Not the works of Shakespeare or Dickens, but the Bible. Nobody can be certain of the number of copies produced but the Bible Society estimates that nearly three billion have been printed in the last 200 years. Some estimates go much higher, and with massive printing now in China and India, this is entirely possible. Despite these amazing numbers, millions of people around the world still lack the Bible in a language they can understand. The Bible Society, and others, is working hard to redress this situation. Apparently the Bible is the most shoplifted book in the world - there are many ways to spread the Good News!

On Sunday, 15th May local churches gathered at All Saints' Church to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible. From the year 1604 until 1611 a large group of scholars and translators, under the guidance of King James 1, using original texts, worked to bring us the KJV, also known as the Authorised Version. The former Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, referred to the King James Bible as 'a cornerstone of our culture and our language' and 'its power to fuse history with poetry'. The impact of this version of the Word of God has been enormous from a spiritual point of view, and it has also contributed greatly to our language. Many commonly used phrases have their origin in the KJV, for example: 'The blind leading the blind' (Matthew 15v13), 'A fly in the ointment' (Ecclesiastes 10v1), and 'Turned the world upside down' (Acts 17v6).

There have, of course, been dozens of translations of the Bible since 1611, many

of which have become very familiar. Probably the most recent is *The Message* by Eugene Peterson, a contemporary rendering taken from the original Hebrew and Greek, written to present the Bible's tone, rhythm, events and ideas in everyday language - the same kind of language you'd use to talk to a friend or write a letter.

So it is now possible to enjoy the well loved poetry and style of the King James Version and also to read God's Word in easy-to-comprehend modern language. What a rich and rewarding choice we have to study the most important book of all time.

Chris Mills

More Snippets

Church Lane Celebrates

What a good idea I have to say,
Street Party on the Wedding Day,
Organised without a fault,
Continuous fun without a halt,
Matthew, Alan, Linda, Terry,
And Susan made the day so merry,
Greeted by Susan's work of art,
What a sight and what a start,
Castle Wall Portcullis gate,
Good enough for the Modern Tate,
Cardboard towers paper wall,
Really did impress us all,
All were labelled, so would not say,
They know me... who the hell are they?
Matthew firstly set the tone,
With the programme on the microphone,
Said 'elf and safety' makes me say,
If you see the fire run away,
Alistair, the jester sang
Music through the village rang.
Good food, good drink and good chat,
Good venue, what could better that?

Tables groaned with lots of grub,
Terry (who else?) ran the pub,
Rounders and skittles for kids to play,
But nice people made the day!
Lots of laughter, lots of fun,
What really makes a village run,
So thanks to those who made so,
Can't wait till they have another go!

Anon



Peppard Royal Family- Photo courtesy of Rita Pratt

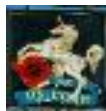
The winners of the Church Lane Royal Family competition were: King - Fred Pratt; Queen - Julie Rose; Princess - Ellie Fisher; Prince - Oliver Renwick

War Memorial Hall's 90th Birthday

To celebrate the 'Old Lady's' birthday, the trustees would like to invite all the nonagenarians (and their carers) from the parishes of Rotherfield Peppard and Sonning Common to a Tea Party to be held on 19th August. If you would like to come along or you know someone who you think would appreciate an invitation then please contact Phillip Collings on 07971 279367.

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Susan Duke ITEC

Clubs and Societies

Rotherfield United Football Club

We have had an outstanding season. The club now has 18 teams ranging from Under 5s to Under 18s with over 220 young people from our local area.

At the beginning of the season, Rotherfield achieved the FA Charter Standard Development Club status and, more recently, four Rotherfield teams have won their division championships. A number of our teams have performed extremely well in local tournaments in the last few weeks with the U9 Tigers team narrowly missing out in the final.

On Saturday, 25th June, the club celebrates its success with its annual Presentation Day, which includes exhibition matches and a number of related challenges.

We will start training for the new season at the end of August and if any new players would like to join please e-mail the club at info@rotherfieldfc.com

Andy Davies, 07900697513

The Edge Youth Club

OCC ceases funding us at the end of August and the Management Committee, who are all local volunteers, are working hard to ensure that funding is in place to continue the youth club. We are looking to fundraise from local businesses and charities. In the meantime, the County Council have a fund we are bidding for to keep us afloat and, of course, the OCC 'Chill Out Fund' will continue and we can also bid for funds from this.

The Committee has secured a £4,500 donation every year for three years from Sonning Common Parish Council.

We have two new Members joining the Committee next month and we are always looking for volunteers for youth work in the club and for the Committee. If anyone wishes to volunteer for however little time

they can spare we would be delighted to meet them.

The club goes from strength to strength. We intend to open the youth club through the summer on Wednesdays and Thursday evenings. We want to provide a safe and happy place for local youngsters to 'hang out' with their friends and we would be delighted to receive any ideas from young people about things they might like to introduce to make it an even more enjoyable experience.

