



Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

Our School is 135 Years Old

Winter 2006

Peppard C of E Primary School has just reached its 135th Birthday. There's a plaque to celebrate 125 years and a Victorian Fair marked its centenary. At that time, Vera Stanger researched the school's history. She collected many interesting tales from former pupils, who remembered, with particular fondness, headmistresses Mrs Allaway and Mrs Le Clare. Vera spent time in the Bodleian Library copying old surveys sent to Rectors in Greys and Peppard Parishes detailing the schooling, if any, of parishioners' children; *In 1808, 22 children (in Greys) were taught in a school endowed by voluntary subscriptions. The boys were taught to read and knit stockings and the girls to work and read.* A few years later, Rev Robert Prichard wrote *I conceive Peppard to be a very central spot for the establishment of a National School, there being many hamlets in the area placed at a very inconvenient distance from their respective churches.*



1900

At last in 1870, a meeting of local land-owners was held in the Rectory to consider building a school and schoolmistress's house. The Lord of the Manor, Lord Camoys of Stonor Park, agreed to the use of a quarter acre on the Common and Mr Slater raised no objection to the chosen site on 'the pound' facing Slater's Farm. About £600 was raised by subscriptions and the contract awarded to G Crock at a price of £509 1s 9d.

Ten children attended the first day of school on 30th October 1871, two days after the Bishop of Oxford's service of dedication. The first schoolmistress, Miss Powell, received a salary of £35pa, her house was supplied with bare essentials at the cost of £5 3s 8d and £7pa allocated for coal to heat both buildings. School fees ranged from 7s 6d a quarter for farmers to 1d a week for labourers.

In 1892 a second smaller classroom was built (now the staff room). Parishioners raised the necessary £200 to add to the Government grant of £44 16s. It wasn't until 1909 that mains water was installed and new toilets built making the earth closets at the end of yard obsolete. In that year the gallery in the original schoolroom, felt to be unsafe, was removed but the old bell in the little tower still rings every morning at school time.



1971

Over the years, our school has had its share of Government inspections. Firstly in 1892 when the inspector seemed pleased and a good report was expected, a half day holiday was declared and the boys had a cricket match followed by a scrumptious tea. And this year the OFSTED inspector applauded the *buddy system* where oldest and newest pupils are paired, providing the youngest children with 'a friend' and helping the older pupils develop into caring mature young people.



2006

It is a school where every child matters, not only to staff but also to every other child states the OFSTED report, and goes on, Good relationships between adults and pupils, very good attitudes to learning and teachers' clear expectations of behaviour and effort contributes to the calm purposeful atmosphere of lessons. Pupils consistently attain standards which are above average.

For 135 years our village school has served the community. It represents a family to many pupils and staff and equips young people well for the next phase of their education and beyond.

Editorial

Who can believe that Christmas has come around again so soon? Despite the shops having been well stocked with Christmas wares since September, I've yet to make a start on my Christmas shopping!

People fall into two groups at this time of year - those who have bought all their presents, written all their cards and are regularly 'feeding' the homemade Christmas cake with brandy by the first week of November, and those who may be found dashing round the shops on Christmas Eve looking for last-minute presents. This year I'm most definitely in the latter group!

But while our minds are often preoccupied with all the presents and food, we should remember that Christmas is also about loved ones and our community. Christmas can be a lonely and difficult time for people who are on their own, so look out for your neighbours who might be in need of companionship or support.

Here in Peppard we're lucky to have a strong, friendly and bustling community. So bustling in fact that the Peppard News team has decided to print its first ever bumper edition! We hope you'll take the time to sit and enjoy this issue - maybe with a mince pie and cup of tea - or perhaps a glass of wine (after all, it is Christmas!).

The Peppard News team wishes all our readers a very Happy Christmas.

Susan Carter
Editor



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School Matters

Peppard C of E Primary School

Peppard Common RG9 5JU
 Phone: 01491 628354
 Head Teacher - **Anne Jarvis**
 Chairman of the Governors
Elizabeth Bielby

Roman Legion XIII comes to Peppard

Years 5 and 6 at Peppard Primary School were in for a shock when Gaius Aquila, a retired Centurion called back to the Colours, arrived to recruit them into Legion XIII.



Their training was harsh and unforgiving. They were drilled and threatened with the dire consequences of failure or disobedience; punishments such as flogging and unclogging Roman toilets as well as the death sentence for desertion! But belonging to the Legion did have the advantages of good pay and prospects. Celtic and Roman weapons were explained and demonstrated before a Celt and a Roman soldier in armour fought a mock battle, which, of course, the Roman soldier won!



Happily no one was required to fall on their sword during the whole exercise.

Budding Town Planners at Peppard Primary School

Rome wasn't built in a day but Miniville was! Rob from Romford arrived at Peppard with quantities of Lego and pupils set about building a town from scratch under his guidance.

Rob showed the children how to build a good house from foundations to roof, bringing in planning permission, fire regulations and so on as he spoke.



Before pupils set about building their town they had to consider the balance of buildings needed and by the end of an enthusiastic day of construction these Young Town Planners produced the fine town of Miniville. When Rob asked about the facilities available, he discovered there was more than one vet and, oddly enough, the children had forgotten to include a school!

The Young Town Planners

We made our own Lego towns and it was great fun. We learnt all about how to build houses and how to overlap bricks. Do you know how to make a Lego house? Here is one for you to see.



We all made our house into lots of different buildings like, a hospital or a

doctor's surgery, a farm, a Bed and Breakfast, a dentist, an hotel, a shop and lots of other things. A man came in to help us build the town, he showed us how to build the house and in particular the roof. This is a more difficult house to build.

But we did it!



By Charlotte Udell

Editor's Note: We are delighted to include this article written by Charlotte and would be very happy to include any articles written by children in future issues.

