



# Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

## Making a Difference

Winter 2015

### Richard McQuillan

Many people will know Richard McQuillan as their dentist. Many people will also know that Richard McQuillan retired at the end of August. What many people may not know is that the following day he flew out to Tanzania to dedicate himself to two weeks' voluntary dental work.



Richard McQuillan with colleagues

He has been aware of Bridge2aid, a charity that sends volunteers to East Africa to assist in dental care, for many years. His view is that, whereas a lot of younger people have, or have had, a chance to do this type of thing in their gap year, he never did and saw it as an opportunity to use his skills for something worthwhile.

Along with five other dentists and four nurses, he embarked on a fairly arduous journey to reach his first place of work, Gallapo: four hours from Nairobi to their 'residence' via Kilimanjaro, and a further one hour to the clinic – a concrete building without water or electricity and with a battered dining room chair on which to seat his patients. He was allocated a set of instruments along with the sterilising equipment – a pressure cooker used on a petrol stove. With several objectives – to relieve pain for many people who have no access to dental care, to educate the local people and train local Health Workers to continue the work – he set to to treat the dozens of people who came along to the clinic each day. The Health Workers are

already trained to help in childbirth, to treat fractured limbs and give contraceptive advice.

Whilst he was treating the patients he was also training the Health Workers in the diagnosis of acute or chronic pain, also the appropriate use of antibiotics, how to give local anaesthetic, then the actual extraction of teeth. It was the remit of the dental nurses to provide oral hygiene education to both Health Workers and the patients and, for a little light relief, to delight the children by blowing bubbles. Since 2004, 3.1 million people in East Africa have had access to emergency dental care in this way.

Some of the patients had been in pain for a year or more and Richard has particularly fond memories of an albino woman he treated. She had walked many miles at great danger to herself as albinos are still a target for witch doctors in that part of Africa. Another patient was a four year old girl, brought along by her ten year old brother. After a full working day and the one hour return journey, Richard enjoyed a beer with his colleagues in the evenings and also Sunday off.

Richard is now looking forward to enjoying retirement although he hasn't drawn up his 'Bucket List' yet. He has a large garden to care for and two boisterous grandchildren he and Sue, his wife, help with. He is looking forward to more travelling although he says he is disenchanted with long haul travel; they are more likely to travel to corners of Europe that they haven't visited yet and are tempted to buy a camper van. He recently re-took his scuba diving qualification so perhaps long haul travel will beckon after all.

One thing is for sure – Richard will go to any lengths to watch his beloved London Irish play rugby. Now what if they were playing in East Africa?

Rita Hadgkiss

### Nigel Downing

If *Peppard News* had an Old Achievers' column, Nigel Downing would certainly feature in it! At 64 he is the oldest Briton to complete the swim across the Gibraltar Strait. The distance from Tarifa in Spain to the coast of Morocco is 14.7 kilometres but because of the currents, the swim zig-zagged into Punta Alamansa making the distance 18.7 kilometres. He did it in 4hrs 37 mins enjoying the dolphins but not the 270m container ship crossing his path.

Inspired by his daughter, who lives in Spain, Nigel spent time there acclimatising and training before undertaking this amazing feat, which she was able to arrange with the Spanish authorities. Five years ago, when swimming from Henley to Windsor, people queried which charity he was swimming for. Subsequently he found a charity which suited his fascination with aircraft called MAF (Mission



Nigel Downing and Jean Bernard at Tarifa

Aviation Fellowship) supporting poor isolated communities and missions around the world, flying in medical aid and supplies and even helping in war evacuation. Nigel came to the UK from South Africa as a nine year old. His natural ability was encouraged at his school, Stowe, but he

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# Our Schools

## Peppard School

What a busy term! We kicked off with Years 5 and 6 setting off on their residential trips to Somerset and Pembrokeshire. A fantastic time was had by all. Meanwhile in school, our 15 new Foundation children have been getting used to school life and have settled in well.

We continue with our swimming lessons at Queen Anne's and gym sessions at Kennylands Gym, ably assisted by Mr Bill Tanner driving the children back and forth in our minibus. We are very grateful to Bill who is helping with our transport and also cleaning the bus at weekends! The children also continue to take part in the cross country runs organised locally at either Greys Court or Chiltern Edge on Saturday mornings.

School trips have included Harcourt Arboretum, the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, Windsor Castle and The Chiltern Open Air Museum. We have taken part in various football tournaments, a netball tournament at Gillotts and Table Tennis at Chiltern Edge. Once again we took part in the annual Eurovision Contest at Chiltern Edge where we sang *Ou Se Trouve Mon Parapluie?* We came 3<sup>rd</sup>! In November, three pupils took part in the Spelling Bee at Queen Anne's School.

We had a visit from members of the Atlantic Lions – a team of local rowers taking on the Talisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge, rowing across the Atlantic in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. To raise awareness of this amazing feat, the children dressed as lions for the day and were shown some exciting footage of what the voyage will be like. We wish the Lions well and will be fund-raising later in the term. For more information please take a look at their website [www.atlanticlions.com/the-challenge](http://www.atlanticlions.com/the-challenge).

## Peppard C of E Primary School

Peppard Common RG9 5JU

Phone: 01491 628354

Headteacher  
**Nick Steele**

Chairman of the Governors  
**Christine Bradbury**

Our Open Morning in October was well attended and we fully expect to keep our numbers up next year – numbers currently have reached the giddy heights of 100 pupils!

We have started our Drop & Go system which allows parents to drop their children at the gate and be escorted into the playground. This is in an effort to ease traffic problems around the school.

Throughout the term we have been preparing for our school calendar, which is now ready... and looks fabulous. Huge thanks to Rose Tolhurst-Wilson for her inspirational photographic skills. Calendars are on sale from the school office.

Sadly we said goodbye to two long standing members of staff, Heather Brealey and Lyn Pitson. Their service over the years has been invaluable and we will all miss them. We have two new members of staff, Julie Davies and Kirsty Jelowitz who we hope will be with us for as long!

**Fiona Hilton**

## Peapods

We have been learning about healthy eating during the first half of term and the children have enjoyed picking the fruit and vegetables they have grown in our garden and using them to make snacks and in cooking activities. They have also been learning about what different foods do to our bodies and the importance of keeping clean and exercising.

We much look forward to over the next few weeks as we start preparing for Christmas. We have lots of cooking activities planned as well as decorating the nursery and making cards and decorations. We have already started to practise for our nativity play and will also have a party with a visit from Father Christmas. We still have a few spaces left for January and are also looking for a new member of staff. For more information please contact Louisa on [louisa@peapodsnurseryschool.com](mailto:louisa@peapodsnurseryschool.com) or 01491 628395.

**Louisa Hopcroft**

## Kidmore End Pre-School

Set in an idyllic village location, our small, friendly pre-school has been thriving since 1983 and creates a very special environment for children guided by a team of highly qualified, caring staff.

Our sessions are held in a small setting with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We provide a safe and stimulating environment with an enclosed garden providing plenty of space for outdoor play, whatever the weather. Children can play in the sand pit, at the water table or try out a variety of outdoor games. The outdoor space has an area where children are encouraged to dig in the dirt, and our raised vegetable beds give the children the chance to involve themselves in gardening projects.

If the weather is good, we take the opportunity for the children to go out, sometimes just to walk around the village, visiting the ducks on the duck pond or going to meet a neighbour's chickens or fish - or perhaps a walk in the woods. For more information please e-mail us on [enquiries@keps.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@keps.co.uk) or see our website at [www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk](http://www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk)

**Emma Hawker**

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# Our Young Achievers

## Table Tennis Stars

I had never given much thought to what goes on in Peppard War Memorial Hall on Friday evenings until I met two engaging 14 year old members of the Sonning Common and Peppard Table Tennis Club.

