

Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

Borocourt Hospital—A History

Spring 2010

Little was understood about mental illness before the 20th century and sufferers were either sent into an asylum or left to roam the streets. In the early 1900s significant advancements were made in the understanding and treatment of these mental patients and mental illness was split into various categories, including sub-normality. Sub-normality was deemed a separate entity requiring a different approach combined with different investigations and ways of management. This identified a need for the provision of special long stay institutions for their care. Accordingly, in 1930 and under the auspices of the Mental Deficiency Act 1913, Wyfold Court mansion and its 264 acre estate was purchased for the sum of £18,000 (approx £5.5 million in today's terms) by the then Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Reading and Oxford local authorities - the name 'Borocourt' being derived from the incorporation of the initial letters of these authorities.

Originally built between 1872 and 1878, Wyfold Court had been designed by the notable architect George Somers Clarke for Edward Hermon, a wealthy Lancastrian industrialist, MP for Preston and a lavish patron of the arts. Built in the extremely ornate Gothic Style, it attracted much acclaim being considered as one of the finest examples of its type - later described by Pevsner as: 'A Nightmare Abbey in spirit, French Flamboyant Gothic with a touch of Scottish baronial in style'. At that time the property had no mains

water or electricity services – water being obtained from a 200 foot deep well and lighting from lamps burning acetylene gas - generated in a separate building known as the Gas House. Despite his wealth and success, Edward Hermon had only a few years in which to enjoy the



Wyfold Court Mansion

property, dropping dead in the House of Commons in 1881. What Mr Herman would have thought about the later redevelopment of Wyfold Court into a mental institution cannot be known although his wife Emily herself developed a serious mental condition that required her to be 'committed for lunacy' in 1869.

Originally named as Borocourt Certified Institution for Mental Defectives (a small improvement to the 'Institution for Lunatics' terminology previously used) Wyfold Court had stood empty for some years. The repair, updating and conversion of the mansion and other buildings

took a further 2-3 years to complete before the arrival of the first residents in May 1933. The hospital provided care for all patients from children to adults and for those suffering from other afflictions in addition to their sub-normality – primarily tuberculosis and epilepsy. Society at this time placed a great deal of emphasis on the qualities of respectability and morality. Unfortunately, occasions arose where the term 'sub-normality' was applied to some of those seen as 'having brought shame upon the family'. It is recorded that at least one young lady, then aged 15 and with some degree of learning difficulty, was committed to Borocourt 'to protect her chastity' - she remained for over 30 years. Others, primarily young girls 'from good backgrounds' having a child born out of wedlock, were also institutionalised, their condition conveniently being seen as 'evidence' of mental sub-normality.

At first the mansion and old stable block were used to house patients, supplemented in the late 30s by the building of four more wards. Binny Cox who worked as a nurse at the hospital at various times over a period of 40 years, recalls them as being used to accommodate the male patients whilst the females were accommodated in the mansion, the upper floors of which were initially used as dormitories – 'one containing some 80 beds with hardly enough room to squeeze in-between'.

Initially a Joint Board ran Borocourt Institution with the nursing staff being super-

Continued overleaf

Editorial

At last we have the early signs of spring; it doesn't seem long since we were struggling through the heavy snow.

Now, down to business! Thanks go to our Guest Writer Malcolm Butler for his two very interesting articles: *The Elephant in the Woods* and *Borocourt Hospital*. I am sure many of you will have memories stirred as you read about Borocourt. Would you like to share these with our readers? If so, do send them to us.

In our next issue we shall have a History of Peppard Hospital. We have some in-

formation already, including a copy of *Peppard Hospital - a Short History* by Esther and Henry Carling the 'originators' of the Hospital. If you have memories, photographs and information that would be useful to us in writing this article, again we ask you to please send these to us.

Are you an aspiring Journalist? Do you enjoy talking to people? Do you enjoy writing? If so and you would be interested in researching/writing the occasional article for *Peppard News*, please make contact with us

Susan Carter, 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.

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vised by Matron Gill. Binny recalls Matron Gill as being a respected but somewhat formidable lady of Yorkshire extraction who 'enjoyed an argument'. Binny also recalls that the patients were of childish minds even when of adult age, were normally very pleasant and rarely caused difficulties, although childish tricks such as climbing out of windows were not uncommon. From the outset the hospital employed a form of 'occupational therapy' with able-bodied patients being trained to do simple domestic work tasks or working with animals and crops on the farm which, until about 1958, formed part of the hospital estate. In many ways Borocourt was largely self-sufficient.

It was taken over by the NHS in 1948 and in 1950 Dr Gerald O'Gorman became Physician Superintendent. Described as being 'full of vigour and unashamedly paternalistic in his approach to the care of the mentally handicapped', he brought about some of the most significant changes. Dr O'Gorman championed the patients and their need for occupation and self-respect. He pioneered many changes in the hospital - including developing a large occupational therapy department, a factory where the patients could work and earn money, and opening a range of out-lying hostels and a school. He organised sports teams and dances and relaxed hospital rules, giving patients the freedom to go to local shops and take jobs in the community. He also championed the nurses, admiring their discipline and devotion.

Under the NHS various additional buildings, including staff houses, were added and in the 1960s Borocourt housed over 600 people. The institute included children's wards, but these were gradually phased out as it was no longer thought appropriate to house children and adults together. The emphasis was on training and rehabilitation to enable patients to move on to sheltered accommodation or independent living; day care patients also

came to use the training and occupational therapy centres.

Despite the advancements, the hospital did not escape criticism. In 1981, a TV documentary on the care of the mentally handicapped caused much concern amongst the public, press and the Department of Health. It included scenes from Borocourt showing patients suffering from self-harm and neglect, apparently due to nursing staff being overwhelmed by low staffing levels and overwork. Somewhat ahead of its time (and government thinking) the documentary emphasised the view that large hospitals were bad for patients and that the answer lay with the creation of small care units. Similarly in January 1983 an extract from *Hansard* reads as follows: 'Conditions on a locked ward at Borocourt Hospital near Peppard have been described in a government report as "quite appalling".' Another ward was slammed as 'one of the worst members of the visiting team had seen in a hospital for the mentally handicapped. ...The staff seemed to feel that they were at the end of the line,' reported the inspectors.

