

Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

Spring 2008

Community Plan

What do you want for your village?

Want a new club or society to join? Need a new village hall or play area? Want a babysitting circle or live folk music? Need slower traffic or fewer road signs?

Oxfordshire villages have identified and achieved all these things with their Community Plan, and now Rotherfield Peppard has started its own Plan process.

A Parish Plan is an action plan designed **by** your community, **for** your community. It looks at assets and opportunities for your parish for the next 5-10 years. It will highlight actions to be taken by members of the community, and can be used to draw attention to needs and act as evidence for service providers and funders.

"We have been lucky enough to live in Peppard for over 20 years and would like to keep it a great place to live for existing residents and new ones."

Diana Beveridge, member of Rotherfield Peppard Community Plan Action Group, and administrator at the local doctors' surgery

The Rotherfield Peppard Community Plan Action Group (RPCPAG) is meeting monthly to examine ways in which we can all work together to make sure our village is a great place to live and work, now and for years to come.

"I wanted to engage with the community I had recently moved to (3 years ago) as well as wanting input into matters that affect the community."

Ian Bland, Secretary of RPCPAG, new father (congratulations Ian!), and Computer Systems Manager at the University of Reading

We will link with the Sonning Common Group to discuss joint youth initiatives and to organise village meetings and fun events so those who live, work and go to school in Rotherfield Peppard can all get together and share ideas. To do this, we need to contact you – please provide your contact details (preferably email) so that you can be kept informed.

Currently, the steering group is made up of ten residents. Nick Launders, who retired in 2005 after 33 years as an artillery officer and joined the Parish Council, was the driving force in setting up the group. Nick said, ***"I believe we are all privileged to live here and would like to preserve our environment and, at the same time, encourage the growth of a strong, inclusive and caring community."***

We would like to receive your views on what you would like for our village. Have your say by emailing **rotherfield-peppardcp@yahoo.co.uk**, texting/ phoning 07526 922112 or writing to **Tony Cotton**, Woodlands, Colmore Lane, Kingwood Common RG9 5NA.

"I volunteered to be involved in formulating the Community Plan as I wanted to help protect and improve the superb area in which we are fortunate to live".

Tony Cotton, Chairman of RPCPAG and happily retired grandfather

Our village has a bright future – the Rotherfield Peppard Community Plan Group welcomes your contribution and hopes that you will be part of making it happen. Please get involved and help shape the future of our village.

Visit the website at <http://www.peppardcommunityplan.org.uk>

Anna Moulton
Publicity Officer

A Quote from the Brightwell-cum-Sotwell Community Plan Group:

"The benefits to our village have been immediate and ongoing. Our Rural Affordable Housing Scheme, the creation of a website and the shared investment in a Mobile Skate Park have been very tangible benefits. Things have happened more quickly and positively as the whole community has had a chance to be involved. Even where there are pockets of discontent, people's views have been listened to and taken into account, this has enabled people to see that a democratic decision has been made and not imposed."

Editorial

As Spring bursts forth all around us in our gardens, on the Commons, in the fields and lanes, we are pleased to say that Peppard News is also 'bursting forth' - we are pleased to announce the launch of our website (www.PeppardNews.btik.com). It is still in its infancy and we shall be expanding it over the coming months but in the meantime you can see the current and past issues and, of course, photographs in glorious colour! We hope you will find it useful and interesting and as always, we look forward to receiving your comments.

On a different note, our intrepid Council reporter, Malcolm Butler, is leaving the Team and we are therefore looking for a replacement. We are sad to see him go, he has written some very enlightening and informative articles for Peppard News and we are very grateful to him for his time and commitment and wish him well in the future. The person that replaces him will need to attend and report on the monthly Parish Council meetings, as well as reporting on relevant South Oxfordshire District Council matters. Unfortunately we cannot offer you any remuneration for your time (we are all volunteers) but we can offer you the satisfaction that comes from being part of a happy and relaxed Team who are committed to keeping our readers informed on Parish matters. So, if you have some time to spare and would be interested in joining us, please make contact with me (preferably by e-mail) or in writing to me at the address below.