It is a local club for local youngsters, run and managed by local people. It is fun, vibrant and inclusive.

For more information, please contact the Chairman, Mrs. B Dobson on 0118 972 3266 or 07979 811318 or Mrs R Edgington on 0118 972 3076.

Councillor Carol Viney, OCC

Lions Club

Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club, serving the villages of south west Oxfordshire, recently celebrated its 30th Charter Anniversary. The Club raises over £10,000 annually to support charitable projects, mainly in the local community, such as Sonning Common Pre-School. Will you join us? With your help the Lions can continue to make a real difference.

For more information, telephone 0845 8339837, or e-mail: info@lions-gwd.org.uk, or website www.lions-gwd.org.uk

Circle Dancing

July sees the group celebrate its fourth birthday. Over these four years we have danced over 150 different dances from 15 countries, in a variety of styles and speeds and a range of moods. In Circle

Dance there are no mistakes, only variations, so if you'd like to find out what's involved in *Midsummer Rhapsody*, *Seaweed*, or *Dreamcatcher*, why not join us? 15.30-17.00 hours every first Sunday of the month at Christ the King Hall, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common. More details from Ros Jennings 01491 874220.

2nd Kidmore End Brownies

We have been enjoying the spring weather to get outside. We have been working on our cycling badge, combined with Bikeability Level 1. Rachel Davey, a Bikeability training instructor, has been leading the girls through bike checks and increasing their confidence to ride safely.



Adventure Day

At a Brownie Adventure day at Longridge in Marlow on 14th May, the girls tried bell boating, climbing, Jacobs's ladder and go-karting. They loved the activities and were coached and supported by the excellent staff at Longridge – a great day!

Next term we will be working towards the Environment badge to coincide with World Environment Day. The brownies will be fundraising for an Environment focussed charity of their choice. Term will

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Peppard Relief in Need

A local safety net for helping those who have fallen on hard times

If you know someone who could do with a little financial help to get them through a crisis, (or you need help yourself) please let us know.

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Sue Nickson (0118 972 4520) or Pat Fraser (01491 629631)

finish on 13th July with a Rounders evening and picnic.

Should you be interested in putting your daughter's name on the waiting list, please contact our Brown Owl, Jess Higson on 0118 972 3206.

Wyfold RDA

It is good to get out and about away from the daily routine, and ponies and drivers did just that recently with a picnic drive on the Hambledon Estate. The drivers, able-bodied and disabled, really enjoyed the day with a birthday celebration for one of them thrown in. The ponies appreciated the break and behaved impeccably. For more info: www.wyfoldrda.org.uk

Adrienne Heriot, 0845 4507017

Peppard WI

We started our New Year with a recently elected Committee made up of several new members and some old hands, all bursting with fresh ideas (which may turn out to be old ones in disguise!). We enjoyed a good year with Pamela Davies, President for 2010-2011, who, with her committee, organised many interesting speakers, including talks on Crosswords, Keep Fit, the Mitford Sisters, and the History of The Vyne. Our visit to this National Trust Property is on 10th August.

Our meeting on 8th June included a demonstration of Line Dancing.

We are looking forward to our Garden Meeting at Irene Lindsay's on Wednesday, 13th July when we'll be glad to welcome any prospective new members. Her address is 'Serenity', 13 St Barnabas Road, Emmer Green. Phone 0118 348 0485. Come and join us for a pleasant afternoon, meet new friends, and enjoy a really superb tea.

Look out for the posters for more information.

Other talks this year include a Magic Lantern Show and *Make the Most of your Memory*. Which reminds me: we will also enjoy a Harvest Lunch and a Christmas Party.

If you would like to come and see what the WI is all about, we'd be happy to see you. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month at Peppard War Memorial Hall at 14.30. You will be made Very Welcome.

Di Ducker, President, 0118 946 1381

The 1st Peppard Guides have Re-Opened

The beginning of May saw our reopening, the only Guide unit in the Peppard/Sonning Common/Checkendon and Nettlebed area. We have 12 girls and a young leader: some of them were Guides with the former unit and some are new, having just finished Brownies.



Cooking 'S'mores'

We are very ambitious; a camping trip in Australia was on our list of things to do! We have a very full summer pro-

gramme including cookouts, dragon boating and an opportunity to meet some birds of prey.

Opened by Jo Waugh (a former Sonning Common Guide, working at The Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children) and Merryn Ough (from Shropshire and now a teacher at Sonning Common Primary), who both have been involved in Guiding for many years, and have a wide range of experience. We are looking forward to many future adventures and we will keep *Peppard News* up-to-date. Any queries please contact Jo by e-mail: squirreljo@yahoo.ie

Jo Waugh

Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club

We are looking forward to the start of the 2011/12 season which begins in September. Prior to that the club has arranged a number of pre-season practice sessions and invites anyone interested in playing league table tennis to join us. We have teams across all standards in the Reading & District League. Practice sessions are from 19.30 – 21.00 every two weeks on Thursday evenings, starting on 16th June at the Peppard War Memorial Hall in Gallowstree Road. Simply pop in and ask to speak to either Nigel Maltby or Paul Jarvis. Sessions will be held on 16th, 30th June, 14th, 28th July, 11th and 18th August.