The concept of providing treatment by the creation of small care units began to be developed, finally resulting in the introduction of the Care In The Community programme. Following the resettlement of the last remaining patients and staff in 1993, the hospital finally closed. Thus ended Borocourt's 60 year history in both the provision of care for those with severe learning disabilities and in the pioneering and introduction of numerous advancements in care treatment.

Today Wyfold Court mansion has been completely restored to its original splendid appearance and now contains a number of prestigious apartments. It is thought that little, if any, evidence of its previous incarnation remains.

Malcolm Butler

Our Schools

Peppard C of E Primary School

Peppard Common RG9 5JU

Phone: 01491 628354

Headteacher - **Tina Nowell**

Chairman of the Governors
David Sell

Peppard School

This has been a busy term for Peppard School, with my arrival as the new Headteacher and plenty of snow to keep us on our toes! The school closed for several days when the roads were impassable. Since then, we have made up for lost time with plenty of learning and the odd bit of sunshine to remind us that spring is on the way. We have lots of plans for improving our environment and our 'Friends of Peppard School' are working hard to raise funds for our Playground ideas. Recent successful events have included a Quiz Night and a Valentine Disco.

On Tuesday, 9th February, the whole school paid a very successful visit to the Science Museum in London. The children had great fun and are now back in school continuing their learning about things they saw. One class is even studying female pilots after their comments in the museum that, 'Girls can't be pilots'!



Rocket at the Science Museum

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A wealth of new extra curricular clubs have kept the children busy. These include Art and Craft Club, Cookery Club and a host of sporting clubs (athletics, football and netball). Latin Club remains a firm favourite with some children.



Model Bridge Builder at the Science Museum

At the time of writing, we are getting excited about the Henley Youth Festival week, when the whole school will be involved in various workshops to celebrate the Arts.

Preparations for the Festival are well underway with the children practising hard for our part in *Jewel of the River* at The Hexagon in Reading. Artist Camilla Shelley joined us recently and spent time with our Key Stage Two children helping them to create some 'hanger mobiles' which will be displayed for all to see.

That same week our Year Six children are heading off to The Manor in Shropshire, for a week of outdoor activities, such as climbing, canoeing and orienteering.

We are delighted that Bishop Colin Fletcher will be visiting the school on Wednesday, 21st April. As part of his visit, he will lead an assembly and spend time with the children in their classes. Our Cookery Club may even provide some light refreshments! We are looking forward to welcoming him.

Tina Nowell

Friends of Peppard School

We had a very busy run up to Christmas, starting with a successful Christmas Fair where, thanks to the support of families and residents of Peppard, we managed to raise a remarkable £1400! We then said a sad goodbye to Anne Jarvis after 20 years as the Headteacher of Peppard, culminating in an emotional assembly and her being serenaded by a Piper.

We started 2010 by welcoming Tina Nowell as the new Headteacher, and appreciate her enthusiastic and cheerful nature, despite the snow hampering the beginning of term, and hope she has an enjoyable and productive time at Peppard where she will be fully supported by FOPS.

The Valentine Disco saw the children dancing the early evening away. It was made even more special by the enthusiasm of the Year Five children who set up stalls; face painting, decorating nails, sticking on tattoos and letting children make their own valentine potions. It was lovely to see the children wanting to be actively involved in events to help raise money for the school.

We have just had a very successful Quiz Night where we were thrilled to have a table made up of residents of Peppard and a table of the Peppard teachers. We had, for the second year running, the brilliant quiz master Tom Campbell and his wife, Josie, running the Quiz. Mums provided scrumptious food with a variety of home-made Chillies, Jacket Potatoes, Turkish rice and salad, finished off by some mouth-watering home made puddings! The event made a staggering £950 which will be used to fund new playground equipment. It is wonderful that people from the Village came to support the FOPS Quiz Night as we

welcome local residents to our events. Please keep an eye on the FOPS page on the school website www.peppardprimary.co.uk for summer activities.

Many thanks to all the parents who continue to support FOPS with their hard work.

Antonia Rolph, Chair of FOPS

Peppard Mother & Toddler Group

We meet each Tuesday morning during term time from 09.45 - 11.45 at Peppard War Memorial Hall, Gallowstree Road. The last session before Easter is Tuesday, 23rd March and we re-open on Tuesday, 20th April through until Tuesday, 13th July when we break for the summer holidays.

The group is not just for those with toddlers; we welcome anyone from those with newborns right the way up to those about to start school. Many of our mums have small babies and toddlers so it's a perfect way to entertain all the children.

We have a cosy baby corner as well as activity tables, craft, play equipment and much more for the older children. There is also a story and singing at the end of each session.

We have a break during the session for the children to have snacks and a drink with a well earned cup of tea or coffee for the mums, and maybe the odd biscuit or two!

The group is a great way to get to know other people in the local area including mums, grandparents and other carers. Sessions cost £2.50 per family for children over one year and £1 for children less than one year.

For further information call Emma Dag on 0118 924 2821 or just turn up.

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The Councils

District Councillor's Report

Waste Collection

Last year the council introduced the new waste collection system to 56,000 households, a huge challenge for the council and residents but we did receive a national award for our communication methods to residents. Recycling rates have gone from 48% to 70% which means less land fill and more money for the council in the form of recycling credits. There were problems to overcome in some parts of the district. Then we had the hardest winter with snow which caused further problems but everyone working together enabled us to get back on track and continue the high recycling rates.

PCSOs

PCSOs are working well in both the towns and villages. This is a joint project with the police, and residents are now aware of their presence.