The Club has a thriving junior section with two coaching sessions: one for beginners, mostly 8-10 year olds, and another for more experienced youngsters, chiefly 11-14 years old. I met Thomas Perkins at his home where two large cups won this year have pride of place on the sitting room mantelpiece; the Jubilee Cup, for scoring the highest average in any division in the club and the Malcolm Griffiths Memorial Trophy for the club's handicap singles competition.

Thomas told me he joined the club three years ago having enjoyed playing table tennis at holiday clubs. He is now in the second division of the Reading Adult League as well as the National Junior League and division one of the under-15 National Cadet League. Thomas is supported by his parents who transport him to his coaching sessions as well as to away matches. He hopes, in time, to become part of the Junior British League if he continues to progress.

The other young shining star of the club is Joe Barraclough who has been playing table tennis for five and a half years and has also been having coaching for three years. He is Thomas's doubles partner and, after receiving coaching on Fridays, goes on to the John Cunningham Table Tennis Youth League at Blue Coat School in Sonning to coach other youngsters. Thomas and Joes won the Youth League Title at Blue Coat with another player.

In May Joe won the *Reading Post's* Most Supportive Junior Awards, the Berkshire Senior Handicap Cup in January and was runner up in the Berkshire Under 21 Closed Competition last year.

Both boys are clearly doing exceptionally well at their chosen sport and it was pleasure to hear them talk so enthusiastically.

**Sue Nickson**

## Tom Parkinson



*Tom Parkinson*

Wyfold Riding for the Disabled would like to nominate Tom Parkinson as a Young Achiever. Tom is a 12 year old boy who comes to ride every Wednesday. He is a very determined and honest boy with a wonderful sense of humour who adores animals and really loves our horses and they always get a hug from him when he dismounts.

When Tom returned after the summer holidays he had grown so much that, when weighed, it was found that he was too heavy to ride his usual pony, Big Joe. Tom went up to Big Joe and said 'Joe, I'm afraid I have some bad news for you. I have grown too big to ride you anymore but I will still love you!' Earlier in the year he had come second in a dressage competition at Wellington Riding School. 'To see Tom achieve this was fantastic' says his mum, Rachael.

Tom says 'Riding makes me feel relaxed and very happy and it makes me feel better about myself'. Rachael says

'It gives me piece of mind that Tom is progressing within a sporting field. Wyfold RDA has been fantastic for him and all involved have been very important for his confidence building and achieving his grades has been very good for him.'

When Tom was six years old he was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome and a year later with ADHD. Tom became very unhappy and found school very difficult and felt that he was good at nothing; his behaviour became challenging and his family were struggling to cope. Tom's family searched for a solution and found him a place at Beech Lodge School in Hurley which Tom's mum describes as 'a lifesaver'. The school diagnosed severe dyslexia, dyspraxia, sensory processing disorder and mood and anxiety disorder - he has to take medication to help him deal with his problems.

Tom also attends a special after-school club called CATSYPP Reading where he learns vital life and social skills. In 2014 this charity was chosen to feature in *Gareth Malone's All Star Choir for Children in Need* in which Tom was chosen to represent them. He was filmed making a train journey with a BBC1 Blue Peter presenter and subsequently the charity was overwhelmed with enquiries!

From being a boy that wouldn't pick up a pencil and wanted to stay under a blanket, Tom is making great progress and is known at school for his motivational speaking and also for helping to encourage other pupils with similar problems. His mum says 'Tom still finds doing everyday things a struggle and still prefers to be at home and on his own and life can be a roller coaster but we are immensely proud of him and he has progressed and achieved far more than we ever thought he could do.'

Tom really is a Young Achiever.

**Gill Rushworth, Wyfold RDA**



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# The Councils

## Parish Council News

This is the time of year when your Parish Council has to consider what they are likely to spend in the year ending March 2017. Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council is totally funded by an allocation called the Precept from the Council Tax you pay to South Oxfordshire District Council. By the start of 2016 RPPC has to apply to SODC for the funds (the Precept) which it expects to need.

Last year RPPC had a Precept of £27,500 which is £30.47 per annum for a Band D house. This is almost 20% lower than the average for neighbouring councils and less than half of that for Sonning Common.

In the current year we will spend almost half our funds on staff salaries, administration and associated costs; in addition the costs of maintaining Carlings Orchard and the running costs for the Sports Field and Pavilion are expected to amount to over £6000. We also make donations to establishments or causes that benefit the local community totalling around £5,000 each year.

In 2016-17 we want to renew some of the noticeboards in the Parish; start a fund for a likely roof repair in the Sports Pavilion; and build up the reserve we hold to help towards the cost of the Play Area.

This is likely to mean a significant increase in our Precept (and your parish Council tax) of up to 20%. Although this is a high percentage, the impact to each household we hope is acceptable and that you will support this increase needed to invest in the parish.

House Band	Annual Parish Tax		Annual household increase
	2015-16	2016-17 (est)	
A	£20.31	£24.37	£4.06
B	£23.70	£28.44	£4.74
C	£27.08	£32.50	£5.42
D	£30.47	£36.56	£6.09
E	£37.24	£44.69	£7.45
F	£44.01	£52.81	£8.80
G	£50.78	£60.94	£10.16
H	£60.94	£73.13	£12.19

As a Council we would like to hear any views you may have – please contact our Clerk Linda Collison at clerk@rppc.org.uk or 01491 629676. Details of the Councils

## Parish Council

Chairman: Tony Cotton  
e-mail: chairman@rppc.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Linda Collison

7 Grange Avenue, Rotherfield Peppard,  
Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 5LD  
01491 629676

e-mail: clerk@rppc.org.uk

Website: www.rppc.org.uk

SODC Councillors: Charles Bailey

Charles.Bailey@southoxon.gov.uk

& David Nimmo-Smith

David.Nimmo-Smith@southoxon.gov.uk

OCC Councillor: David Bartholomew

07769 808773

david.bartholomew@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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

accounts can be found on our website [www.rppc.org.uk](http://www.rppc.org.uk).

On a separate subject we have just opted another Councillor bringing our complement to nine Councillors but meaning we still have one vacancy. We still do not have a representative from the Wyfold Lane, Stevens Lane or Wyfold Estate areas. If you are interested or would like to hear more about the role of Councillors please contact the Clerk as above.

**Tony Cotton**

## County Council Budget Consultation

Many local residents have contacted me with concerns about possible cuts to local services, including the removal of bus subsidies and the closure of Oakley Wood Household Waste Recycling Centre. No final decisions have been made, but I regret to say these are amongst the budget options being considered by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

By law, OCC has to produce a balanced budget – it cannot spend more than it receives. Council Tax cannot be raised by more than 1.99% without a referendum, and a referendum would itself cost about £750,000 to hold.

OCC has already saved, or has firm plans to save, nearly £300m since 2010, but believes it needs to find another £50m of savings over the next four years. This is because it is not only receiving less money from government, but also faces rising demand for services – particularly for vulnerable adults and children at risk of abuse and neglect (these groups represent just 2% of the population but account for nearly half of OCC's spending).

The council is consulting the public before taking the final decisions on savings and delivering the budget on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016. To take part in the consultation online go to [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/budget](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/budget). Hard copies of the budget consultation documents are also available in every library.

**Cllr David Bartholomew**

## Information from SODC

If bad weather disrupts winter waste collections, Biffa will try to catch up the following day. Leave bins out for three days, if they are not emptied bring them in and put out again next collection day.

There will be no garden waste collection from Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Garden waste customers can leave a real Christmas tree by the their brown bin (but not in it) from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Otherwise take your tree to a composting location.

You need to keep food waste out of your recycling bin: Biffa won't empty the bin if it contains items that cannot be recycled.

You can recycle small electrical items by leaving them in a small carrier bag tied up next to your grey bin. Old clothes and textiles can be left in a small tied carrier bag next to the green bin.

The Affordable Warmth Helpline 0800 107 00 44 can give information about free loft and cavity wall insulation.

There will be free car parking in Henley car parks every Tuesday during December.