Father Christmas in Peppard

The Friends of Peppard School – affectionately known as FOPS – were responsible for organising this year's School Christmas Fair, which was held on Saturday 2nd December, a fine sunny day. However the fund raising was jump-started one week earlier when the school-children were allowed to go to school with wild hair for a Bad Hair Day – with one proviso, their parents had to contribute a bottle for the Tombola Stall at the Fair!



This year's Fair broke all records for attendance and income. There were many activities ranging from pony rides on the

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common, visits to Father Christmas in his grotto, and a huge number of stalls including Cake Lotto, Crafts, Face Painting, Henna Tattoos, and many games for the children. Finally of course there was the very well subscribed Bottle Tombola! As usual, the Raffle was a great success raising over £300 and by an amazing coincidence the main prize in the raffle, a huge hamper, was won for the second year running by the Adams family.



Overall profit from the event was approximately £1,400. This money will be used for the benefit of the school and all parents will be asked for their recommendations about how the money should be spent.

Happy Christmas from the Sonning Common Pre-School!

The Sonning Common Pre-School Christmas Fair, held on 2nd December, was another great success for the Pre-School - over £900 was raised! The money will be put towards role playing equipment for the children and as well as for the ongoing maintenance of the Pre-School. The event received tremendous local support, from the people who came to the Fair on the day, to the local businesses who donated raffle prizes and signs. Staff and parents at the Pre-School also worked hard to make sure that the Fair ran as smoothly as possible and that everyone enjoyed themselves. Michael Butlin, Chairman of the Pre-School Committee said "It was an all round team effort. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate. Their support is very much appreciated by the Pre-School".

Very spooky!!

This was the verdict of the intrepid staff at **Bishopswood Day Nursery** who recently stayed overnight in the nursery which is surrounded by dark beech woods. This overnight stay was the final part of a day spent fund raising by staff and children for the Children In Need charity. Generous sponsorship meant a cheque for £300 winging its way to the charity. Their efforts meant that the Nursery was able to celebrate a hat-trick. At their Fun Day in the Summer, the Nursery donated £800 of their proceeds to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital – a worthy effort made in memory of Fleur Taylor, a baby daughter of a member of the staff. The third element of the hat-trick of fund raising activity involved all the children attending the Nursery. They were encouraged to plant their own daffodil in the grounds and they obtained sponsorship which meant that Marie Curie Cancer Care benefited by over £500. The children eagerly await the Spring!



Despite only being established for two and a half years Bishopswood Day Nursery is flourishing. Remarkably they take babies as young as six weeks into Buttercups where they stay until moving on to Daisies Toddler Room at fifteen months. On to Tulips when they are two and then at two and a half into Clover. Here they stay for six months before settling in to Peppard Pre-School prior

to going to Primary school. Obviously children can join the Nursery at any intermediate stage. All sections of the Nursery are open year round including school holidays from 7.30am to 6.30pm.

Parent, Toddler and Baby Group

The Peppard Parent, Toddler and Baby group has been very busy this term having held both our Poppy party and Christmas party. Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise money for the British Legion - we raised £96 as a result and the children really enjoyed the Poppy party that we held in November. Hopefully we will have been equally successful in our efforts to 'Get the Goat' as a Unicef Gift to the third world with contributions from our end of term Christmas party.

Next term we will be having nursery rhymes as a theme. We'll be doing plenty of arts and crafts, stories and music associated with a different rhyme each week. At the end of term we will be having an Easter Egg Hunt to which everyone will be welcome.

If you are interested in the group, it takes place every Tuesday during term time, including half term, between 09.45 and 11.45 at the Peppard War Memorial Hall, Gallowstree Road. We are a very friendly group and welcome new parents, so if you would like to know more contact Jackie Hutt on 01491 629694 or just come along!!



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Council Matters

District Councillors

Let me take this opportunity on behalf of your two District Councillors, Don Naish and myself, to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

The last year has been a busy one at the District Council; back in the spring we were successful in getting SEERA (the South East England Regional Assembly) to agree to remove the southern villages of Oxfordshire from their plans for the expansion of Reading.

As part of our commitment to recycling we also introduced a new garden refuse service. This has been more successful than we could ever have hoped for and has quadrupled the volume of garden refuse collected.

Bishopswood sports ground has been an issue for us ever since Sonning Common Parish Council decided not to continue its lease. After a year of running the facility, the council decided to put the ground up for sale for sporting use only. We have now received five proposals and these are currently being assessed.

Back in April the government introduced the free Bus passes for the over 60s. These can be obtained from SODC and I would recommend them to everyone over 60. The more the bus service is used, the more bus services will be provided.

Back in October 2004 we started a councillor's surgery in the hall behind St. Michael's church. This runs every first Saturday of the month from 10am to noon and provides a useful way for those with issues to contact their District and County councillors. So if you have something you wish to discuss please come along.

Finally, to help the trade in Henley, SODC has agreed to make all their car parks free for each Saturday afternoon in December.

Happy Christmas

Paul Harrison.

Carlings Orchard

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the designation of the Chilterns as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB) set up the AONB 40th Anniversary Fund – Parish Councils within the area were invited to apply for a grant so Rotherfield Peppard PC applied for one to help with

the replacement of some of the trees in Carlings Orchard which is a designated public open space. We were fortunate to be awarded a grant and five new trees have now been planted. More trees will be needed in the future as many of the existing trees need replacing but this grant is a great help towards the ongoing costs of maintaining Carlings Orchard and we are, of course, most grateful to the CCB.

Parish Council

Chairman: Tim Meikle
0118 972 3084

Parish Clerk: Barbara Marston
01491 684188

Website: www.rppc.org.uk

SODC Councillors: Don Naish
0118 972 3828
& Paul Harrison - 0118 972 2665

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.