Planning

There have been less applications mainly due to the recession. We have introduced a new process for referrals which has had some bad press but this has mainly been due to misunderstanding the process. This process does mean that as District Councillors we need to work closely with our parishes on applications, especially contentious ones.

Local Development Framework

The local development framework (LDF) is the new planning system which sets out the planning strategy for new housing in SODC's area. The strategy sets out the future plans for the local area to 2026 taking into account national and regional plans. This is a very controversial issue especially when we have to decide these sites.

Although this does not directly impact Peppard, it will impact Sonning Common as a number of sites have been identified for potential housing. The major criteria for deciding where to locate new housing is the services that are provided by the community. Because Sonning Common is well provided for with schools, restaurants, health care and other services, the village is rated as just below our market towns so housing will be allocated in the

Parish Council

Chairman: Nick Launders
01491 628243

Parish Clerk: Barbara Marston
01491 684188

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.

community. I have requested that building on non-Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) land be considered before AONB land where there is a mix of both types of available land.

Council Efficiencies & the Council Tax

Working with the Vale of White Horse District Council means we now have a joint Chief Executive, Directors, Heads of Services and Managers. This has meant a reduction in staff but definitely given us more efficiency savings.

The Council Tax over the last five years has given an average 1% increase, due to three years of no increase. Once again we

are able to have a nil % increase in Council Tax. Again the councillors have agreed to no increase in allowances making us one of the lowest paid councils in the South East.

The Audit Commission has scored us as one of the top councils in the country. We will continue to strive to be even better over the coming year and give value for money.

Paul Harrison

Snippets

Greys Court Re-opens its Doors

The house at Greys Court re-opens on 1st April after a two year closure for essential re-servicing and maintenance work, displaying rooms which have never been seen by the public before. These include the Brunners' bedrooms, bathrooms and library.

The Gardens continue to be a source of enjoyment with Easter Egg Hunts and Guided Walks in the Bluebell Woods in April, a plant sale and National Garden Scheme Evening and more in May and the Open Air Theatre commencing in June.

For more information: 01494 755564 (Greys Court info line), 01491 628529 or greyscourt@nationaltrust.org.uk

What Happened?

Early on Friday 5th March a car ran into the bus shelter on Stoke Row Road. One person was injured although not seriously; the police did attend. The bus shelter and bus stop sign were certainly left looking the worse for wear.



After the Event!

Editor's Note

Due to the large number of articles submitted for this issue some have had to be omitted due to space constraints.

However, you can see all of these articles, plus unabridged versions of those published as well as photographs in colour on our website: www.PeppardNews.co.uk

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Bishopswood Special School Minibus Fund

The Lions Charity Run on 10th January was cancelled due to heavy snow. However, thanks to the generosity of over 350 runners who had paid deposits, plus sponsorship from local businesses, Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club were able to donate £2000 to Bishopswood Special School. The School is now half-way to raising the £40,000 needed to replace their 11 year old minibus.

With your help Lions can make a difference; visit www.lions-gwd.org.uk or call David Freear 0118 972 4045.

For information about the school visit: www.bishopswood.oxon.sch.uk



Lion President, Sally Bergmann with members David Freear and Charles Slater presenting their cheque to Headteacher, Jenny Wager

Safeguarding Adults Awareness

Abuse is treating a person in a way that makes them feel frightened or unhappy, harms, hurts or exploits them. It can happen anywhere and older people can be particularly vulnerable. If you are worried about anyone and don't know where else to go you can contact Oxfordshire Social & Community Services on 0845 050 7666; Out of hours emergency 0800 833 408 or see www.safefromharm.org.uk

From Rother Beast to Turkish Delight

Did you know the culinary fame of Peppard has reached Halicarnassus? Peppard Steak is now served in the Cemre Restaurant.

Jennifer Smith



Can you spot Peppard Steak?

Roe Deer

Relaxing in the sun on Kingwood Common, they are undeniably pretty. These two belong to one of the several herds on our commons.



Local Pub Review Four Horseshoes

When we arrived last Wednesday it was encouraging to see a delivery van from a well known fish shop in Reading. At first the pub seemed warm and cosy but we nevertheless chose a table by the log fire and perused the two menus: one a £5 weekday lunch and the à la carte with special lunchtime offers.

My friend chose the Cornish cod and chips (£9.50) which was very fresh and beautifully cooked. I opted for the locally produced pork sausages with mash and onion gravy (£9.50) but the three sausages had me defeated. They were tasty, well cooked and nicely presented, although the skins were too chewy and inedible.

Naughtily, we decided to order desserts in the name of thorough reviewing! My friend chose the sticky toffee pudding with caramel sauce and I had apple cake. Both puddings were extremely light and tasty but at £4.95 were a little on the expensive side for the size of portion.

I always rate a restaurant partly by the coffee they serve so I ordered an espresso. With an impressive looking coffee machine on the bar I was optimistic. Sadly, my espresso was weak and disappointing and more like filter coffee.

By the end of our lunch, despite being close to the log fire, our feet were frozen and we were anxious to leave. Maybe if they were to fix the door that wouldn't close, this would help to keep the heat in.

I would return to Checkendon to the pub here (in summer!) but for lunch I would opt for the special weekday deal of £5 for a reduced portion main course and then a pudding, which would bring the meal in at £9.95 making it comparable with other Pub/Restaurants in the locality.

A Contributor

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Our Village

The Elephant in the Woods

Sedgehill Spring, located south of the Church and in the appropriately named Spring Wood, was at one time an important source of fresh water to the parish. It is possible that those visiting this local landmark may reflect on the significance of an elephant - carved in relief from a large stone block and forming part of the ornate enclosing structure. Positioned below the elephant and directly above the entrance to the Spring an inscribed block reads: 'Whosoever shall drink this water shall thirst again but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst'. Whilst this text of biblical origin is clearly an understandable reference to the Spring, the significance of the elephant is, in general, not immediately apparent. To gain an understanding as to the relevance of this figure requires a brief exploration into local history.