SODC offices will close at 15:00 on Christmas Eve until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. For emergencies about homelessness during that time call the council's out of hours number 0845 303 9727.

More information about all of the above at [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk).



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# Know Your Councillor

## Christmas Wishes from John Howell MP

I would like to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead. May I also say thank you to all those who work hard in our communities. So many different things go on across the constituency that help to keep our communities vibrant and good places in which to live. It is always a pleasure when I get the opportunity to visit community activities and I look forward to learning yet more in 2016.

People often ask how to keep up to date with what I am doing: I produce two electronic communications – a general monthly update and one on specific issues as and when they arise. To be added to my mailing list please e-mail me at [john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com). You can also find information about my work both in Parliament and in the constituency on my website ([www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com)). You can follow me on twitter @johnhowellmp or on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/john.howellmp](http://www.facebook.com/john.howellmp)) or write to me at PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD or the House of Commons. I look forward to being able to correspond with many more of you in the future.

With best wishes, John

## Are You Ready?

OCC Emergency Planning Unit has produced an *Are You Ready?* booklet with practical advice on preparing for emergencies. Copies available tel. 01865 792422 or from [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/emergency-planning](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/emergency-planning).

The elderly, disabled, those with under-5s or those who use specialist medical equipment could benefit from joining the utility companies' priority care registers, applicable especially in the event of power failures or disruption of water supply.

## Charles Bailey

When I heard that a 24 year old was to be one of our SODC (South Oxfordshire District Council) representatives my first thought was 'How can someone still wet behind the ears represent me?' But I have had a complete change of mind since meeting Charles. He has so much energy and enthusiasm for the role (and life) and he impressed me with a refreshing lack of arrogance. He happily admits that he has a lot to learn and will look to the greater experience of his fellow councillors, particularly David Nimmo-Smith, for guidance.

A local man, brought up in Shepherd's Green, he has undoubtedly had a privileged upbringing: he was educated privately and then went to Manchester University to study PPE (philosophy, politics and economics) before going off to live in New York and then the Far East before returning home to live with his parents.

Charles is a supporter of local causes and local businesses – he is keen to be involved and offer help wherever possible. He is saddened by the closure of so many local pubs and is eager to aid any campaign to keep them open.

He enjoys our countryside and wants to see it kept green but also recognises that more housing is required nationwide. Planned housing can be achieved in a responsible way and he firmly believes that the infrastructure must come first. He thinks that building can be accomplished without affecting the status quo. Some of his views are quite controversial – he did suggest that more traffic could solve the speeding problems!

Charles is only six months into his four year term as our District Councillor and has no idea whether he will stand for re-election in 2019. He says that he doesn't see himself as a career politician

– I don't think I actually believe him. Watch this space!

In the meantime he would like to put his own stamp on the role. He is not looking to build a reputation but quite genuinely wants to help his local community. His current remit is sitting on the Audit Committee and he is also a substitute for the Planning Committee – he is attending various training courses to enable him to contribute more.

Responsibility for the ward is shared jointly between Charles and David Nimmo-Smith and, at the moment, they work in partnership. It is their future aim to divide the ward of ten parishes and focus on five parishes each.

It is amazing that he can find time to fulfil his role as a councillor, because he is still in the process of building up his own business. He has a job he enjoys as a Financial Advisor, advising both business and private clients on a wide range of financial affairs. To develop and enlarge his client portfolio he attends many networking functions which he also enjoys, particularly start-up networks.

Even with his seemingly boundless youth and energy, he still struggles to fit in a social life. He is involved with Henley Round Table charity events, often on a Saturday evening, so regards Friday evenings as his 'me' time. He says that the key to it all is planning – as a self-employed person he can plan his own diary to accommodate all his activities but this sometimes means taking phone calls at 06:30!

Currently, he enjoys a single life and is quite happy doing his own thing. He doesn't anticipate getting married for perhaps another ten years. In November, he will find time to 'do his own thing' by having a very well-deserved weekend in Barcelona.

Rita Hadgkiss

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# Our Village

## Peppard Common

During the autumn, further reinstatement work was carried out on the north side of Top Common, where road verges were becoming badly eroded. Our thanks to Clemsons, who supported the Conservators by providing all topsoil, plant and labour for a very nominal charge.

Further work was undertaken on the 'ski slope' down on Peppard Common. The objective of the clearance programme is to form a diversified grassland, woodland and heathland habitat, and clear glades in some of the denser woodland. This is being carried out under the expert guidance of Rod d' Ayala, an Ecological Consultant. He has formed a volunteer group to work on Peppard Common, which meets in the car park at Gallowstree Common/Stoke Row Road crossroads at 10:00 on first Sunday of the month. Anyone wishing to help is very welcome to contact me for further details.

Early 20<sup>th</sup> century mapping and photographs indicate that Peppard Common had far less woodland and scrub. In fact, much of it was open grazing land, with only scattered trees and copses. Evidence of the Common Dormouse has been spotted by Rod, who believes it has become established. Dormice are rarely recorded because they are arboreal and nocturnal, and inactive for 5-6 months of the year.

Elizabeth Smeeton stepped down in September as the Clerk to the Nettlebed and District Commons Conservators after more than eight years in the role. She has made an enormous contribution to the Commons and the Conservators. Liz Longley is warmly welcomed as the new Clerk. For more info e-mail: [tonyrancombe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyrancombe@yahoo.co.uk)

**Tony Rancombe**

## FISH Volunteer Centre

FISH run regular door-to-door shopping trips to Henley Tesco and Waitrose, Henley Farmers' Market, Morrisons in Reading and Reading Town Centre every month. Leisure trips are planned to include visits to Basildon Park, The Living Rain Forest, Salisbury Christmas Market, Swindon Outlet Centre and the Steam Museum of Great Western Railways.

Every 20<sup>th</sup> of the month the programme is published and distributed for the next month. Copies of the programme are held in the FISH Volunteer Centre and are widely available throughout the village. It is also posted on noticeboards in both Peppard and Sonning Common and can also be found on the FISH website [www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk](http://www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk)

To receive the FISH Bus Programme by e-mail each month, please send a message 'bus programme please' with your name to:

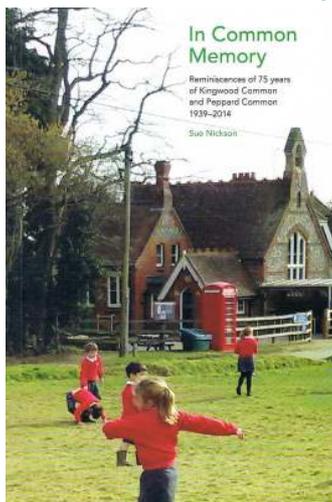
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If you do not use a computer or e-mail but have a friend, neighbour or relative that does - then they may be willing to receive and print it for you. Just ask them to follow the instructions above using their own name but also add that it is for you and give your name as well.

The programme will be e-mailed to you on 20<sup>th</sup> of the month - the date from which you can make bus bookings. Shopping and leisure trips need to be booked by telephone (0118 972 3986), or in person at the FISH Office from 09:30 to 11:30 Monday to Friday. You can also, of course, request a volunteer driver to take you to a medical appointment.

**John Pearman**

## In Common Memory



I still have some copies available of my recent book *In Common Memory*, about Peppard and Kingwood Commons (price £11.99). Perhaps it could be a Christmas gift for someone interested in this area? Get in touch with me if you would like to purchase a copy: phone 0118 972 4520 or e-mail [suenickson@chilternantiques.com](mailto:suenickson@chilternantiques.com).

Any profit will go to Peppard Relief in Need.