Traffic

It has been noted that an increasing amount of commercial traffic is using rural roads to avoid traffic congestion on major roads, using their satellite navigation systems. The Government is commissioning a survey/consultation and one of our councillors has been invited to respond. At the same time there will be more attention paid to speed enforcement on Gallowstree and Stoke Row roads.

Concessionary fares

The way South Oxfordshire District Council distributes travel tokens may change from 1st April 2007. The current system means entitled residents have to collect their tokens from the parish council. But we hope to improve this service by offering to deliver them to customers' doors. We are currently consulting town and parish councils and parish representatives who distribute tokens about our proposal.

Oakley Wood Recycling Centre

It is at Henley Road, Crowmarsh, Nr Wallingford: open Monday – Sunday 08.00 - 17.00hrs, Thursday late night until 20.00hrs 1st April - 30th September

(The Centre will close at 15.00hrs on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve)

Some items that can be taken to the centre for free disposal include:- household batteries, car batteries, televisions, fridges and freezers, computer monitors, plastics, soil, rubble, green waste, cardboard, paper & shredded paper, light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, glass, metals, foil, cans, engine oil, timber and textiles.

DIY waste - householders can take up to three items (like a door, a window frame, a bath or bag of DIY waste) for free and there is then a charge of £1 for every further item, up to ten items. Normal size car or motorcycle tyres - £1.75 for tyres on the wheel and £1.25 off the wheel.

Phone for more information (let phone ring as men often out on site) Tel: 01491 837430

Compost your Christmas tree for free!

If you buy your Christmas tree at any of these locations, you can return it there for composting on the following dates and times:

Wyevale Garden Centre, Harpsden – Sat 6th/13th Jan 9-12 & Sun 7th/14th Jan 10.30-12

Toad Hall Garden and Machinery Centre, Henley - Sat 6th/13th Jan 9-12 & Sun 7th/14th Jan 10-12

Greenshoots, Peppard Common Sat 6th/13th Jan 8-2pm & Sun 7th/14th Jan 8-12

The Herb Farm, Sonning Common Sat 6th/13th Jan 10-12 Sun 7th/14th Jan 10-12

Don't forget – you can also compost your Christmas tree in your brown wheeled bin, your home composter or at your nearest waste recycling centre.

Help Needed

Are you interested in the activities of our local councils? Do you have any free time? Would you like to join the Peppard News team as our reporter for this page?

If so, then please contact the Editor or e-mail PeppardNews@aol.com.

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Snippets

The Commons

Do you wish to graze your goats on the commons? Do you collect peat for fuel?

The commons are such a large feature of our village and yet many people are unclear about the history, uses and the by-laws concerning the 560 acres that comprise the Nettlebed & District Commons. This is the first of a series of articles about the lands that make up our commons.

What is Common Land and What Rights Exist?

There are commons all over England and Wales varying considerably in size and type, including moorland and forest, grassland and heath and, in some areas, water. These areas provide an important place for flora and fauna but many commons are constantly under threat from development. Common land is generally privately owned, over which some people exercise limited rights in common with the owner. These rights are thought to pre-date the time when land was privately owned, when inhabitants made a simple living for themselves. During Anglo-Saxon and Norman times, the land was divided up into large manorial estates and large areas became cultivated. However, those areas of poor quality soil were left uncultivated and local inhabitants retained the right to use this wasteland for certain purposes 'IN COMMON' with the owner.

These originally concentrated upon some or all of the following rights:

- to graze cattle, horses, sheep and goats – with limited numbers to each commoner and a penalty for exceeding that limit.
- to allow pigs to forage for nuts or other food (pannage).
- to take fish (piscary).

- to collect peat for fuel (turbary).
- to collect wood for fuelling and fencing, and bracken for animal bedding (estovers).
- to take stone, sand or gravel.

Some of these rights have continued through to the present day.

Nigel Wooding

Going Up In The World!

Rosemary Dunstan, Manager of our local library in Sonning Common, celebrated her 50th year by trekking to Everest Base Camp in Nepal. This involved 12 days trekking at altitude; the Base Camp itself is at a height of over 5000 metres (17,000ft in old money!). Why did she take up this huge challenge? It was to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care. She is confident that she will at least achieve her target of £2,500 from donations and is hoping for £3,000. (If you'd like to contribute, send your cheque to Rosemary made payable to 'Macmillan Cancer Relief'.)



Rosemary has agreed that we can reprint verbatim a very evocative email she sent to the library staff shortly after returning to ground level. This gives a real insight into the rigours of this unique trek.

E-mail dated 24th November 2006: "It's a long way to Everest Base Camp but I got there! We started from

Lobuche at 6.15am, and the water in my drinking bottle froze on the way! After hours and hours of walking over rough terrain, moraine wall and the Khumbu Glacier we finally got to Base Camp. It was completely deserted – no summit expeditions, and no rubbish except for a crashed helicopter. We only just got back to Gorak Shep before dark. We'd walked for 10 hours (with an hour and a half lunch break) and I was totally exhausted – but exhilarated!

We're now back in Namche Bazaar – civilisation after what we've been through! I've had a touch of the Khumbu Quickstep, and also the Khumbu Cough – but nowhere near as bad as some of the others. One chap had to be brought back on horseback as he was too weak to walk....

We've heard that there have been no flights out of Lukla in 4 days because of bad weather, and we're hoping to fly back to Kathmandu from there in 2 days ... could be interesting!"

Rosemary did arrive back in the UK safely and was at work in the library five hours after her first proper cup of tea at home!

Poppy Appeal 2006

This year the total collected so far by the Royal British Legion Peppard & District Branch for the 2006 Poppy Appeal was the magnificent sum of £3,240.78.