The Spring and surrounding woodland formed part of the Blount's Court estate, originally owned by the Stonor family and later purchased by Sir William Knollys in 1841. The Knollys family supported the local school and church and it was at some time during his residency that Sir William Knollys commissioned the erection of an enclosure for the Spring - including both the elephant and the inscription. It is interesting to note that in heraldry the Knollys family coat of arms takes the form of a shield surmounted by an elephant, the elephant signifying courage and strength. Although not certain as a fact, it does appear highly likely that the carved elephant at Sedgehill Spring is a direct reference to this heraldic family symbol.

In his booklet entitled *Memories of Peppard Before the First World War*, Stanley Butler refers to the Spring as being in a dilapidated state but recalls that in his childhood the Spring was well kept - having a paved pathway and an oak fence to the rear. He also recalls that Kews old bakery drew all its water from this source and that an iron cup chained to a ledge inside the enclosure enabled travellers to obtain a drink. As houses obtained piped water (primarily replacing rain water tanks) interest in the Spring diminished and the enclosure and paved pathway began to fall into a state of disrepair and deteriorated further until restoration work was carried out in the 1960s.

It is believed that Sedgehill Spring has provided a source of fresh water even going back into the days of pre-history, this view being supported by the findings of an archaeological dig carried out in 1912 which identified a number of Neolithic 'Flint Factory' sites in the local surround-

ing area. Furthermore it has been speculated that one of the 'pits' dug close to the Spring may have served as a water reservoir during the medieval period.

A postcard dated 1909 and showing two children at the enclosed Spring can be found on the website for the Chilterns Woods Project Newsletter:

www.chilternsaonb.org/downloads/stwp_newsletter2.pdf

Malcolm Bulter

We are very happy to include the following two accounts from past residents of Peppard.

Susan Carter, Editor

An Evacuee's Story

We left London sometime in 1940 by coach, and arrived at the Village Hall in Peppard. My two brothers and I were collected by a lady and taken to a big house up the hill towards Sonning. The house was owned by a Mr Edwards. Three other evacuees came with us. Our bedroom was in the attic and the six of us slept on camp beds. Mr Edwards and his housekeepers were very kind to us, although we didn't see much of him. After two weeks we were moved out to other homes. My brothers and I were moved to Dog Cottages. My younger brother, Jim, and I stayed with Mr and Mrs Monger, and my elder brother, Ernie, stayed with Mr and Mrs Wells next door. Time went by and Ernie was moved away because the two cottages were converted into one cottage. We also moved to another location with Mr and Mrs Monger. We stayed at the new place for a short while before moving on again in Peppard; only Jim and I were now separated. I lived with Mr and Mrs Tubbs at Gravel Hill Terrace for quite some time, and Jim was with a Mr and Mrs King, who lived down the hill. I moved again to a house near the church with a Mr and Mrs Green and their two children.

I attended Peppard School, where I played the triangle in the school band. Whilst there, a bomb fell in one of the fields and we all went to look at the crater. The Home Guard were guarding the area. I stayed with Mr and Mrs Green

until returning to London, although I cannot remember when this was.

Everybody was kind to us and I would like to talk to anybody who can remember me.

Ted Restall

(Contact the Editor for Ted's details.)

Peppard Memories

I was born at Hope Cottage in Shiplake Bottom in 1928. It was my grandparents' home and they used to serve afternoon teas in their garden during the summer between the wars. There were few houses in Shiplake Bottom and at that time it was an unmade road.

Whilst I was still a toddler, my parents moved to Stoke Row, only to return to Hope Cottage after WWII. The house had no electricity or mains drainage and was let to us by the owners, Butlers the Builders, at ten shillings (50p) a week.

Up until the beginning of the war, the golf course on Peppard Common was a source of pocket money for us children. We used to collect lost balls and sell them back to the players. Sadly, as traffic increased and the RAF moved on to the Common in front of Peppard House, the golfers disappeared. But thanks to the Yanks, who set up a hospital base on Kingwood Common, we had plenty of free chewing gum!

My grandfather, Robert Price, was a gardener at the Peppard Sanatorium and my mother, Dora Carter, worked in the sewing room. Fred, my father, played for Peppard Football Club and he, my brother Jim and I, all played for Peppard Cricket Club at various times.

In 1946, I left to join the Fleet Air Arm and am now settled near Manchester but I have many happy memories of my life in Rotherfield Peppard.

Brian Carter

Joyce Grove Now

Following on from our article in the last issue we now bring you up to date.

The formal opening of Joyce Grove as a Sue Ryder Home took place on 31st May 1979. Working with the Royal Berkshire Hospital it met the urgent need for the

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Over 400 patients use the in-patient facilities and over 600 visits are made to Day Therapy and the Out-patient clinic every year. Patients are referred by their GP or the local hospital. The total cost of running the Nettlebed Hospice is over £2.5 million a year. Over £1.4 million needs to be raised through voluntary contributions, fundraising events and the Nettlebed Sales. Support is always much needed and gratefully received. If you would like to know about the charity visit:

www.suerydercare.org or contact the fundraising team at Nettlebed on 01491 641070

Phil Cook

FISH News

We work within an area that is defined by the homes of patients of the Sonning Common Health Centre. This means that the majority of our clients live in the Sonning Common and Peppard areas but we also have clients in Binfield Heath. Not surprisingly, the most popular journeys carried out by our volunteer car drivers are to and from the Health Centre.

Of course, we visit all the hospitals in the area which can often include the hospitals in Oxford and the small hospital in Wallingford. As well as the Royal Berks we increasingly go to the two private hospitals in Reading, as they are used more and more for National Health Service treatments. Probably the most popular hospital (if a hospital can ever be popular) is Townlands in Henley on Thames; although it is a old fashioned building, it remains friendly and efficient with the vast majority of appointments taking place at the intended time. Our drivers are happy to go there and although parking is limited, they can virtually always find somewhere in the grounds to park. Up until now, the administration has avoided

the temptation to use parking charges to subsidise treatment.