**Sue Nickson**

## Peppard War Memorial Hall

We have enjoyed a busy period since the last issue and are now enjoying arranging bookings into the New Year. We have three main news items:

Peppard Bowls Club is closing: the club has been in existence for nearly 100 years but, sadly, in October their committee decided to finally shut the green. Several factors have led to this, primarily that no-one has volunteered to take on some management roles, e.g. management of fixtures. Since hearing this news, representatives of the Hall Trustees have met with the Bowls Club committee: it has been agreed to slow down the closure process until the end of the year. We really hope that somebody, or group of people, interested in bowls will resurrect the Club from the ashes. Please contact me if you wish to discuss any options for its revival. My contact details can be found on: [www.peppardwarmemorialhall.btk.com](http://www.peppardwarmemorialhall.btk.com).

We now have a Facebook page - we hope this helps with future communication (see our website).

Hopefully Rugbytots will commence in the hall in January: - this will be a weekly energetic play session for children from two to five years. More information will be on our website in the coming weeks.

On behalf of the Hall Trustees, I wish you a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

**Clive Mills, Chairman**

## Library News

Children's storytimes take place every Saturday at 10:00, and our next 'special' storytimes on 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> December will have a Christmas theme with Christmas stories and crafts, and home-made cakes for sale. I'd also like to invite everyone to visit the library for seasonal refreshments with staff and volunteers on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, between 14:00-17:00.

The library will close on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 13:00 and open again on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 09:30.

Advance notice: we plan to celebrate National Library Day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Come and join us then!

**Rosemary Dunstan**

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## KPCV

The Kingwood and Peppard Common Volunteers (KPCV) are a friendly group of conservation volunteers who meet twice a month to work on Kingwood and Peppard Commons.

Over the past three months we have continued with clearing brambles and bracken from several of the glades on Kingwood Common, to allow the growth of heather and other species. We have also spent time clearing and widening some of the paths, to make them more accessible.

We have several work parties planned for the next few months - see Peppard Diary for dates. The work parties run from 09:30 to 12:30, and volunteers are welcome for all or any part of that time. On occasions we also join forces with the Green Gym. For more details please contact Shkinghorn@aol.com.

**Sheri Kinghorn**

## Health Walks

With winter upon us, it's good to wrap up warm and get out for a brisk walk. The Health Walks' timetable continues through the winter with a programme of walks to suit all levels of fitness. After a short break for Christmas and New Year the walks continue with different starting places and new routes (weather permitting). Join us to walk off your Christmas pudding: it's fun and it's free!

In 2016 the Health Walk scheme will have been in existence for 20 years - more news about the celebrations in the next issue.

The timetable is available from the library, the Health Centre and the Herb Farm, or on the website at [www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable](http://www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable). If you'd like to talk to someone about the health walks, phone Colin Davies on 0118 972 2527

**Rosemary Dunstan**

## Greenshoots

We are holding a Festive Fundraiser from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Our 60' long glasshouse has been cleaned and the glass polished, and will be decorated with fairy lights and a Christmas tree. Home made mince pies and refreshments will be available for a

small charge. There will be stalls selling lots of goodies as well as homemade jams and chutneys, many made from produce grown at Greenshoots. We will also be making Christmas wreaths to order and will be happy to show you how to create them. Please support us and pick up some Christmas bargains! For more details, visit our website: [www.waysandmeans.org.uk](http://www.waysandmeans.org.uk).

We have been hugely helped by many companies this year who have given their time to build raised beds (Southern Electricity, NVidia, Vodafone, HSBC and Johnson & Johnson). Our gardening manager, Paul, has been busy using them for a dedicated blueberry bed, a 30' raspberry area and herbs.

We wish all the *Peppard News* readers a very Happy Christmas and New Year!

**Frances Hill**

## Tokyo Jamboree

I was selected along with 27 other scouts to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Scout Jamboree in Japan. After almost two years of fund raising and preparation I have now been and come back from my experience in Japan and have many wonderful memories to share.

In July we flew into Tokyo where we took a train to the hotel we would be staying in for three nights in Shinigawa. We visited many attractions, including a Buddhist temple in the heart of Tokyo which was a surprising break from the rest of the busy city. We visited an earthquake centre where we experienced a simulation of a magnitude of seven on the Richter scale which was exciting but also made you think how scary it might be in reality. Soon after that we visited the Skytree, a 2,080 foot tower from which you could see as far as the humid haze would let you, although for about 70 days it is clear enough to see Mount Fuji. These are just three of the attractions we visited while on our three night stay in a city of over 2,188 square kilometres.

At the jamboree, in Kirara Hama, we took part in a number of activities over the ten days. These included a day trip to Hiroshima where we visited the peace park and museum to learn about the

destruction caused by the atomic bomb. We also learnt about development in different parts of the world in a global development village.

On the Japanese Culture Day, we visited the town of Mine to learn about Japanese culture. We were welcomed with a ceremony arranged by the town's council, after which we visited a small primary school and then the famous Mine caves.

One of my favourite days was the World Culture Day which started with an inter-religious ceremony at which many different religions held their services simultaneously and took it in turns to say a prayer or sing a religious song. In the afternoon we had three hours to walk around the campsite visiting other camps and trying the cuisine of the different nations at the jamboree.

Finally, our Berkshire unit took a train to Ishigawa where we met the Japanese families that we partnered for the home hospitality programme that would conclude our trip. Paired with someone from our unit, we stayed for two nights with our host families and were shown many sights in their home town. One place we visited was the Ninja temple that a samurai visited 300 years ago to worship; with many hidden rooms and traps so that he could worship without being attacked by his many enemies. We also visited an old castle and many different gold leaf shops as the town was known for producing 95% of Japan's gold leaf.

On our last night, our hosts took us to a traditional restaurant where we enjoyed a meal of sushi and cold noodles. We were then taken to a hon sen (hot spring) which resembled an extremely hot bath and a 95°C sauna which was very enjoyable. We then went to meet friends to watch fireworks but were in fact taken to a tarmac area underneath a large bridge where we saw a large pile of what looked like sparklers and small colourful boxes. These boxes, when lit, shot three metre high flames and sparks into the air which was surprisingly big considering the size of the boxes. I can safely say that our last night in Japan was one of my favourites.

**Laurie Martin, 16 years**

*Laurie also received sponsorship from Rotherfield Peppard Educational Trust*

### Highmoor Nursery School

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# Junior Peppard News

## Peppard's Buddy System

At the start of this school year, new buddies were chosen from Springwood class to look after the new Foundation children. We interviewed some Foundation children to ask them what they thought about the Buddy System.

Ava said "I like Ciara because she's good at cuddling!"

Jonathan thought the buddy system was a good idea because having a buddy helped him settle in when he started school.

Finley from Springwood class commented "It's good because the Foundation children have someone to go to if they get hurt or they have nobody to play with."

Overall, the Buddy system is a great success and the Foundation children feel a lot happier with their Springwood buddies!

By **Charlie Usher and Lois Powell**

## Springwood's New Classroom

Over the summer holidays, Springwood had a new classroom built for them. When we arrived on the first day back, we were all very excited to see the new building. As we went into the classroom, balloons rained down on us. It was great fun! We all got to choose one balloon each then went to assembly.

The new building has made a big difference because there is a ramp to get Dylan's wheelchair into the classroom; it is a lot bigger and it is a lot warmer in the winter.

We have another room next to our classroom but still in the same building. We use it for ukulele and small group work. It is a bit cold but we don't mind.

By **Finley Robertson**



*Christmas Wishes from Peppard School*

go to the actual museum!) As we drove back, guess what we all did? We sang! We sang so much that we were hoarse afterwards. When we got back to school and saw our parents, we were all so excited!

Overall the trip to Broad Haven was a great experience and everybody had a fantastic time with their friends.

By **Marie Guthrie**

## Broad Haven

In September, the Year 6's went on a one week residential trip to Broad Haven.

We arrived on Monday morning with our luggage and loaded it onto the trailer. We spent about five minutes saying goodbye to our parents. We then drove off and we all shouted "Goodbye Peppard!" About ten minutes into the journey, we all decided to annoy Mr Steele by saying "Are we nearly there yet?" He didn't reply, but we knew he was annoyed!