This represents House to House and Business point collections and donations. As always, many thanks to all the collectors who worked so hard and to the members of the committee who organised the making up, delivery and collection of all the boxes.

If you are interested in joining our band of collectors next year please contact Penny Harvey (Honorary Poppy Appeal Organiser) on 0118 9723779.



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Village Matters

Sonning Common Green Gym

Even though we get a regular mention in the Henley Standard, I imagine there are some of you out there who do not know what we do.

The Green Gym was one of Doctor Bird's ideas to try and make people fitter and get out in the fresh air as well as doing work to improve the local environment. Working with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, he set up a scheme to undertake a range of activities that would benefit the local environment.

The group meets every Thursday and Saturday morning between 9.30 and 12.30. The turnout varies, usually about 15 in number. We have a wide range of sites and activities ranging from clearing glades on Kingwood and Nettlebed Commons in order to try and replant and reinstate the heather that once covered this heathland, to working on the Aston Rowant Nature Reserve or restoring the water cress beds at Ewelme. The group has been lucky to be in at the inception of a nature reserve at Withymead in Goring which has involved clearing boggy areas, building bridges and opening up a beautiful Thames side walk.



As you can see the work is very varied and all the group have learnt new skills using saws, loppers, choppers and other tools, also doing willow planting and fence building (tones up the muscles no end!!). Using tools means that safety is of primary importance and leaders take a first aid qualification and training.

A vital part of every session is the coffee break where Diane Gordon's delicious cakes are rightly famous and much appreciated. This is a chance to meet the members and chat. Everyone is very friendly and part of the charm of the Green Gym is the comradeship that working together in the open air engenders. Bad jokes and light hearted banter are actively encouraged.

If you like the open air, would like to do some real environmental good and would like to get a bit fitter while doing it, as well as having fun why not come along and try the Green Gym.

To find out more contact Robin Howles – Tel 0118 972 3528.

Thames Valley Police Sonning Common Police Office Volunteers Needed

We need more volunteers to run the front office and provide support to our Area Beat Officers. If you are prepared to commit ½ day a week (with flexibility for holidays and other commitments) and enjoy dealing with people, we can train you to provide this important service to the community. The work is interesting and the environment friendly and congenial. The services provided cover the production of vehicle documents, the reporting of traffic accidents, lost and found property and helping in the reporting of crimes: but every day is different.

If you are interested or would like to learn more please contact one of our volunteers (there are 18 of us) at the Police Office, 74 Lea Road during opening times 10am to 6pm Mondays to Fridays.

Dog Worrying

There has been a serious incident of sheep worrying on a local farm recently and the consequences can be most distressing. When a dog is found worrying sheep an official warning is given to the dog's owner from the police. A second instance of worrying can lead to the legal shooting or 'putting down' of the dog.

You may be aware that there has also been trespassing, some criminal damage and theft. The police have been most helpful and the farmer has decided not to prosecute those involved. However any future incidents will not be dealt with so leniently.

Trespassers are not only at risk from a ferocious bull but they also damage fences which puts sheep and cattle at risk. As dog lovers, the farmer and his family have done everything possible to prevent sheep worrying; he has checked fences and put up polite notices around the boundary reminding dog walkers of their responsibilities.

FISH

The Charity Christmas sale in Sonning Common Village Hall on 28th October went well. Most stallholders selling cards and seasonal ware made more money than last year and were delighted with the response from supporters and villagers from the surrounding area. The aroma of grilled bacon wafting through the open doors enticed many to come in and sample our hot bacon baps, which, with a cup of tea or coffee, were a bargain at £1.50.

Once again, Margaret and Peter Warrick organised the Fish raffle making £184, whilst the homemade cakes stall, run by Jill Vallis and Ruth Whitaker, raised £77. Another volunteer, Peter Rickards, whose hobby is woodturning, gave half his takings to Fish again this year.

However, the sale could not have taken place without the time given by Barbara Butler, our long time organiser, or the efforts of the gentlemen volunteers who came early to set up the tables and stayed late to clear up afterwards.

Over the next months, in addition to the regular shopping trips, the bus manager will organise 'Shop & Lunch' visits to other towns and to social events suitable for the weather conditions. All trips will be advertised in the Library, on notice boards and outside the S.C. Village Hall during office hours; 9.30-11.30am. To book a seat on the bus, telephone us on 0118 9723986 or come into the office.

Barbara Perez

Townlands Hospital Minor Injuries Unit, Henley

The Unit is open every single day, except Christmas Day, from 9am to 8pm. The X-ray facility operates five days a week but it is not always available to the Unit.

Townlands treats some 4,500 patients a year in the Minor Injuries Unit and estimates there are probably another 1,000 going to A&E at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, instead of Townlands. Minor injuries include cuts, bruises, sprains, burns and minor head injuries. Anyone can phone the Unit on 01491 637435 to check if their injury can be treated at Townlands.

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War Memorial Hall

Peppard War Memorial Hall's Autumn Concert on November 11th was an evening of Irish Folk Music played by *The Goats* and everyone joined in with voice and instruments. The event was another fundraiser and was master-minded by John and Alison Harris (our Table Tennis Club representative) with considerable help from the Lunch Club, W.I., Chiltern Players, the Bowls Club and even the Toddlers' dads. A real effort in keeping with its purpose – a communal evening to support a community project: it goes before the Grants Committee at SODC again this month. The evening raised £400.

Tenders for the work have been received, Building Regulations Approval is imminent, Peppard Parish Council was approached for aid, as have the Peppard Revels, local pubs and businesses, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment and a number of National bodies. Going to press we have just learnt that the RP Parish Council and Arthur Butler Ltd have each donated £500.