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.

Peppard News is also available by e-mail.

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School Matters

Peppard School

Our visit to the Tutankhamun Exhibition in January was a great success, enjoyed by both teachers and children.

In January, as part of their history topic, Foundation held a grandparents' coffee morning. The grandmas and grandpas

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

received a Commendation for her efforts. Well done Henry and Ursula!

We have been very fortunate to have Penelope Makower, wife of our Latin teacher Oliver, with us on Friday mornings showing the children how to make silver jewellery as part of our 'enrichment' session.

SHOUT continues to enhance further our cultural activities and is giving one-to-one cello tuition to three pupils who will join the Henley Festival Orchestra in July.

Fiona Hilton



Children learn about their Grandparents' toys

brought in toys from their childhood and took turns to tell the children about what life was like when they were young.

Foundation also celebrated Mother's Day by inviting their parents in to watch a short film of them talking about their 'special' mummies.

This term (Term 4), we went to the Henley Youth Festival during which we saw, amongst other things, *Hamlet* by the Young Shakespeare Company and the *Sorcerer's Apprentice* by the Garlic Thea-

tre. We also took part in some sporting events.

All the children have been involved in a workshop, creating their own designs on canvas bags. This workshop is linked to activities co-ordinated by Henley Youth Festival

We recently took part in a poetry competition run by the River & Rowing Museum and we are very pleased to announce that Henry Rolph was the winner in his age group and Ursula Knights



Making silver jewellery

Peppard Mother, Baby & Toddler Group

A friendly group for mums and dads with their babies and children up to school age, meet between 09.45 and 11.45, Tuesdays during term time, with lots of clean toys, stories, nursery rhymes and refreshments. Call Christine Gundry, 01189 475 872 or just turn up at the Memorial Hall.

Michael Barlow - 30 years' experience

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 or e-mail him at: launders@launders.net

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Snippets

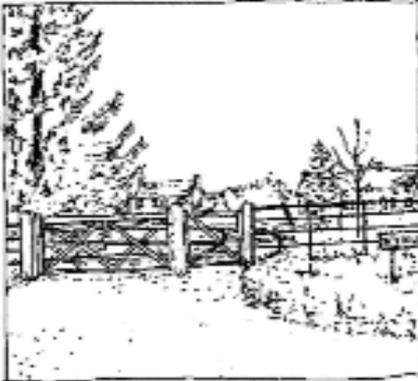
Management of the Nettlebed & District Commons

This is the last in our series of articles informing you about the Commons. The



Well - Old Copse

Commons are managed by the Conservators whose work includes preventing boundary encroachment onto the commons (a very real and constant concern), organising and taking part in routine maintenance, clearance of pathways, tree



Carling's Orchard

surgery, grass cutting, litter collection and liaison on various projects. All Conservators give their time voluntarily in the interests of preserving this part of the Chil-

terns for us all to enjoy.

The Friends of the Commons make valuable donations to the Commons, help on project work, receive newsletters and generally act as ambassadors for the Commons to the general public.

Please join - it is a very worthwhile membership and is an opportunity for you to give something back to the Commons that we all enjoy and are fortunate to have on our doorstep. The Friends' application form can be downloaded from: www.nettlebed-commons.org.uk

Nigel Wooding

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid works with partner organisations and local community groups in more than 50 countries, helping people, regardless of religion or race, to improve their own lives and tackle the causes of poverty and injustice.

This year, the house-to-house collection will take place during the week of 11th – 17th May. Please be generous when the red envelope drops through your door; your donation will go towards helping poor communities build a better future.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to join the Pepsard team of collectors!