Halfway through the journey, we stopped to have lunch and then we were given a tour of an old coal mine.

When we got to the youth hostel, the first thing we did was check out the local beach. We then had dinner and played on the beach. When we were told to go to bed, we weren't even remotely tired so it was a very long night.

Throughout the week, we did various activities including coasteering, which involved jumping off rocks and small cliffs into water. We also did kayaking, walking, surfing, castle tours and a barbecue with the children from Broad Haven School.

On the way back, we went to a museum gift shop (there was no time to

## The Choir at the Abbeycrest Care Home

Choir went to the Abbeycrest Care Home and sang three Harvest songs!

All of the elderly people really liked their singing and even sang along when it came to *We Plough the Fields and Scatter* which was great!

They brought fresh fruit and vegetables there for the chef to make into their dinners!

The Choir cannot wait to go again for Christmas!

By **Isobel Young, Year. 6**

## Ukulele – Springwood Class

This term, every Thursday, Springwood class have been having ukulele lessons with a man called Rob. We are really enjoying it!

At the start we had to choose our ukulele. We had a choice of sparkly black, green, blue and pink or plain brown, pink, blue, black or green.

Everyone has already learnt various chords such as C, F, G and A minor. We have also been learning to play songs including Old Macdonald, The Lion Sleeps Tonight and Santa Claus is Coming to Town which we are looking forward to performing at Christmas.

**Charlie Usher**



## The Macmillan Coffee

### Eurovision

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, Springwood class went to Chiltern Edge school for the annual Eurovision song contest. This is a huge singing competition, held for year five and six students from the area. Each school sings a song in a foreign language and this year we sang *Ou Sa Trouve Mon Parapluie*, a French song.

We left school in the morning in two bus loads, We were all extremely excited about performing. When we arrived, we were taken to a massive hall where there were some judges at the back of the hall and students from Chiltern Edge school.

The music teacher called for our attention and then explained how the morning would work. Our school was told that we would perform third. We then did a few different warm ups to get ourselves in the mood. Then the competition began!

We all walked up onto the stage, smiling all over. Then the music began. We sang and did our actions really well and at the end of the song we were all so proud of ourselves. So were our teachers. We walked off with our heads held high and again we were smiling all over.

Half way through the competition we had a break. But after only 15 minutes we were right back into it. All the schools sang different songs and they were all really good. After all of the schools had performed the Headteacher came into the hall to read out the results. "Third place, Peppard!" We had come third!

After an awesome morning we went back to school. We talked about the results all the way back to school. We really like performing together and it was fun to go to Chiltern Edge school.

By Mimi, Year 6



Isobel Young, Max Jelowitz, Mimi Whitefield, Joseph Biggin & Oliver Hatcher

### and Cake Sale

After the spectacular Harvest Festival, the team captains, Yr. 5 and 6 school council and Mrs Young hosted an amazing coffee and cake sale for the charity, Macmillan, with the help from Mr Steele and the lovely people from the church.

They posted flyers around the neighbourhood, and a huge amount of people came and bought lots of cake! When they counted up the money, it all came up to over £250!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Macmillan Coffee and Cake sale!

Kilve Court, Year 5

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of September the year 5s went on a residential trip with Miss Ballantyne and Mrs Barlow. We went on bus long and during train journeys and when we got there a mini bus drove us to Kilve Court. Once we had dropped our stuff off we went on a beach walk where we found some fossils and got really wet. The next day we were on a stream walk, everyone got really muddy! After that, we went grass sledging, Miss Ballantyne was really good, everyone had lots of fun. On Wednesday, we were going on a quango walk where a dog followed us all the way! Sadly, we had to go home. Everyone enjoyed it though!

By Lois Powell

### Gillotts New Boy

Sadly the day came when I had to leave Peppard and move to Gillotts. Although I miss Peppard I am thoroughly enjoying Gillotts. Every lesson I am learning is something interesting and new! My favourite lessons are Music, English, PE and Resistant Materials. The thing I like the most so far is all the new friends I have made. Every week I get 12 pieces of homework, its a lot more than I got in primary school but I think I am coping well with it. When I first joined Gillotts I was very nervous, I wasn't sure where to go and I was scared I would get lost, seven weeks in, I already know my way round.

For any one who is going to go on to secondary school I would say don't worry its good fun!

by Kaan Ozgu

### Moving On!

Moving from Peppard, which I've been in almost all my primary years, to Queen Anne's is the best/terrifying thing I have ever done in my whole life. Peppard is so small compared to the acres and acres of buildings and fields at QAS. Probably the biggest difference was having to walk from one class to another in the space of two minutes. Another difference is that everyone at QAS spends the last two hours of their day doing prep (basically homework but not done at home). This means that when we get back home at 6:30 we don't have to stress about having to get homework done at the last minute.

I have made two friends apart from all the rest, Charlotte and Aimee. We are all in the same house Webbe (Yellow) so we see each other often.

I miss Peppard still and hope to come and visit soon.

by Lillibeth Biggin

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## Our Village cont'd

### Cont'd from Front page

disliked the cold lake and has an aversion to swimming in cold water. Despite this, he participated as pace swimmer in the Bridge-to-Bridge swim and completed the dawn Henley Classic along the Regatta course. He's undertaken triathlons where he has an advantage as the weakest discipline for most triathletes is swimming. Further afield he has swum in Cornish events and the Padstow to Rock swim is where he took our Young Achiever, Henry Bell, under his wing. However, the English Channel holds no attraction for him because, unlike the Gibraltar Strait, wetsuits are not allowed. Nigel explained that technique is more important than strength and, to this end, he continues to receive coaching. He is competitive but his main foe is cold water.

Nigel has a Wallingford-based business training company and enjoys his work. He is able to swim during the week and attributes his good health to swimming in the Thames for ten years. Ultimately he aims to swim to whole length of the river – in chunks.

Semi-retirement gives him the flexibility to indulge his triathlete sports. Accompanied by his daughter, he recently cycled one of the Tour de France stages; three separate routes to the summit of Mont Ventoux in one day.

Nigel is also a keen skier and a house in Switzerland affords the family the chance to ski each winter. Here his ambition is to complete the famous Chamonix to Zermatt ski trek in 2016. Perhaps we'll feature our 'Older Achiever' again when he has completed this.

To give a donation to Nigel's favoured charity go to [www.justgiving.com/gibraltarswimchallenge](http://www.justgiving.com/gibraltarswimchallenge) and for more details of his swim, Nigel's blog [www.gibraltarswimchallenge.co.uk](http://www.gibraltarswimchallenge.co.uk).

**Rita Hadgkiss**

### Peppard News' 21st Birthday

*Peppard News* was started by Hugh Warwick in 1994 before he was ordained. His original idea was for a quarterly newspaper that would enhance Peppard's sense of community, was church led although not in competition with the existing Parish Magazine. Both St Michael's Roman Catholic Church and Peppard Congregational Church were invited to contribute and the newspaper would encompass other activities going on within the parish. He also approached the school and invited them to make regular contributions.

In those days, *Peppard News* was four A4 pages and carried a few advertisements to defray some of the costs. It soon expanded to six pages.

In 1997, Peter Longhurst took over the editorship and put his own personal stamp on *Peppard News* expanding it yet again to eight pages. He retained the principle of having advertisements as a means to help cover the costs, whilst using the newsletter as a vehicle for keeping parishioners informed of events and activities within Peppard.

When Peter retired, the late Lord Silsoe made it his mission to recruit a new editorial team. The new team settled into their respective roles and produced their first full edition for Winter 2005. Three members of that editorial team are still in place today having welcomed three more members in the intervening years.

My mother, Susan Carter, who had lived on Kingwood Common for all of her married life, almost 40 years, was the Editor of *Peppard News* from 2006 – 2010.

Always up for a challenge, it wasn't without some trepidation that she took over the reins as Editor, first testing the water as Acting Editor. Her impressive

organisational skills, knowledge of the local area, and warm way with people meant she was a natural.