All Saint's Church held its Parish Lunch with us, the British Legion not only recognised the Hall as an important local memorial but explained this to the Toddlers, and the Revels are planning a series of fund-raising entertainments next year. The annual Reedy Fusion Jazz and Joviality will be mid-February.

John Pumfrey

The Commons

The Annual Friends' Meeting was held in Highmoor Village Hall in October. However, the difference was that this year, we experienced a record turnout in attendance, which was extremely heartening, as the conservators were questioning the need for a meeting as so few people had been attending over the last few years. The new Chairman, Jeremy Simon, gave an interesting review of the last year on the commons, and then we had a talk given by Chrissie's Owls, which was excellent. Chrissie's droll delivery was both informative and amusing, but the highlights were 3 owls - a European Eagle Owl, a Little Owl and a Barn Owl. The display was a huge success and created great fascination.

Nigel Wooding

Bonding in 2007

Just as Daniel Craig breathes new life into James Bond, comes the news that the next Revels extravaganza on Peppard Common will be a celebration to mark the centenary of Ian Fleming.

The event, which will take a similar form to the Millennium, Silver Jubilee and Trafalgar celebrations will take place in June 2008. But the build up starts - appropriately - in 2007.

Four Bond films will be screened in Peppard's War Memorial Hall with special introductions including one from Fleming's niece, actress Lucy Fleming.

The first of these will be on 30th January with a showing of *Dr No*. The tickets, bought either singly or in tables of seven, are £10 each and include the film, a light hot supper and glass of wine.

The money raised will act as a badly needed base fund for the organisation of the main event in 2008 - which will in turn raise money for the hall. So as well as being a fun evening you will be helping the community by coming.

Tickets can be purchased from Geoff Pitcher by sending a cheque and a sae to Chiltern View, Gallowstree Road, Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 5JB.

Wyfold RDA

One of our riders has been successful in passing her Grade 3 Proficiency Badge in both riding and horse care. This is a huge achievement for someone who, when she first came to us, had great difficulty just sitting on the horse. She has shown much determination and perseverance. Well done Naomi.

Our unique and very popular calendars featuring local scenes painted by local artists are on sale and make excellent gifts. Phone if you are unable to spot them in a local shop 01491 629 254). Our next fund raising event will be a Quiz Night to be held at Stoke Row Village Hall on Saturday 3rd February. Looking further ahead we are holding an Auction of Promises in Henley Town Hall on Saturday 21st April. There will be a large variety of items for auction so please put the date in your diary.

The Christmas celebration, on 2nd December, was a great success and thanks to all who helped. Paul Daniels' entertainment was brilliant.

Adrienne Heriot

Police News

I have at last decided that the weather is not conducive to my regular cycle riding and I am now making the journey up the hill towards Peppard in my nice warm police car. We are still getting problems with homes being broken into and car keys stolen along with the car. My New Year's resolution is to attempt to clear out the garage and actually put my car into it.



Don't think that your vehicle is not attractive enough: one local resident had a small hatchback taken from the driveway even though it had been off the road for a year.

At this time of year we have concerns about the Christmas gifts being displayed under the tree in plain view of everyone that walks past the house. Every year I go to at least one theft of presents neatly stacked under the tree. It's always awful to ask everyone what was in the wrapped presents before Christmas Day: it certainly spoils the surprise. My wife tells me it's not easy being married to a policeman but I always put the presents under the tree the night before and try to keep my curtains drawn in the evenings.

Please have a peaceful and happy Christmas from your local beat officers,

Mike Birdseye & Julie Greenough

Carol Singing in The Unicorn

On Thursday evening, December 21st at 8pm, the Choir of All Saints' Church, Rotherfield Peppard, will be singing traditional Christmas Carols at The Unicorn. This event usually attracts a great many people to the celebration. The Choir leads the singing, which will be introduced by their Director of Music, Nigel Wallington. Carol sheets will be distributed so that everyone can join in the singing.

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Church Matters

All Saints' Church of England

www.allsaintspeppard.org.uk

Rector:	Revd Graham Foulis Brown	0118 972 3987
Asst. Priests:	Revd Hugh Warwick	0118 972 3070
	Revd Barry Olsen	0118 924 2812
Churchwardens:	Keith Atkinson	0118 972 2844
	Peter Hutt	01491 628335

I hope the experience at our Confirmation Service on 5th November was as memorable for those confirmed as it was for me. In his address Bishop Colin recalled how the invitation had come in the distinctive handwriting of David Silsoe. He spoke for all of us when he said how he missed David, and yet, in a sense, David was present – and not just in our memories or in the things in the church for which he was responsible. In the Letter to the Hebrews it says that as Christians seeking to live the Christian life we are 'surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.' It is as if we are in a great stadium and the huge crowd, made up of all those faithful Christians who have died, is cheering us on and encouraging us. (For the 84,000 at Twickenham on 5th November there was not much to cheer about when their team was beaten by the All Blacks, but as a New Zealander I'm not allowed to mention that!) But the picture is encouraging. To live as a Christian is not easy and it is heartening to be assured that those who've completed the race are urging us on. Some of them have been officially designated 'Saints'. People like St Francis of Assisi give us a vision of what can be achieved in a life dedicated to God. But the Bishop pointed out that when the word 'saint' is used in the New Testament it refers to all Church members. And we are saints not because we are good but because we know that God is good to us. God has shown us his love in Christ and we have responded with love and faith. Now we look forward to Advent and Christmas. We in the clergy team wish you great joy in your celebrating of the coming of Christ.

Barry Olsen

A Hive of Activity

In October we saw a Caterpillar shifting much earth from the "new" churchyard to the churchyard extension. The eastern boundary of the "new" churchyard has, for many years, seen an accumulation of surplus grave spoil.