If you need a driver to get you to a medical or dental appointment or want to book on one of our regular bus trips, just call 0118 9723986 or drop in to our office in the Sonning Common Village Hall. We are open every weekday from 09.30-11.30 – if you cannot get through on the phone, leave a message and someone will call you back.

Phil Clark, Chairman

Commons News

Grazing Project

The application to the Planning Inspectorate for fencing on Kingwood Common has been completed in draft and is due to be submitted within the next month. Once the inspector is appointed, a period of consultation and review will then occur. The proposal is for 24.9 hectares of the common to be fenced to allow low intensity, seasonal cattle grazing for the purposes of nature conservation and improved access. The fencing would be run through scrub and woodland and would be located 5-10m away from any of the roads, access tracks or properties that border the common. The fence would consist of wooden posts with four horizontal strands of high tensile, plain wire.

The fencing would still allow access to the common for all users, and appropriate gates will be erected at all known access points. It is proposed to graze the common using 4-6 cattle of a traditional breed, e.g. British Whites or Dexters, for two grazing periods, each of 6-8 weeks per year. These periods would be between March and May and September and November, but the exact timing would vary year on year depending on weather conditions. Notices would inform users of the common in advance of when cattle would be present. The line of the proposed fence and the amount of proposed enclosure has been modified following local representations and parts of the fence can be removed when grazing is not taking place.

Fly-Tipping

This is becoming a great concern on Peppard Common, in particular. The small car-park on (Old) Colliers Lane, close to the B481, is often defaced with large

amounts of fly-tipped rubbish and general litter. A trailer-load of this material was removed by one of the conservators after Christmas, only for more to appear in the last few weeks. Options to try and resolve this problem are being considered – one idea is to remove the undergrowth near to the main road in order to make this car-park more visible to passers-by. For more information see: www.nettlebed-commons.org

Nigel Wooding

Oppose the Fencing of Kingwood Common

Despite being asked by Peppard Parish Council to come up with a proposal for managing Kingwood Common without fencing, the Conservators have decided to go ahead with their plans to introduce grazing (albeit with a slightly reduced fence-line). This would mean overturning the 1906 Act which protects the common: once this is broken that protection is lost.

The growing membership of the Preservation Group is proof that this proposal is unpopular with local people. We urge the Conservators to listen to us and reconsider. The common is not listed on the UK's Biodiversity Action Plan and is not an important heathland site.

There are certainly plenty of other options, not least of which is the current method of manual or mechanical clearance of the glade areas and paths, or other solutions such as using heavy horses with 'bracken bashing' machinery. We are planning to hold a demonstration of a horse in action so that people can come along and gain a better idea of the practicalities; indeed we have a local resident waiting in the wings with his Percheron mare to show us how it's done!

We have sought the advice of both legal and commons experts and believe that we have a strong case. We still need your support and, if you would like to join our group to become active in the campaign or support us financially, you can contact us by telephone 07778 555999, e-mail opposeenclosure@yahoo.co.uk or via the website:

www.kingwoodcommonpreservationgroup.co.uk

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Local References

01491 826925 07977 237798

Our Churches

All Saints' Church of England www.allsaintspeppard.org.uk	Rector:	Revd Graham Foulis Brown	0118 972 3987
	Asst. Priest:	Revd Barry Olsen	0118 924 2812
	Churchwardens:	Adrienne Heriot	01491 629254
		Toby Greenwood	0118 972 2861

From the Rectory.....

Having written for both Parish magazines and the Henley Standard I'm a bit written-out, these ten days! Yes, we're in Lent and Lent is about self discipline and self-sacrifice and self-denial - you don't need to hold to any faith to use that as an exercise.

But traditionally, Lent was also about the confession of our sins. Today it's called reconciliation for that's what sin does, it divides us up and we need to be reconciled, both to God and to people we have offended, or even worse.

Years ago, when I was a teacher, I told someone to apologise and said that if he did I wouldn't punish him. He had it coming when he said in my hearing 'I was made to say sorry'. Reconciliation isn't being made to do anything; it's a voluntary action and unless it is that, it is worthless.

Jesus came to this world to reconcile Creator to Creation: God to his people. In doing that, he took the risk of rejection and as we know, he was rejected. When we seek reconciliation with people we've got the wrong side of we too risk rejection but surely it's a risk worth taking? On the other hand, if we seek reconciliation with God there's no possibility of rejection.

Graham

Sisters

Felicity and Eleanor Cunningham both deserve a mention. Eleanor has, for the second time, achieved the best attendance of choir members for the year and her older sister, Felicity, has the honour of being invited to be a house captain at the RSCM three-day course due to be held at Magdalen College School, Oxford during Easter Week. Well done to both of them.

Organist and Director of Music

Our sincere thanks to David Butler, Don Hickson, Chris Hood and Ian May who have given wonderful service during our search for a new organist. We are pleased to welcome David to the post of Organist and Director of Music of All Saints' from 1st March.

Keeping a Tradition Going

It has become customary for the choir of All Saints' to sing a Festal Evensong on the first Sunday of the New Year. This year choir members were joined by other singers from the area on 3rd January and treated the congregation to a most enjoyable service.

Start of a New Tradition?

The choir of All Saints' joined a large number of other choirs from the area to take part in a new venture on 30th January, the Mayor's Choirs Festival which attracted a large number of local choirs. In addition to a combined rendition of Fauré's *Requiem* the choirs also sang individual items. The event proved very successful and raised £1866.50 for The Staying Alive foundation.

Moving the Earth

Perhaps more correctly, mending the drains! Recent activity around the Parish Room at the Church has been necessary to repair the storm water drainage and the damp proofing of the walls. The work has necessitated digging a trench right round the building to lay the new drain. The protective bright orange fencing has now been removed to reveal an attractive shingle border and new slot drain across the doorway. It is hoped

that this will cure the recent problems with damp in the room and avoid the necessity of wading through a puddle to access the entrance.