Ian & Pat Fraser

01491 629631

Circle Dancing

A small group of us have been getting together once a month, on the first Sunday, currently from 15.30 – 17.00 at Christ the King Church Hall, Sedgewell Road. Why not join us – keep fit and feel good while you do so? You just bring yourself and a comfortable pair of shoes! For more details contact Ros Jennings 0118 9723520.

Local Pub Review The Dog and Duck

Referred to by some as the 'Woof and Quack', the Dog and Duck at Highmoor typifies in size and shape a traditionally rural small country inn. Open fires contribute to making both the compact cosy bar area and the stone tiled 'woodman' room most welcoming whilst the main dining room is bright and comfortable and has a very pleasant ambience.

What is not typical for such an inn is the range of food on offer. In addition to a variety of sandwiches and baguettes, the Dog and Duck offers a surprisingly extensive bill of fare - as detailed by the main menu, the daily specials board and the 'two courses for £10' menu (Mon to Fri).

My companion and I took time in considering our selections. On what was a cold day, I opted for the traditional steak and kidney pie and my companion for the baked cod, both meals being offered with a selection of vegetables, chips and/or with salad. We were both pleased to find the meals well presented, well cooked and reasonably priced (approx. £8-£10).

The meal, combined with the very pleasant service and the character of the inn, made dining at the Dog and Duck an enjoyable experience – well worth a visit. We were clearly not alone in this view as, even on a Monday, there were several other diners.

As a footnote, the infamous Dr Crippen stayed at the Dog and Duck on his journey to flee the country and it was word from this inn that led to his final arrest. With the exception of decorative changes, etc., much of the interior of the Dog and Duck has remained unchanged since this time.

A Contributor

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Council Matters

New Chairman Elected

Vivienne Kemp has been elected as the new Chairman of the Parish Council. Vivienne replaces Tim Meikle who, whilst retiring from this role, will remain as a member of the Parish Council. Peppard News wishes Vivienne every success in her new role and thanks Tim for his efforts and hard work in the past.

Sports Pavilion - Registered as a Charity

Actions to register the Sports Pavilion and its associated facilities as a charity have now been completed. In addition to some small financial advantages, charitable status will ensure that the Pavilion and sports fields cannot be sold by any future Parish Council to raise finance. Three trustees have been appointed to encourage greater use of the facilities by local groups for sports and social activities. Terms of reference for the trustees are to be issued shortly. The Parish Council will act as the 'sole trustee' with overall responsibilities including financial and leases.

Revised Flight Patterns

The Parish Council considered a 'consultation' paper on proposed major changes to flight patterns affecting air-space for Heathrow and Luton air traffic. Concern was expressed that the proposed changes would directly and adversely affect the area. It was unanimously agreed that the response from the Council would be to reject the proposals – albeit that it was thought the Government had already drawn its conclusions and that the 'consultation' exercise was essentially a waste of money.

Monthly Police Surgeries

Consideration was given to a request by the Police for their use of the Sports Pavilion for monthly surgeries. It was agreed that discussion of local issues between the Police and parishioners would be of benefit and (provided that there was no disruption to normal activities) that the Pavilion could be used. It was suggested that surgeries could be held prior to Parish Council meetings. Further information will be issued once details have been finalised.

Parish Council

Chairman: Vivienne Kemp
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.

Parish Councillor Allowances

The Parish Council gave consideration to a 'consultation' paper on proposed allowances for Councillors. In addition to travel allowances, the paper proposes an annual allowance of £160 for each elected member of Parish Councils and a £200 per annum allowance for the member acting in the role of Chairman. It was commented that the claiming of allowances detracted from the concept of 'service to the community'. The Parish Clerk will report at the next meeting as to the overall response to the consultation paper.