That grave spoil has now been removed and spread at the south of the churchyard extension. As a result, a little more space for burials has been created in the "new" churchyard and a better surface has been laid for eventual use in the churchyard extension, possibly as a Garden of Remembrance. Once again, we are indebted to the generosity of the Parish Council for recent grants for maintenance of the churchyard.

Following the recent Quinquennial Inspection Report, Peter Longhurst has fitted new thermostats in church and changed the settings for church heating. Should there be a cold winter, there will be heating to ensure protection of the fabric and the comfort of worshippers.

New heaters have been installed in the Parish Room, and both toilets have been redecorated.

Christmas Services

Please refer to the Diary page for details of Christmas Services at All Saints'.

Remembrance Sunday

The Remembrance Service at All Saints' Church is always a very special occasion. Members of the Peppard and District Branch of the Royal British Legion, Peppard Parish Council and the 1st Peppard Guides laid their tributes at the War Memorial on a beautiful, sunny November morning. Earlier, the Revd Barry Olsen conducted the service and preached to a packed congregation. The Choir of All Saints' Church led the singing and the anthem was *Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord*.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust RideorStride

This year the All Saints' team excelled themselves, raising a total in excess of £3,800. Half this amount will return to All Saints' PCC – a welcome boost to the Fabric Fund.

"Desire in Spring"

The next concert at All Saints' at 7.30 pm on Saturday 10th March 2007 will feature a welcome return by Julia Booker (soprano), Robin Howles (tenor) and Antonia King (piano). The concert will again emphasize the treasures of early 20th century English song. The retiring collection will benefit the work of Christian Aid.

Christmas Cards

Please do not forget the excellent blank cards which carry a snow scene colour photograph of All Saints' Church and a reproduction of a water colour painting of the church. These make fine greeting cards for the Christmas season. There are always a few on display in the church but, if you would like to obtain a number of copies, please contact Keith Atkinson (0118-972 2844) who will provide them for you at 50 pence each, inclusive of envelope.

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St Michael's Catholic Church
 Revd Chris Bester 0118 972 3418
 Revd Francis Andrews 0118 972 2354
chris.bester@btinternet.com

We are improving and solidifying relationships within our congregation. Last month widows and widowers were invited to a Memorial Mass for their spouses. We then ate lunch and discussed how we could support each other now that we are alone. We decided to begin a Bereavement Support Group to help one another in our aloneness. This is a most awful and lonely time and only someone bereaved can truly empathise. We feel that together we can help each other forward. On Remembrance Sunday we prayed at the graves for our deceased parishioners, and prayed that we, the living, can be brought through our grieving to a state of

hope and peacefulness. We also celebrated One World Week when we held an "ethnic-food" party. Parishioners from various national backgrounds bought food and drink, and together we enjoyed these exotic tastes. Now we are all preparing for Christmas. This can be a very exhausting time but we do not want to forget those on the margins within our society, so we bring suitable food-stuffs to church and then, through the good offices of the Christian Community Action shop, ask that this food be shared amongst the needy people who are part of the Congregationalist Church's outreach. We also have a Tree of Gifts in Church, when we each take a card from the Christmas tree and then bring a suggested gift for those for whom Christmas can be such a lonely time. This is undoubtedly the happiest time of

the year for everyone. My own very best wishes go to you as you read this, to your family and friends, and I hope that this will be the happiest and most memorable Christmas you have ever had.
Chris Bester

Our Christmas Services
Monday 18th December 19.00 Mass of Reconciliation
Saturday 23rd December
 11.30 Individual Confessions
 17.30 Vigil Mass for Sunday
Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve
 09.00 Morning Mass
 10.30 Family Mass
 18.00 Children's Christmas Eve Mass
 21.00 "Midnight" Mass
Monday 25th December Christmas Day
 10.30 Mass



Minister
 Revd Phil Cheale
 0118 972 4519
www.pepcon.plus.com

Family Life

This time of year with the Christmas Holidays approaching is a time we all associate with families.



It is great to have the expectation of Father Christmas and his reindeer, crackers,

stockings, Christmas lights and Christmas treats. It can be a time of getting together and having fun, but it can also be a time when individuals and families need a bit of support and friendship. They can help them cope with the pressures and expectations and sometimes loneliness that the season brings.

During December, we at Peppard Congregational Church would like to offer a warm welcome to families and individuals. We will be holding a number of special events and services and invite you to share some of the less well remembered blessings of Christmas; friendship, kindness, love and support.

Young families: We hold two weekly groups at the church and we would love you to come along.

The Cradle Club: Mondays at 10am
 A time for Mums with young babies to meet and chat over coffee. Lots of toys and equipment for babies in a safe environment. For more details contact Beverley on 01189 722362
The Ark Parent and Toddlers: Fridays at 10am
 A warm welcome to children and their carers, in a safe environment, with plenty of toys, activities and crafts. Contact Ruth on 01491 629006

Our Christmas Services
 17th December 10.30am Family Service and Nativity
 24th December 10.30am Carol Service
 24th December 11.30pm Communion
 25th December 10.30am Family Service (shortened)
 31st December 10.30am Family Service (shortened)

The Unicorn
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Clubs and Societies

1st Peppard Guides

Have you or your daughters ever looked for a local Guide Unit? Until recently there were only two in this area - in Henley and Harpsden, but some girls travel as far as Caversham.

Girls aged between 10 and 14 may not be attracted to organised activities but it is the age when they can get so much out of an organisation like Guides. Two local mums felt so strongly about this that they decided to set up a new Guide Unit in Peppard.



It took many months to organise the opening of 1st Peppard Guides ready for the start of the new school year in September. Although the new unit has only been going for a term the girls have already done lots of fun activities with many more planned for Spring and Summer.