The A team are back in the top division next season and will be looking to avoid any relegation worries, while both the B and C teams are in Division 2. The D team will be in Division 4, the E and F teams are in Division 5 and the G team will be in Division 6. This will be the Club's 45th year of League table tennis. Contact me on 0118 946 3191 or n.maltby587@btinternet.com

Nigel Maltby

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Peppard Diary

JULY			AUGUST		
Sun	3	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00	Mon	1	FISH Garden Centre/Details FISH office
Mon	4	FISH Garden Centre/Details FISH office	Thu	4	Green Gym/B'court Wood/09.30-12.30/01189723528
Tue	5	Peppard School/ <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> /Kenton Theatre	Fri	5	Greys Court/ <i>Fantastic Mr Fox</i> /18.30/08442491895
Fri	8	Peppard School Sports Day Greys Court House Tour/18.30-20.30/08442491895	Sun	7	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Sat	9	Green Gym/B'court Wood/09.30-12.30/01189723528 SCCS Concert/Highdown School/17.00/01491575727	Mon	8	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55 RPPC Meeting 19.30/Planning 21.30/Pavilion
Mon	11	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55 RPPC Meeting 19.30/Planning 21.30/Pavilion	Tue	9	FISH Outing/Details FISH office
Tue	12	FISH Outing/Details FISH office	Wed	10	Greys Ct/ <i>Make Secret Garden</i> /10.00/08442491895 WI Visit to The Vyne
Wed	13	WI Garden Meeting at Serenity/01183480485	Thu	11	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/Details FISH office
Thu	14	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/Details FISH office	Fri	12	FISH Outing/Cricket at Lords/Details FISH office
Sat	16	Green Gym/K'wood Comn/09.30-12.30/01189723528 Greys Court/ <i>Pirates of Penzance</i> /19.30/08442491895	Wed	17	Peppard Lunch Club Garden Tea/01189722808
Wed	20	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00/01189722808	Fri	19	FISH Southsea Outing/Details FISH office
Fri	22	FISH National Trust Outing/Details FISH office Peppard School Term ends Greys Court House Tour/18.30-20.30/08442491895	Sat	20	Green Gym/Kennylands Field/09.30-12.30/01189723528 RPPC Planning Meeting/Pavilion/10.00 Nettlebed Art & Craft Show/Nettlebed Sch /12.00-21.00
Sat	23	RPPC Planning Meeting/Pavilion/10.00	Sun	21	Nettlebed Art & Craft Show/Nettlebed Sch /12.00-21.00
Sun	24	Greys Court/MG Car Club/13.00	Mon	22	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55
Mon	25	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55	Wed	24	Greys Court/ <i>Get Wellies On</i> /10.00-12.00/08442491895
Thu	28	Green Gym/Greys Court/09.30-12.30/01189723528	Sat	27	Green Gym/Crosslanes/09.30-12.30/01189723528
Fri	29	FISH Outing/Details FISH office	SEPTEMBER		
Sat	30	Greys Court <i>Music & Moonlight</i> /19.00/08442491895	Thu	1	Green Gym/Greys Court/09.30-12.30/01189723528 SC Young Authors' Comp Registration Deadline
FISH Office: 0118 9723986 (Mon-Fri, 09.30-11.30)			SC & Peppard Table Tennis Club/Mem Hall – Juniors – Mon 17.00/01189463191		
CAB - SC Surgery Tuesdays 9.30-12.30 - 0844411144			Peppard Bowls: Mon & Thurs 14.00 – 16.00 (01491 572854)		

BROWN BIN COLLECTION SERVICE

Month	July		August		September	
	13 th	27 th	10 th	24 th	7 th	21 st
Brown bin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Garden waste	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

For Green (recycling) and Grey (non-recycling) bins please see SODC Calendars, which have been amended for some properties in the Parish. Food waste will be collected weekly. Phone: 03000 610610, or see www.southoxon.gov.uk or www.PeppardNews.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Services at All Saints'	JULY					AUGUST				SEPTEMBER				NOTES
	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	① No Service at 18.30 on 17 th July ② Benefice Service at 11.00 at Kidmore End ③ Benefice Service ④ Harvest Thanksgiving
10.30 Communion (sung)		✓		✓	②		③		✓		✓		✓	
10.30 Matins	✓					✓				✓				
10.30 Peppard Praise			✓					✓				✓		
10.30 Sunday School		✓					✓				✓			
18.30 Evensong	✓	✓	①	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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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Saturday 17.30 ♦ Sunday 09.00 & 10.30

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