Ethical Conduct

A 'consultation' document issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and describing the 'detailed arrangements for putting into effect orders and regulations to provide a revised ethical regime for the conduct of Councillors' was considered at the January meeting of the Parish Council. The document was generally thought to be of neither light or easy reading and its content (at best) dull and uninteresting. Concern was expressed as to the level of detail that had been created since the original principles of ethical governance were agreed some several years ago. It was remarked that the regime now appeared to be of such complexity that it

would be easier for the Standards Board for England to advise Councillors as to what they could do rather than what they shouldn't do. In view of the general reaction it was agreed that further training / guidance on the Code of Conduct would be required.

Increase in Car Parking Charges

Charges for the use of SODC car parks in Henley are to be increased as from 1st April. As an example, the parking charge for a 1-hour period will be increased from 40p to 50p, i.e. only 10p or 25% depending upon your disposition!

Travel Tokens

Responsibility for the administration and distribution of travel tokens has now been taken over by the District Council and therefore those wishing to apply for travel tokens should contact SODC directly (Tel: 01491 823000). It should be noted that travel tokens are only available to persons of 70 years of age or over.

Council Website

The improved SODC website (www.southoxon.gov.uk) has been ranked as one of the top district council websites in the country - based on an assessment of usefulness and usability. An annual local government survey concluded that the website offers a good range of interactive services and provides up-to-date information. The website received particular praise for its use of online payments and for the council's garden waste scheme as examples of good website practice.

District Councillor's Report

Council Tax

The council received the lowest Government grant ever; a 1.9% increase with 0.5% in 2009/10 and 0.5% in 2010/11, so savings are needed across the council to enable us to maintain a low council tax.

Our council tax increase will be 3.5%. We have made 3% saving within the council for the last two years but it is difficult to find these savings into the future. We have fewer staff than other Oxfordshire councils; however, we have con-



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tracted out services with set costs. Joining services with the Vale of the White Horse District Council has created savings and we will look at more integrated services.

The council tax for a class 'D' property in this spring will be:

Oxfordshire County Council	£1,089.75
Police	£144.76
South Oxfordshire District Council	£120.24
Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council	£22.20
	<hr/>
	£1,376.95

The average Parish Council charge throughout South Oxfordshire is £63.15 so you can see what value for money Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council offer.

Refuse Collection

There will be a new waste collection contract in 2009 with wheelie bins, alternate weekly collection of recyclables, residual and glass with weekly collection of food waste. This was not an easy decision but we must reduce landfill and have 50% recyclables to meet Government targets. Currently we only recycle 33%.

The brown bin service for garden waste has been a huge success. The charge for this year is set at £29, an increase of £1.

Bus Passes

The new Bus Passes for the over 60's will start in April and 15,500 have already received their new pass. The costs are unknown as we pay for all journeys started in South Oxfordshire. The Government has given SODC a travel grant of £317,000 this year, which we have budgeted as covering the actual costs. Information on the new scheme can be obtained from their website: www.southoxon.gov.uk or 01491 823000.

Car Parking

We still have one of the lowest car parking charges in the area. In Henley, the

Kings Road and Greys Road car parks charges will increase (see Page 4).

Choice Based Letting

Choice Based Letting will be introduced this year meaning people on the housing lists can access available properties via the website and bid for a tenancy. They will still have points but it makes the process of letting more open.

Paul Harrison
District Councillor

More Snippets

Green Gym

The Sonning Common Green Gym celebrated its 10th anniversary in March with a tree-planting session on Kenylands Field.



Past & Present Health Centre Doctors

The Green Gym originated from an idea of Dr William Bird, then at Sonning Common Health Centre, and there are now 95 Green Gyms in existence. Dr. Bird joined twenty members from the local group, Health Centre doctors and staff, local councillors and members of the Kenylands Millenium Trust in planting 75 trees, followed by a buffet lunch in the Bird in Hand.

Local dates for the next quarter all 09.30

- 12.30: Thurs 17th April - Greys Court; Sat 26th April - Flowercroft Wood fence removal; Thurs 8th May - Kingwood Common footpath clearance; Sat 10th - S Common Primary School; Sat 24th May - Kenylands Field lavender maintenance; Sat 21st June - Springwood holly clearance.