It was therefore a very proud evening on Tuesday 21st November when the District Commissioner visited 1st Peppard Guides to formally enrol each new girl guide. All the guides (and guide leaders) made their Guide Promise to the District Commissioner who in return welcomed them to Guides and gave them their promise badge and certificate.

1st Peppard Guides meets in Peppard on Tuesdays. Girls wishing to join Guides do not have to have been a Rainbow or Brownie first. If you would like more information about Guides please call Amanda Coull on 01491 628904.

Peppard WI

Following Christmas, Peppard WI will return to quieter mood on January 10th when Janet Callender takes us on an imaginary tour of the Galapagos Islands. On February 14th, local architect and musician John Pumfrey will consider the world of architecture with one of his quirky talks on art in its many forms.

Peppard WI will also be celebrating its 88th birthday. What would those ladies who met in the original tin hut to form a Women's Institute in Peppard, make of our world today? Their early programmes of talks and activities covered such topics as elementary nursing with demonstrations of bed making and poulticing, a competition to design a five roomed cottage, boot repairing, toy making - all a far cry from our current programme. And no, we are not the oldest in the County: of the 154 Institutes still existing in Oxfordshire, eight were formed before us!

At the Annual Meeting on 14th March, a new committee will be elected to take us into our 89th year, and on 11th April, what better than a demonstration of spring flower arranging by Jo O'Reilly? To find out more and to join us, please phone me on 0118 9723614

Pamela Davies
President, Peppard WI

Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society

During the past year members have enjoyed coach outings to Hilliers, Romsey; Hidcote Manor & Kiftgate Court in Gloucestershire and Wisley, Surrey together with an evening reception and a number of illustrated talks. Anyone interested in membership please contact Mrs Sue Hedges 0118 972 3678

Peppard Bowls Club

Over 70 members of Peppard Bowls Club sat down to their annual dinner at Badgemore recently, when Cups and Trophies were awarded to last season's club competition winners and runners up. In the absence of the 2006 President and Captain the presentations were made by Pam Beck and Barry Smart.



The photograph shows Peppard News distributor, Maureen Richens with playing partner Bill Outram, winners of the Clarrie Cook Cup. During October, 21 members of the Club went on a 10 day bowling holiday organised by David Jennings, to Torremelinos, where Peppard received a warm welcome from ex-pats when they played 4 matches against local Clubs.

Early in February a group of 16 members will be spending a 4-day break bowling at Lakeside, Hayling Island in a competition for Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire bowlers.

Looking ahead into 2007 - there will be an open day at the end of April - dates and times will be announced in the next issue of Peppard News.

Peppard Tennis Club

The Club is situated behind the Red Lion Pub on Peppard Common. We have six all weather courts in a quiet rural setting. We run numerous teams during the year, Men's, Ladies' Mixed and Vets with which we compete in the Reading and District Tennis League. We have a coach who can coach all levels of tennis, so if

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anyone wants to get back on a court with a little help, just let us know. We also have a very strong Junior Section and run Easter and Summer Day camps for the Juniors where they have great fun learning how to play tennis through numerous games on court. All are welcome to come for a club session to 'try' us out. In the winter we run sessions under floodlights on Thursday nights from 6.00 pm onwards (frost permitting). Any enquiries please contact Kim Fry, Tel: 0118 9474051

Judo Club

On Sunday the 26th November 2006 Judo Championships for the Bushido Zazen were held at The Judo Centre, High Wycombe.



Many of the children who come to Kidmore End Memorial Hall for judo classes attended and came home with Gold, Silver, Bronze and runners up medals. Congratulations to all who came and tried their best.



Watch this space for details of their achievements at the next championship which is to be held at Nettlebed Working Men's Club in the New Year. Contact Jim Lawson 01491 872294

Peppard Lunch Club

Peppard Lunch Club is for the over 60s and is a monthly social occasion where members are served an excellent meal, home cooked by volunteers. It is also a chance to chat with friends, make new friends and generally relax in good company, which is especially welcomed by those living on their own. We meet in the War Memorial Hall, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month; dates are given on the Diary page.

If you would like to join us, or want more information, ring Sally Longhurst on 0118 972 2808

Natural Causes

Chiltern Players latest production at Peppard Memorial Hall was **Natural Causes**, a funny, thought-provoking, modern-day farce written by Eric Chappell, the author of many television favourites including *Duty Free*, *Only When I Laugh* and the ever popular *Rising Damp*. **Natural Causes** is a story full of plots, counter-plots, misunderstandings, mistaken identities all carefully woven together to form an extremely humorous tale.

Into the country home of an overwrought Walter Bryce with a depressed wife and a secretary with whom he plans to run away, comes Vincent, a man with a highly unusual occupation. Having discovered an odourless, tasteless, totally natural poison which causes a painless death he sells his wares as a suicide merchant.

Peter Woolcott, in the role of Vincent created a character who is equally sinister and amusing; his deferential manner signifies the task he is to perform whilst his long-winded tales and obvious exasperation at the indecision shown by his client is extremely funny.

Tim Wellington as Walter Bryce, the man torn between his wealthy, depressed wife and his far from depressed secretary, was a delight to watch; his disintegration from an intellectual middle-aged academic to a confused, uncertain puppet was all too believable.

Angie, his manipulative and demanding secretary was a lively role for Jane Brough who skilfully captured the rising emotions of the situations as they occurred.

As the pivotal character Celia, the depressed wife and seemingly obvious target for Vincent's ministrations, Helen McCutcheon introduced an air of stability to the crumbling home until she, too, became a victim.

One further person completed the story, a Samaritan called Withers, beautifully crafted by Maurice Scarrett, Withers portrayed all the stereotypical traits commonly, but erroneously, associated with his calling.