During her time as Editor, *Peppard News* expanded to 12 pages and had a redesign - colour! She was incredibly pleased by this - she always liked to brighten things up and move with the times.

It was with great reluctance that she made the decision to step down from her post as Editor due to her illness the year before she died, but a wonderful and fitting legacy that her last voluntary role was for such a loved and long-established local publication as *Peppard News*.

**Louisa Carter**

### Congratulations

Congratulations, *Peppard News*, on reaching your 21<sup>st</sup> birthday!

I had the privilege of being a member of the team for just under three years before I moved away from the village. During that period the team introduced a number of changes to the newspaper. I would like to mention just two of them: Firstly there was the decision to move *Peppard News* from the stewardship of Rotherfield Peppard PCC into the control of the team and a new publisher, Peppard News Publications. I cannot understate the amount of hard work and soul-searching this move caused the team but with their perseverance and dedication *Peppard News* survived and remains in excellent shape. Secondly *Peppard News* focussed more on the young people of the village: a *Young Achievers* column and eventually the introduction of *Junior Peppard News* opened up an exciting partnership with Peppard School. *Peppard News* – a voice for youth in the community! Keep up the good work team! What you achieve is a credit to the village!

**Tony Treglown**

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## Snippets

### Sonning Common Health Centre Newsletter

The Health Centre is scaling down its newsletter production so it will no longer be distributed with *Peppard News*. Instead it is available in the Surgery and on-line at [www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk).

### Achievement Awards

Nominations for 2016 Sue Ryder Southern Women of Achievement Awards are now open until 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

For more information contact Miriam Payne [miriam.payne@sueryder.org](mailto:miriam.payne@sueryder.org) or phone 01491 641384 ext. 270.

### Seasonal Crime

On darker evenings burglars are on the prowl for valuables and cash and are aware that gifts may be in houses and on display. There is an increase in theft of mechanical garden tools from sheds with criminal damage to locks and windows to gain entry. For advice see:

[www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk). In an emergency dial 999 or 101 for non-emergency situation. You can also e-mail:

[HenleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:HenleyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk), if you have information about crime or anti-social behaviour you can also phone Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

### Poppy Appeal

Our total for the Poppy Appeal so far for our area is £3,323.69, which is sadly down from last year. However, there are always a few additions as the appeal year does not end until September 2016 and I have not included our anticipated Gift Aid. Of outstanding note was Peppard School, which raised just over £194 for the Appeal and filled All Saints' Church on Armistice Day. All Saints' also provided a moving Service on Remembrance Sunday in support of the Appeal and to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The sad news is that demands on the appeal are steadily increasing.

Our grateful thanks to the collectors and local businesses who give their time every year to support those who have suffered in more recent conflicts. Finally, many thanks to our generous donors.

Nick Lauanders

## Peppard People

### A Rose in Full Bloom

Having been a freelance ballet dancer for six years, 24 year old Georgina Rose has been given her first permanent contract with the Norwegian National Ballet. It has been a colourful journey along the way!



Georgina Rose

After attending the Junior and Upper Royal Ballet Schools, Georgie worked closely with the Royal Ballet Company and seemed on track for a place after she graduated. Carlos Acosta inviting her to dance in *Apollo* with his company in Valencia, gave weight to our hopes for a contract. A month before the crucial Graduation Performance Georgie unfortunately broke her foot meaning no contract. It was a low point.

After six months, George decided to give her career another attempt. London is the only place that provides professional dance classes, so it was a Catch-22

situation - living in London was not financially possible, yet she couldn't get a job without at least four classes a day. Eventually she acquired her first short contract with Vienna Festival Ballet. Due partly to the recession, the popularity of dance and the limited number of ballet companies, full time contracts are very scarce. With 400 dancers auditioning for one place, Georgie had to take any short term contracts that were going.

Mixed in amongst many short ballet contracts Georgie had to support herself with various jobs including being an extra in *Lewis*; dancing for children's birthday parties; modelling, including the Alexander McQueen exhibition at the V&A; and music videos.

Highlights included being a body double for Amber Heard (Mrs Johnny Depp) in *The Danish Girl*.

Seasonal ballet contracts included dancing with the National Ballet of Ireland, English National Ballet, Vienna Festival Ballet, and other companies in which she danced two Royal Ballet roles; one of which, *Resolutions*, was created by Wayne Eagling (formerly artistic director of the English National Ballet); this is usually danced by a Royal Ballet principal.

She has also danced at the Royal Opera House, as part of the Covent Garden Company in *Manon*, *The Carmelites*, and the highlight was lead ballerina in the opera

*Les Vepres Siciliennes*. This opera was filmed and shown in cinemas worldwide. In *The Carmelites*, one of the principals, Anna Prohaska, is the niece of our neighbour, Terry Ryan!

Opera ballet was a turning point and dancing *The Governess* in *Death in Venice* at Garsington, led to her contract. The choreographer, Andreas Heise (Principal with Norwegian National Ballet), recommended her to the director.

Two weeks later, Georgie successfully auditioned and is very happy in Oslo!

Julie Rose

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Churchwardens:	Adrienne Heriot	01491 629254
	Margaret Woodward	0118 972 2296

### From All Saints'

As winter deepens and we look forward to Christmas, we ask, 'Where has the year gone?' Before we've blinked, we'll be facing the January sales and seeing Easter eggs back in the shops! Time races on and in the hustle and bustle we sometimes need a moment or two of quiet to think beyond our own immediate wants and needs. As we turn up the heating and plan festive family meals there are many out in the cold who don't know where the next meal or warm shelter is coming from. There is need all around, close by as well as the thousands of refugees stranded between war torn countries in the limbo of makeshift camps, many with tiny children who are cold and afraid.

As we make our preparations this Christmas, let's remember that Mary and Joseph, too, were out on the road, heading for Bethlehem, with few provisions and the birth of our Saviour imminent. They, too, must have felt afraid, but they trusted in God and gave thanks for the meagre accommodation of a stable in which Jesus was born.

So, as we celebrate Christ's birth in Bethlehem, and the months beyond, let us give thanks for the blessing of such plenty around us, and reach out generously to those in our local communities and further afield.

May you have a joyful Christmas and may there be peace and goodwill across our world as we begin a new year. Every blessing to you all,

**Rev'd Susan Cooper, Associate Priest**

### Retirement Benefice Service

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September was Graham Foulis Brown's final service in the benefice and was held at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End. The Bishop of Dorchester, the Right Rev'd Colin Fletcher OBE, gave an excellent address to a full Church, including paying tribute to Graham for his successful ministry and for the many additional ecclesiastical and civil duties he has performed over the years. The service was followed by a lunch reception in Kidmore End School, during which retirement gifts from the benefice congregations were presented.



### Vacancy Timetable

On 10<sup>th</sup> November, a joint meeting (called a Section 11 meeting) of the PCCs from each Parish took place. At this meeting two parish representatives from each parish were chosen by their PCCs to represent the parishes during the ongoing selection process for a new

rector. A draft profile of each parish had been prepared and was discussed.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> December a 'vacancy' meeting will take place (section 12 meeting). This is a formal meeting with the Archdeacon, who represents the Bishop and who chairs the meeting, as well as the Patrons of each Parish, the Area Dean and PCC members. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the appointment process, agree the profile, etc. The agenda is drawn up by the Bishop's Office.

The post will be advertised in January 2016. Short-listing of the potential candidates will be in February with interviews scheduled for March. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, please contact the churchwardens.

### Peppard Praise

Following the Peppard Praise service on 18<sup>th</sup> October a large number of people took part in a Quiz which involved searching round the church for information relating to stained glass windows, memorials and general items. Many furrowed brows suggested that, although we often glance at these things, we do not necessarily look properly.