Julia Booker



Chiltern Players will be showcasing a brand new play, *Nearer to Shakespeare*, for their spring production.

Written by the group's own Jane Brough, this is a stylish, romantic comedy set in a fictional university in the south of England. With witty and snappy dialogue, it gives a tantalising glimpse of college politics and saucy goings-on behind the scenes..

True love does not run smoothly when Conrad, a maths lecturer and ageing Lothario, decides to give up womanising and, on the advice of his best friend, sets his sights on the university's naïve administrator as a potential bride. Interruptions to his plan include a teenager who thinks he's her father, a not-so-saintly college chaplain, a disapproving best-friend's wife – and a dead cat.

The play contains some strong language.

Performances take place at Peppard Memorial Hall on Friday and Saturday, 18th and 19th April and Thursday and Friday, 24th and 25th April at 20.00. Tickets are £6 each and are available by phoning 0118 972 3628, from Village Yarns, Peppard Road, Sonning Common, or on the door.

For more information, call Carol Evans on 0118 972 3628

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Village Matters

Greenshoots – Your Local Plant Nursery

It is a year since the celebrations of twenty of our horticultural students who received their qualification certificates from Boris Johnson, MP; he expressed delight at the positive developments at Greenshoots.

And a year on, Boris would see more developments! In September, we were fortunate to be joined by Steve Wright as Nursery Manager, who has brought a wealth of plant knowledge and growing experience.

Steve says, “We were pleased to take delivery this week of our first plants of the year. We are delighted with their quality and variety; they will be used by our students to create a stunning selection of hanging baskets and tubs, which will be on sale later in the spring. Our order book is open now and we are confident we are able to cater for all of our customers’ needs and individual preferences, for example, schemes of colour and variety..” We will be open on Saturdays, from 10.00-16.00 throughout May and the beginning of June for plant sales in addition to our normal opening times, Monday-Friday 09.00-16.30.

A big ‘thank you’ to all who have supported our efforts during the last year. Our students have spent the winter months preparing the growing plots and are looking forward to a more artistic phase in their horticultural year! We have already sown our vegetable and bedding plant seeds and these will be nurtured in our glasshouses or polytunnels.

We welcome visitors and are proud to show off what this local charity is achieving in your community. If you need to contact us, perhaps to check availability of produce or with a plant query, please call Steve on his direct line 01491 628933 or his mobile 0791 779 7874.

**Frances Hill, Chief Executive
Ways & Means Trust**

Wyfold Riding for the Disabled

We are in need of more helpers on Saturdays, mornings 09.00-12.00 or afternoons 13.00-15.00. Both sessions involve working with children. Horse knowledge is helpful but not essential.

Please remember that our Sponsor a Pony scheme is still available. Full details are on our website: www.wyfoldrda.org.uk or telephone me.

**Adrienne Herriott
01491 629254**

FISH

Over the past few months fewer clients have been using our bus for their weekly shopping trips to Reading and Henley. Whilst the regular Tesco trip on Mondays is well supported, with few empty seats, this has not been the case on Wednesdays and Thursdays. It is not viable to run the bus to either Reading or Henley without at least four passengers, and unfortunately we had to cancel trips at the last minute because of lack of numbers, so clients who have booked trips in advance are inevitably disappointed. Although some bus drivers are able to take clients in their own cars, not all have cars large enough to accommodate three clients and their shopping.

Having conducted my own unofficial poll amongst villagers, it is clear that there are many people who would like to use the service but believe they aren’t eligible. Our service is open to all – even those with their own car. Just think how much can be saved by letting FISH take the strain. With the ever increasing cost of fuel and car parking charges it is better to leave the car at home and go by FISH bus which, after all, is a door to door service. Furthermore SODC bus passes and tokens can be used for all regular shopping trips; if you are lucky enough to be ineligible for either of these, a payment of £3.50 will secure a return journey. Clearly we are anxious to continue the service, not just for those who need it now but for those who may need it in the future.