An Annual Event

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Friday, 23rd April at All Saints' at 20.00. This is the occasion on which the Churchwardens are elected for the year and events of the past year are reviewed. Adrienne Heriot and Toby Greenwood are both standing for re-election as wardens.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rebecca Bell who has been successful in achieving her Diploma of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. Rebecca does a wonderful job at All Saints' with the Junior Choir and has also been invaluable as one of the deputy organists over the past months.

Adrienne Heriot

Christian Aid Week

In recent weeks, the world's attention has been focussed on the earthquakes in the Caribbean and South America - and Christian Aid has been one of the charities at the forefront of providing support for these devastated areas. On a wider front, Christian Aid continues to provide direct, help to the world's poorest communities.

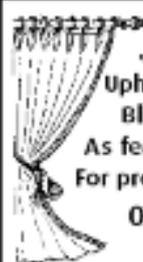
This year, the house-to-house collection in support of Christian Aid will take place during the week of 9th - 15th May. Please be generous; your donation really will make a difference. We would, of course, be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to join the Peppard team of collectors!

We would also like to mention Rebecca Bell's concert at All Saints' Church on Saturday 15th May at 20.00; there will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid.

Ian and Pat Fraser, 01491 629631

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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

Was our recent wintry spell the worst we have known in our lifetime? Many think so. And so now there is universal joy and relief that the cold and depressing weather we endured is behind us. At last there is a bit of warmth returning with each new day, and the lengthening days offer us a glimmer of the return of life to the earth which we so look forward to each spring. Throughout the year the Christian church tries to point us to deeper realities through observation of what is happening in nature. So, for example, it is appropriate that we place the birth of the Saviour in the depths of winter so that we can see how, after His birth, life and light begins to



Revd Barry Kirk
 0118 972 4519
www.springwater.org.uk

As I write these words snow is sweeping across Scotland creating avalanches and chaos, and there is no doubt that this winter has been a challenging one for many of us, even here in the 'mild' south. As we see the snowdrops and other flowers starting to show themselves and buds forming on the bushes we know instinctively that spring is just round the corner and that new life is stirring, as it does every year. All this reminds us that Easter is just a few weeks away, when we remember the agony and the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross on Good Friday, and then the great celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday when the promise was fulfilled, 'Because I live, you will live also.' (John

return to our world. And now in spring we celebrate the time known as Lent (which is an old English word for 'spring') and we try to make the connection between life returning to the earth and the manner in which we try to open ourselves to the promptings of God's spirit, so that our own personal lives can deepen and grow in love, kindness and warmth towards one another. As we look forward to celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Within Church life there is a tradition that we try to give something up for Lent. This seems to be echoed elsewhere in national life. I was listening to Woman's Hour the other day when the presenter asked all sorts of people what they were giving up for Lent. Smoking was the most popular choice.

But there is an important point here. Just as in our gardens we do a great deal of

pruning and cutting back, opening the earth up to air, and generally tidying up, so too in our personal lives we may discover a reason to cut back on our consumption and try to lessen our trendy carbon footprint. But it should not all just be for self-centred reasons.

Within our own parish, while encouraging such cutting back, we try at the same time to offer what we save to those who are in desperate need. In the lead up to Christmas we adopted one of the churches which had been flooded in Cumbria, and now we are offering what help we can to the poor people in Haiti.

It is important that we enjoy our life-style and good fortune by living in this country, but we should always be ready to offer our help to those in greatest need. And I believe that is what we do well in this country.

Chris Bester

14 v 19). We pray that this year we will see this new life blossoming in our towns, our country and around the world.

As we count our blessings, despite the difficulties many face, we remember the majority in the world who struggle to exist in poverty and in danger of their lives. Springwater has for many years, under the guidance of Rev Phil Cheale, who only recently retired from Peppard, supported schools and churches in Liberia, West Africa, a country still trying to recover from years of brutal civil war. In April a group of Ministers from the Reading Christian Network (RCN), led by Phil Cheale, will be visiting Liberia to host a training conference for hundreds of local Pastors. At the same time two 40ft containers will be sent from Springwater with urgently needed goods as diverse as a medical Landrover, electricity generators, computers, books,

clothing and food. The RCN group, under the banner of LiberiaLink, and Springwater are working together to bring spiritual and physical support to the people of Liberia, 80% of whom are unemployed. The Cheale Vocational Training Institute, under Pastor Isaac George, has over many years graduated hundreds of students who are now in key jobs helping to develop the country.

We continue to seek a new Senior Leader at Springwater to replace Phil Cheale, and meanwhile the lay leadership and members, under the guidance of Rev Barry Kirk from Reading Community Church, are pooling their talents to maintain and expand the work of the church. The children's groups, the Ark and Cradle Club, are particularly active and growing. I am retiring from the administration role at the end of February and the church office will now be run by Mrs Anne Shakeshaft.

Chris Mills

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Fund for support of educational activities

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

Robin Howles (0118 972 3528) or Sylvia Overbury (01491 628 245)

Clubs and Societies

Peppard Cricket Club

The snow may have finally departed from the common but the weather remains distinctly un-cricket-like. However, that means that there is plenty of work needing to be done. If you are passing the common in the near future you may see club members engaged in pre-season work including rolling and preparation work which is vital.

We had to content ourselves with basking in last season's glories at the club dinner, which this year was held at Caversham Heath Golf Club. The evening revolved around the three captains of our XIs speeches and award presentations. A good time was had by all and the staff at the golf club did an excellent job in feeding us.

While cricket will not start until April we have a couple of pre-season events in a Race Night and Golf day. Full details of these events can be found at <http://peppard.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp>

For those of you interested in the club results during the season, they can be found on the same website usually updated the day following each game. The fixtures for each team can also be found at the same place.

Let's all hope for a great summer.