Following the quiz an early light lunch of homemade soup and homemade bread with cheese and pate was very much enjoyed. Following the service on 17<sup>th</sup> January there will be another Peppard Praise Extra featuring a challenge for young and old and a tasty brunch.

### Patronal Lunch

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November (All Saints' Day) about 50 parishioners gathered together at Peppard War Memorial Hall for a Bring and Share lunch which ended with an enjoyable quiz.

This was followed in the evening by Festal Evensong at All Saints'.

**Margaret Woodward**

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 Deacon Francis Andrews 0118 972 2354  
 Deacon Brian Theobald 0118 972 2796  
 e-mail: stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk

It was a great pleasure to welcome visitors from Peppard and the surrounding area to our Open Day on 26<sup>th</sup> September. Some were curious to have a look around a building they had passed many times but had never entered and others came because they didn't know we were here

until they received our invitation leaflet. For some people it was an opportunity to reconnect to the Church after a long absence. Whatever the reason for coming, we hope everyone enjoyed the tour of the church, the talk by Fr Paul and the ample supply of tea and cakes in the hall as they looked at the displays of the various activities in the parish.

If you want to know more about our parish community, there is no need to wait for another open day. You are welcome to join us at any time for one

of our weekend services. In addition, Morning Prayer with Holy Communion is said most weekday mornings and one evening a week there is a time for quiet prayer and reflection. Talks and courses are occasionally held. For times and details of our services and activities visit our website [www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk) and download the latest newsletter. Everyone is most welcome to join us at any of our Advent and Christmas activities:

**Brian Theobald**

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	19:00	An hour of quiet prayer and reflection
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	16:00	Pangbourne Silver Band Christmas Concert. Tickets: Adults £5, children free from the parish office or on the door
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	19:30	Mass of the Immaculate Conception
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	20:00	Advent talk by Fr Paul Rowan
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	19:00	An hour of quiet prayer and reflection
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	20:00	Advent talk by Fr Paul Rowan
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Time TBA	Flower arranging workshop
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	19:30	Reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	17:00	Christmas Mass for families with very young children
	20:30	Reading and carols followed by Midnight Mass at 21:00
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10:30	Christmas morning Mass
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	17:30	Vigil Mass of the Holy Family
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	09:00 & 10:30	Mass of the Holy Family



Geraldine Witcher  
 0118 972 4519  
[www.springwater.org.uk](http://www.springwater.org.uk)

**Christmas Already!**

It seems no sooner do the schools go back than Christmas decorations and present ideas are popping up all over the place. And Christians in America are already proclaiming their right to be politically incorrect and say Happy Christmas

instead of the prescribed Happy Holidays. In the churches too, planning for Christmas begins early – a carol service? A midnight mass? A Christmas morning communion? All three? Or only one of them? In Springwater we have chosen the last option – we will be holding our Carol Service at 10:30 on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. And there will be mince pies and coffee afterwards. So do come and join us and sing the traditional carols once again.

The huge commercial efforts that go into making Christmas the biggest spending event and therefore the biggest cause of stress of the year, sometimes seem to overshadow the amazing wonder and glory of God becoming man for us. The story of God's love for a dying world is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. So from Springwater can we wish all the readers a blessed and holy Christmas when the truth of the Christmas story shines clear among the glitter! And we'd love to see you any Sunday, not just at the Carol Service.

**Geraldine Witcher**

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# Clubs and Societies

## Sonning Common & District Tennis Club

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Interested? Why not contact us for more information: Dave Pinder (01491 680324) or [d.pinder@btinternet.com](mailto:d.pinder@btinternet.com), or Judy Pitson (0118 972 3294).

**Dave Pinder**

## Circle Dancing

As autumn days fade from gold to black, so our dances have reflected the changes – with dances entitled *Harvest Moon*, *Season of Mists*, *Mellow Fruitfulness* and *Dark Spiral*.

Interspersed, there have been dances about love with music by Leonard Cohen, dances suggesting the sunshine of Greece, and wild celebratory dances from Romania. There is always something a bit fast or slow – you take your pick.

So come and give it a go. No mistakes, just variations. Every first Sunday of the month, Christ the King Hall, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common, 15:30-17:00. First time free. For details ring Ros on 01491 874220.

**Ros Jennings**

## Flat Earth Society

The winter season of lectures have commenced at Henley Hockey Club, these are run by an organisation called Café Scientifique. Members have attended for topics that have included *Air Pollution in London*; *Fusion Power* and later this month *The Perfect Meal*, a multisensory science of Food and Dining. Also the season of indoor bowling has got under way with mixed results from your contributor, who just about keeps his bowls on the rink.

Our visit to the Kempton Steam Museum in September was a success; not only did we have the opportunity to examine the pumps in detail, we were given a guided tour around this magnificent edifice. The whole business of pumping the water from the Thames to Cricklewood was expertly explained. We were fortunate also in that there was a display of classic motor cars and bikes occurring as well. The ladies in the meantime had been dropped off at Kew Gardens before lunch at The Botanist. It was here that we found out that Pete Ballard is a secret lager lout.

There are more photographs in the telephone kiosk outside our school and if you have any appropriate ones, please get in touch: [tryan123@btinternet.com](mailto:tryan123@btinternet.com)

**Terry Ryan**

## Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society

The AGM will be held on 8th December at 19.15. There will be two illustrated talks: on 12th January Graham Taylor will talk about *Growing Dahlias* and on 9th February, Anthony Powell will present *The Scented Garden*. Both talks start at 19:30. All of the above will be held in the Peppard War Memorial Hall. For more info see [www.cehs.info](http://www.cehs.info).

**Janice Dandridge**

## Peppard Lunch Club

Our Christmas Lunch is on 16<sup>th</sup> December and I hope all members will join us.

Although I may have moved house by then, I would still like to be involved with the club and look forward to welcoming you in the New Year. Please see dates on the Diary page. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

**Betty Butler**

## Club SC

We are delighted to announce that Sam Brown and her International Ukulele Band will be giving a performance and workshop on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 19:00 to 21:00. This will be open to all members of the Youth Club.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 23:00-01:00, we are taking part in Midnight Ice Skating at Oxford Ice Rink, organised by Oxfordshire Youth: they have hired the Ice Rink specifically for local youth clubs.

Becky Jenkins, is now back from Maternity Leave and has hit the ground running. On 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December there will be Snow Globes and on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the Christmas Parties. We are open 50 weeks a year and close only for the Christmas holiday. We require all young people to have their parents signed permission to become a member and we charge 50p per session. We have all health and safety and current safeguarding policies in place.

We are looking for a new member of the Club SC Management Committee. We meet every other month for no longer than 90 minutes. (Contact me on 01491 680887 or [carolyviney@aol.com](mailto:carolyviney@aol.com).) We have started our 5<sup>th</sup> year as a Community Youth Club and children are welcome whichever school they attend. Wednesday sessions are for ages 10 to 13 and Thursday sessions are for ages 14 to 16 years.

**Carol Viney**

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

## Wyfold RDA

Visit Father Christmas at our Riding for the Disabled's Christmas Bazaar at its Kingwood centre on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 12:00–15:00. Stalls, raffle and hot food. Entry £3 (children under 12 free). For further information e-mail [gillr400@btinternet.com](mailto:gillr400@btinternet.com).