With a small cast of just five characters the story of mystery, intrigue and dastardly dealings unfolded gradually, carrying the audience from one funny situation to the next until the totally unexpected climax of the show.

A strong and talented group of backstage crew, lighting and sound engineers, together with the front of house and refreshment staff all contributed to a very enjoyable evening. Special mention must also be made of the superb back-cloth showing the Bryce's landscaped garden painted by Helen McCutcheon.

It would have been easy to overplay the humour in this black comedy but under the leadership of Peter O'Sullivan, in his debut as Director, Chiltern Players have achieved an excellent production.

Lesley Gwynne

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Peppard Diary

JANUARY													
Tues	2	Mobile Library – see below for time & place	Wed	14	Peppard WI/Architecture & Art/14.30/Memorial Hall								
Wed	3	Peppard School – Parent Interview Day	Thurs	15	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office								
Thurs	4	Peppard School – term starts	Sat	17	Table Top Sale/SC Village Hall/09.00-12.30								
Sat	6	SODC/OCC Councillor Surgery/10-12/St Michael's	Mon	19	Peppard School – term starts								
Mon	8	FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office	Wed	21	CRUSE Coffee Morning/10-11.30/SC Village Hall Peppard Lunch Club/12.15/Memorial Hall								
Wed	10	Peppard WI/Nature in Galapagos/14.30/Memorial Hall	Sat	24	Parish Council Meeting/10.00/Pavilion, Peppard								
Sat	13	Parish Council Meeting/10.00/Pavilion, Peppard	Tues	27	Mobile Library – see below for time & place								
Tues	16	Mobile Library – see below for time & place	MARCH										
Wed	17	CRUSE Coffee Morning/10-11.30/SC Village Hall Peppard Lunch Club/12.15/Memorial Hall	Sat	3	SODC/OCC Councillor Surgery/10-12/St Michael's								
Thurs	18	Green Gym/Tree felling/K'wood Common/09.30-12.30 FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office	Mon	5	FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office								
Sat	20	Green Gym/Holly clearance/Springwood/09.30-12.30	Sat	10	Green Gym/Hedgerows/Kennylands Field/09.30-12.30 All Saints' Church/Concert: <i>Desire in Spring</i> /19.30								
Sat	27	Parish Council Meeting/10.00/Pavilion, Peppard	Mon	12	Parish Council Meeting/19.30/Pavilion, Peppard								
Tues	30	Mobile Library – see below for time & place Revels/Dr No film/Memorial Hall/£10 inc wine	Tues	13	Mobile Library – see below for time & place								
FEBRUARY					Wed	14	Peppard WI/AGM/14.30/Memorial Hall						
Thurs	1	Green Gym/Bluebell control/Pissen Wood/09.30-12.30	Thurs	15	Green Gym/Holly clearance/Springwood/09.30-12.30 FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office								
Sat	3	SODC/OCC Councillor Surgery/10-12/St Michael's Wyfold RDA/Quiz Night/Stoke Row Village Hall	Sat	17	Green Gym/Path clearing/K'wood Common/09.30-12.30								
Mon	5	FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office	Mon	19	Henley Youth Festival Week								
Tues	6	Peppard School/Awards Ceremony/09.00	Wed	21	CRUSE Coffee Morning/10-11.30/SC Village Hall Peppard Lunch Club/12.15/Memorial Hall								
Fri	9	Peppard School – term ends	Sat	24	Parish Council Meeting/10.00/Pavilion, Peppard								
Mon	12	Peppard School/Half term week Parish Council Meeting/19.30/Pavilion, Peppard	Tues	27	Mobile Library – see below for time & place								
Tues	13	Mobile Library – see below for time & place	Wed	28	Peppard School/Awards Ceremony/15.00								
Mobile Library – time & place – Peppard School 11.55 – 12.10					FISH Office: 0118 972 3986 ((Mon-Fri, 09.30-11.30)								
Green Gym: Robin Howells – 0118 9723528					Peppard Lunch Club: Sally Longhurst 0118 9722808								

STATIC ATTENDED DUSTCARTS/KERBSIDE GARDEN WASTE

Month	Dec	January 07					February				March			
Date	20 th	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	
Place	RP	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC	SC	
Place: RP = Peppard Xroads, SC = behind Gateway. Garden waste will NOT be accepted, ONLY Non-recyclable general. Times: Wed 8-11														
Gdn Wste	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Christmas Eve Sunday 24 th December		Christmas Day Monday 25 th December	
09.00	Holy Communion	09.00	Holy Communion
10.30	Family Communion	11.00	Seven Lessons and Carols
17.30	Nativity Play and Carols		
23.00	Holy Communion		

The Service of Seven Lessons and Carols will include a carol, new to All Saints', by Simon Lindley, Organist at Leeds Parish Church. Other carols to be sung by the choir were composed by Geoffrey Shaw, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Edgar Pettman and John Gardner.

Saturday, 6th January is the Feast of the Epiphany and a large number of singers is expected to gather for Choral Evensong at 17.00.

Sunday Services At All Saints'	JANUARY				FEBRUARY				MARCH				Notes
	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	4	11	18	25	
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	† Evening Service at 18.30 at Kidmore End during Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
10.30 Communion (sung)		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
10.30 Matins	✓				✓				✓				
10.30 Family Service			✓			✓					✓		
10.30 Sunday School		✓				✓				✓			
18.30 Evensong	✓	✓	†	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Sunday Services at Peppard Congregational Church
Family Service: 10.30 - 11.45 ♦ Sunday School 10.30 - 11.30

Mass at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church
♦ Monday-Friday 09.00 ♦
Saturday 17.30 ♦ Sunday 09.00 & 10.30



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