Ronnie Brock, Chairman

Greys Green Golf Course

Heavy financial investment on new golf course maintenance machinery accompanied by new local staff and the introduction of a more productive maintenance programme helped GGGC towards becoming the 'Best Value' golfing experience not only in Oxfordshire but also in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.

Over the past 12 months, GGGC has improved beyond recognition in many areas, and, I'm very pleased to say, has not lost

its warm, friendly and relaxed atmosphere. I would go as far as to say our welcome is second to none. We even offer complimentary tea/coffees to all that play. The regulars and newcomers often comment about how beautiful the facility is, especially through the spring and summer months.

GGGC is for the use and benefit of the community, local and wide, to allow families and individuals to pursue a wonderful outdoor leisure activity whether it is golf at an affordable price, dog walking or just a walk in the countryside...we offer it all.

The statement on our 2010 course brochure explains this sentiment perfectly, it states: 'we have something for everyone and everybody's welcome'...it's as simple as that. I would like the Peppard community to know that this wonderful facility is on their doorstep and they are all welcome to use it. I would even like to introduce a specific 2-for-1 (one pays two can play) green fee offer that only Peppard residents will benefit from. For more information see:

www.greysgreengolf.co.uk

Lee Rawlings, Course Director
01491 629967

Peppard WI

We celebrated our 90th birthday in style and as a result of endeavouring to raise our profile in the community, particularly with our successful Open Day in October, we have already welcomed six new members and other ladies are showing an interest in joining us.

However since the beginning of 2009 we have lost four former members who, in their time, played an active role in the life of our Institute. The names of Eve Booth, Diana Beale, Beryl Warwick and June Turner can all be found in the min-

ute books we have carefully examined in the course of the past year.

Also during the year, we have had more than our fair share of members' broken limbs and major operations. Some of us, too, have suffered the trauma of losing close members of our family. Out of this sadness has emerged one ray of sunshine. WI members do care for each other! The support one receives in the form of telephone calls, cards, flowers and practical offers of help can make a tremendous difference at such times.

So ladies, if you are free on the second Wednesday in the month, do join us. You can come on two visits before we ask you for a subscription and we assure you of a warm welcome.

Irene Lindsay – President
0118 947 8392

2nd Kidmore End Brownies

This year sees the Centenary of the Girlguiding movement and as part of our celebrations the Brownies have been very busy working towards their 'Adventure 100' badge. They have been thinking about what it means to be a Brownie and have created posters, showing what they enjoy doing and what it means to them. We have used them to create a display in the Sonning Common Library, along with memorabilia from parents and leaders of the Brownies. Please go and have a look.

The girls have enjoyed a disco this term with music chosen by them and have celebrated Chinese New Year by making Tiger Masks. In the second half of the term they will be devising their own commercials to tell others about girl guiding, as well as having fun with water and learning about how climate change affects the lives of animals in the Arctic and Antarctica.

Thinking Day 2010 was celebrated on the 22nd February with the Sonning Common District (1st and 2nd Kidmore End,

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Checkenden and Nettlebed Brownies and Peppard Guides). We all got together to think of Brownies and Guides around the world and take part in craft activities reflecting many cultures.

After Easter we are going on a 'Brownie Takeover' to PGL* in Liddington with 200 other brownies to experience outdoor activities as well as brownie traditions such as campfires and wide games.

For further information please contact Jessica Higson 0118 972 3026.

*PGL refers to an organisation offering activity and adventure holidays to 7-17 year olds. PLG are the initials of the man who started them; Peter Gordon Lawrence, though the children prefer to call it 'Parents Get Lost'!

The Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club

The club is nearing the end of the current season in the local league with all its teams and everything still to play for. The A team look almost certain to be relegated from Division 1 despite Nigel Maltby, Paul Jarvis, Andy Turton, Simon Berry and Jason Roberts all battling hard with no reward so far. In Division 2, the B team are comfortably in mid-table, as are the C team in Division 3.

In Division 4, the D team have had a good recent run to pull themselves out of the relegation zone. Matt Stone is playing particularly well while team mates Simon Blake and Phil Turton are also doing a good job. In Division 5, the F team are now looking a safe bet for promotion, Dave Aust, Derek Brooke-Wavell, Jim McClure, Anthony Reeve and Jacek Kryzanowski all determined to hang on to their current second spot. The E team have climbed away from the danger zone at the foot of Division 5 lately to all

but secure their safety, Mark Corbett, Tony House and Mike Casserely enjoying a rich vein of form lately.

Finally the G team in Division 6 are showing significant signs of improvement as they bid to drag themselves off the bottom of the table. The club's junior sessions continue at the Peppard War Memorial Hall on Monday evenings. Anyone interested in playing can just turn up from 17.00 and ask for organisers, John Taylor or Alan Dines.

Nigel Maltby, Club Secretary
0118 9463191

Peppard Bowls Club

The new season is just around the corner and we're looking for new members to join our friendly mixed Club. If you fancy an evening or afternoon out in the fresh air, with a little laughter thrown in, pop in and visit our Club on one, or both, of our Open Days.



Members of the Peppard Bowls Club in action

We have one on Friday 30th April from 17.30 and another at 14.30 on Sunday 2nd May taking place at the Peppard Memorial Hall.

Why not have some fun and spend an hour or so with us on our bowls green? We're a friendly bunch and offer a warm welcome to you, whatever your

age or ability. The only things you need to bring are a pair of flat-soled shoes and a sense of humour.

Call me on 01491 572854 or to see what we're about, visit our website www.peppardbowlsclub.btik.com

Chris Eldred, Membership Secretary

Chiltern Players

Our Spring production will be the ever-popular comedy *Table Manners* by Alan Ayckbourn.

The play, one of Ayckbourn's *Norman Conquests* trilogy, centres upon librarian Norman who manages to wreak havoc at a family get-together when his plans for a dirty weekend with his wife's sister go awry. It's witty, ascerbic and just plain funny, especially when Norman's wife turns up unexpectedly.