**Gill Rushworth**

## Peppard Revels Film Club

We had a full house in October watching *The Constant Gardener*. Following the voting on that night, the next three films will be *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, *The 100 year old Man Who Climbed Out of a Window and Disappeared* and the original *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. The ticket price remains the same at £10 a bargain with supper and wine – so we hope to see you all; but book early because we don't like having to turn people away! Full details on the enclosed flyer

**John Hasler**

## Peppard Stoke Row Cricket Club

At the club's annual awards night in October, all-rounder Dan Hayden was named 1<sup>st</sup> XI Players' Player of the Year making 759 runs and taking 24 wickets. Wynand Lamprecht took the batting honours with his tally of 493 (three centuries), while fellow South African, Dion Sampson, was named Bowler of the Year after claiming 34 wickets. Sam Fooks took all three awards for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, scoring 318 runs and claiming 12 victims with the ball. Berkshire Over 60's star Don Townsin – with the county on a tour of Menorca – won the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI Batsman of the Year, with 14-year-old George Lee taking the bowling award. Fellow youngster Danny May grabbed the Players' Player gong. Will Legg edged out father Gary to win the Sunday Kites' Player of the Season

award, scoring more than 1,000 runs and securing nine *Henley Standard* Best of the Week entries. Mark Lambert's wonderful season for the Sunday Maharajas saw him win their Player of the Season – the wicket-keeper batsman racking up 352 runs. Hamish Scott was crowned Young Player of the Year after impressive success with ball and bat for the Kites. Three significant league achievements were celebrated following a season when Andy Watts became the Berkshire Cricket League's all-time leading scorer (11,500+ runs), Roy Hayden became the first person to reach 900 wickets and Ian Jackson reached 500. Townsin's tireless work resulted in him winning the Clubman of the Year, Ronnie Brock's efforts were recognised with a scrapbook featuring *Henley Standard* articles from his 12 years at the helm.

The indoor side suffered a double defeat as they were swept away by Purley-on-Thames and Falkland. Sunday Kites batsman Max Baker-Smith struck an unbeaten 56 to help opponents Purley to a collocal score of 178-4, and PSR folded to 65 all out with five of the six wickets to fall coming run out. Oly Nicholson blasted five 6s as PSR made 107-4 against Falkland, but the Newbury-based side exceeded this with ease. The next indoor fixtures are at Bradfield College on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Recruitments are required to strengthen the side. Inspections of both grounds shows that all the recent work is bearing fruit. We are hoping both of our grounds will be as good if not better to play on next summer. Winter nets continue to run at The Oratory School on Saturdays from 15:00 to 16:30 and anyone is welcome to come along. Hoping for an enlarged fixture list for the 2016 season so training may benefit potential players!

**Richard Ashton**

## Where Were You?

Peppard WI's last two Centenary celebrations were both very enjoyable.

In September, Tim Valentine wheeled in his piano and joined in the party atmosphere. We had a very pleasant afternoon when he played for us, got us singing in rounds and tested our musical knowledge. In October, Stewart Linford promised that he would not inflict 'Death by Power Point' upon us (his words not mine!) and he certainly didn't disappoint. We had an interactive discussion on the components and production of the Windsor chair and also a unique musician's stool. I am delighted with the furniture polish I acquired from him.

The only sad aspect of these two afternoons was that more of our friends and neighbours did not accept our invitation to join us. This was not a membership drive; it was not even a fund-raising event. We hoped you would join us to celebrate an important milestone in the life of an organisation, which has done much to enrich the lives of women, particularly in rural areas.

My hope is that when Peppard WI celebrates its own Centenary in 2019; friends will come flocking to our celebration as they did for our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday exhibition.

**Irene Lindsay**

## Winter Club Nights

Peppard Tennis Club continue to run their club nights throughout the winter. Sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 18:30. All adult club members are welcome to attend as well as any prospective members who would like to give the club's facilities a try. With four floodlit courts and a cosy clubhouse, it is a great way to keep your skills honed during the winter months.

**Richard Dilger**

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# Peppard Diary

DECEMBER					
Tue	1	Sue Ryder/Lights of Love/St Mary's Church Henley	Mon	4	Peppard School Term 3 begins
Thu	3	Greenshoots/Festive Fundraising/10:00-16:00			Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/shkinghorn@aol.com
Fri	4	Greenshoots/Festive Fundraising/10:00-16:00	Sat	9	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30
Sat	5	Sue Ryder/Christmas Bazaar	Mon	11	SC Business Collab/Boat Trip
		Greenshoots/Festive Fundraising/10:00-14:00	Tue	12	CEHS/Growing Dahlias/PWMH/19:15
		Peppard Unplugged/PWMH/19:30/01189723609	Wed	13	WI/If Dickens had a Camera/PWMH/14:00
Sun	6	Peppard Common Vols/10:00/01491 628887	Fri	15	Revels Flm/Salmon Fishing in the Yemen/PWMH/19:00
		St Michael's Christmas Concert/16:00	Sat	16	Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/shkinghorn@aol.com
Mon	7	Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/shkinghorn@aol.com	Sun	17	Christian Unity Service/All Saints/18:30
Tue	8	Peppard School KS1 play/Midwife in Crisis! CEHS AGM/PWMH/19:15	Wed	20	Peppard Lunch Club/PWMH/12:00/01491 628644
Wed	9	WI Christmas Party/PWMH/14:00	Sat	23	RPPC/Planning/Pavilion/10:00
Fri	11	Peppard School Christmas Lunch/12:00	Sat	30	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30
Sat	12	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30 SC Library/Christmas Storytime/10:00 Wyfold RDA Christmas Bazaar/12:00-15:00	FEBRUARY		
Mon	14	RPPC Meeting/19:30/Planning/21:30/Pavilion	Mon	1	Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/shkinghorn@aol.com
Wed	16	Peppard Christmas Lunch/PWMH/12:00/01491 628644	Sat	6	National Library Day Peppard Unplugged/PWMH/19:30/01189723609
Thu	17	Peppard School Christingle/All Saints/18:30 Peppard School end of Term 2	Sun	7	Peppard Common Vols/10:00/01491 628887 Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15:30-17:00/01491 874220
Fri	18	SC Library/Seasonal Refreshments/14:00-17:00	Mon	8	RPPC Meeting/19:30/Planning/21:30/Pavilion
Sat	19	SC Library/Christmas Storytime/10:00 RPPC/Planning/Pavilion/10:00 Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/shkinghorn@aol.com	Tue	9	CEHS/The Scented Garden/PWMH/19:15
Sun	20	Springwater Congreg Church/Carol Service/10:30	Wed	10	WI/The Passage of Tea/PWMH/14:00 Ash Wednesday/Holy Communion/Christ the King/20:00
Thu	24	SC Library closes 13:00	Fri	12	Peppard School End of Term 3
JANUARY		Wed	17	Peppard Lunch Club/PWMH/12:00/01491 628644	
Sat	2	SC Library opens 09:30 Peppard Unplugged/PWMH/19:30/01189723609	Fri	19	Revels Flm/The 100yr Old Man../PWMH/19:00/07747762871
Sun	3	Peppard Common Vols/10:00/01491 628887 Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15:30-17:00/01491 874220	Sat	20	Sue Ryder Sale/10:30-12:30 Kgwd Pepp Com Vols/09:30-12:30/shkinghorn@aol.com
			Mon	22	SC Business Collab/Butchers Arms/10:30-12:30
			Sat	27	RPPC/Planning/Pavilion/10:00

FISH Office: 0118 972 3986 (Mon-Fri, 09:30-11:30)

Peppard Tennis Club Nights/Tue & Thu 18:30

Sonning Common Library Story Times Sat 10:00

## Church Services

Sunday Services at All Saints'	DECEMBER				JANUARY					FEBRUARY				NOTES
	6	13	20	27	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X No Service
10.30 Communion (sung)		✓		✓A		✓		✓	✓A		✓			A Benefice Service at All Saints'
10.30 Matins	✓				✓					✓				C Choral Evensong
10.30 Family Service			✓				✓					✓		U Christian Unity Service at All Saints'
10.30 Sunday School		✓				✓					✓			10 <sup>th</sup> February – Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at Christ the Kind 20:00
18.30 Evensong	✓	✓	✓	✓	C	✓	U	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	4 <sup>th</sup> March – Women's World Day or Prayer at All Saints' 14:00

Christmas Services at All Saints'		
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	17:30	Nativity Tableau
	21:00	Holy Communion
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	09:00	Holy Communion
	11:00	Seven Lessons and Carols

The Peppard News Editorial Team wishes all our readers and distributors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**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

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