Performances take place at 20.00 on Wednesday to Saturday, April 21st-24th at Peppard Memorial Hall. Tickets £7 on the door or from 0118 972 3628.

Chiltern Players is an amateur dramatic group based in Sonning Common who meet regularly on Wednesday evenings at St Michael's Church Hall, Peppard Road. All productions take place in the Peppard Memorial Hall.

Carol Evans, 0118 972 3628

Peppard Flat Earth Society

We held our annual Wife Placating evening on 27th February. The Pedagogue welcomed guests, thanked the Navigator for his sterling work in disorganising the bowls meetings and the Controller for his cultural efforts to various theatres. The highlights of the year were aptly described in an ode written for the occasion by the Pip, covering visits to *HMS Warrior*, Bletchley Park, Cross Ness Sewage Works, Bourton on the Water Museums and Woodcote hydroelectric plans.

Terry Ryan

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Peppard Diary

APRIL					
Thu	1	Peppard School Terms ends	Mon	10	RPPC Planning/Pavilion/21.30
Sun	4	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00	Tue	11	Citizens' Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491 578267
Sat	10	Health Walks/Easter Egg Walk/16.45/0118 9242515	Wed	12	WI/Resolutions/Mem Hall/14.30
Mon	12	RPPC Planning/Pavilion/20.15	Sat	15	Hort Soc/RHS Wisley outing
Tue	13	Citizens' Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491 578267			Greys Court/Nat Gdn Scheme evening/18.00-20.30
		Greys Court Easter Egg Hunt/10-12/08442491895			All Saints' Concert/ <i>The Darling Buds of May</i> /20.00
Wed	14	Greys Court Easter Egg Hunt/10-12/08442491895	Mon	17	<i>Rhymetimes</i> Baby & Toddler/SC Library/10.00
		WI/An Absorbing Art/J Pumfrey/Mem Hall/14.30			Mobile Library/Peppard School 11.45 – 11.55
Thu	15	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH Office	Wed	19	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00/0118 972 2808
Mon	19	Peppard School Term begins	Thu	20	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office
		<i>Rhymetimes</i> Baby & Toddlers/SC Library/10.00	Fri	21	Greys Court/Evening Walk/18.30-20.30/08442491895
		Mobile Library/Peppard School 11.45 – 11.55	Fri	28	Peppard School term ends
Tue	20	Peppard Mother & Toddler Group/Term starts	Sat	29	RPPC Planning/Pavilion/10.00
Wed	21	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00/0118 972 2808	Mon	31	Greys Court/2 nd Hand Sale/12.00-17.00
		<i>Table Manners</i> /C Players/M Hall/20.00/01189723628	JUNE		
Thu	22	<i>Table Manners</i> /C Players/M Hall/20.00/01189723628	Fri	4	Greys Court/Evening Walk/18.30-20.30/08442491895
Fri	23	<i>Table Manners</i> /C Players/M Hall/20.00/01189723628	Sun	6	Sue Ryder Chiltern Challenge Walks/01491 641070
		Annual Parochial Church Mtg/Parish Room/20.00			Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Sat	24	<i>Table Manners</i> /C Players/M Hall/20.00/01189723628	Mon	7	Peppard School Term begins
Sun	25	<i>On Your Bike</i> /SC Primary School/10.30/0118 9724427			<i>Rhymetimes</i> Baby & Toddlers/SC Library/10.00
Mon	26	RPPC Planning/Pavilion/20.15			FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office
Wed	28	Hort Soc/Talk Greenhoots/CE School/19.30	Tue	8	Citizens' Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491 578267
		RPPC/AGM/Mem Hall/20.00	Wed	9	WI/Crossword Solving/Mem Hall/14.30
Thu	29	Greys Court/Bluebell Walk/10.00-12.00/08442491895	Fri	11	Greys Court/ <i>Romeo & Juliet</i> /19.30-22.00/08442491895
Fri	30	Greys Court/Bluebell Walk/10.00-12.00/08442491895	Mon	14	Mobile Library/Peppard School 11.45 – 11.55
		Bowls Club/Open Evening/17.30			RPPC Council Meeting/Pavilion/19.30
MAY					RPPC Planning Meeting/Pavilion/21.30
Sun	2	Bowls Club/Open Day/14.30	Wed	16	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00/0118 972 2808
		Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00	Thu	17	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office
Mon	3	Greys Court/Plant Sale/12.00-17.00	Fri	18	Greys Court/Evening Walk/18.30-20.30/08442491895
Sat	8	Mem Hall/Quiz Night/01189722201	Mon	21	<i>Rhymetimes</i> Baby & Toddlers/SC Library/10.00
		Sue Ryder Midnight Walk/Green Pk Rdg/01491641070	Sat	26	Hort Soc/Beth Chatto Gardens Outing
Sun	9	Christian Aid Week begins	Mon	28	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.45-11.55
Mon	10	RPPC Council Meeting/Pavilion/19.30			RPPC Planning/Pavilion/20.15
Green Gym: Robin Howles – 0118 972 3528			FISH Office: 0118 972 3986 (Mon-Fri, 09.30-11.30)		
Peppard Bowls Club: Mon & Thurs 14.00 - 16.00, Frio 18.30 - 20.30			SC & Peppard Table Tennis Club Juniors: Mon 17.00		

WASTE COLLECTIONS

For **BROWN** (garden), **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 (Village Information)

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Services at All Saints'	APRIL				MAY					JUNE				NOTES
	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	‡ Festal Evensong Easter Day 4 th April ‡ Festal Evensong Whitsunday 23 rd May Rogation Sunday 9 th May
10.30 Communion (sung)	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	
10.30 Matins		✓			✓					✓				
10.30 Family Service			✓				✓					✓		
10.30 Sunday School	✓					✓			✓					
18.30 Evensong	✓ ‡	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ‡	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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
♦ Monday-Friday 09.00 ♦
Saturday 17.30 ♦ Sunday 09.00 & 10.30

PEPPARD

BUILDING SUPPLIES

Trade Counter

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