In addition to these regular trips and the monthly Pub Lunch and Garden Centre trips, our bus manager, Reg Foster, continues to research places of interest which he hopes our clients will enjoy. He is currently putting together a programme of events for the spring and summer months, so look out for our posters displayed around the villages and book early to avoid disappointment. Our telephone number is 0118 9723986 or call in at the office in Sonning Common Village Hall Monday to Friday 09.30. to 11.30.

Barbara Perez

Police News

After having held the Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAG) Meetings and carried out further surveys, Police Community Support Officers Janice Smith and Ben Wyatt have been concentrating on setting up Police Surgeries and finding appropriate venues.

Ours will be held in the Sports Pavilion, Stoke Row Road at 17.30-19.30 on the following Mondays in 2008: 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 8th September, 13th October, 10th November, 8th December. This will be a drop-in service, where a member of the Henley Rural Neighbourhood Policing team will be available to discuss police matters in an informal way with parishioners.

As well as covering the parish of Rotherfield Peppard, Janice, Ben and I will be covering Sonning Common, Harpsden, Shiplake, Mapledurham, Kidmore End, Binfield Heath, Eye, and Dundsen. We will be gradually introducing ourselves to all the above parishes outlining our roles within the Henley Neighbourhood team.

The team is also trying to set up NAGs where members have the opportunity to be active in problem-solving within their community. Anyone interested in joining this group, please contact Sonning Common Police Office on 0845 8 505 505 and ask for PCSO Janice Smith.

We have now devised a patrol plan to enable us to focus on areas of need including school patrols, parking issues, anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime. We will endeavour to take part in Pub Watch, Business Watch, Neighbourhood Watch and Dog Watch; all proven tools in combating local crime. We hope to see you all at one of the Police Surgeries or do feel free to pop in to the Police Office at Lea Road, Sonning Common at any time. This is manned 10.00-18.00 weekdays by local volunteers.

You can also contact us at the Sonning Common Office on 0845 8 505 505

**PC Julie Greenough
Neighbourhood Officer**

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Ian Fleming

The Bond Connection 7

Peppard Revels 2008

The Peppard Revels' fourth and most spectacular event is to be staged on the common on June 21st. It will mark the centenary of the birth of the writer, Ian Fleming, creator of James Bond whose family estate is in Nettlebed.

Sponsorship from Invesco for the day event, and A. B. Walker for the evening, plus the supper screenings of Bond films in the War Memorial Hall have enabled the committee, headed by John Hasler, OBE, to plan a real extravaganza on the longest day of the year.



As on past occasions, the tent will be decorated in a dramatic and appropriate fashion for the 450 plus diners under the creative direction of Tony Laithwaite.

During the day the children from Peppard Primary School will do their own special version of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (also written by Fleming) with the presence of the real car on the Common. Other attractions will include Scalextrics, Laser Pistols, a climbing wall, and assault course and a bowler hat challenge. There will also be a barbecue and licensed bar.

The dinner will retain some of the day attractions such as Scalextrics and also have a casino and fireworks. The bar will have on offer a range of cocktails to complement the theme of the night and the top raffle prize, provided by Lancaster Garage in Reading, is a day out on the Aston Martin performance driving course.

On Sunday, the community will come together for a Church service on the Common for all denominations and once again the bar will open and barbecued food will be available for all who wish to come.

The Peppard Revels have now become an established feature of our village life to which people come from far afield. It's a great occasion not only for the pleasure that it brings over the weekend but because it builds community spirit. This is an event organised within the village for the village. And as a bonus, there will be a donation for the village hall from the funds raised.

All the Revels events have echoed national celebrations – the Millennium; the Silver Jubilee and the Battle of Trafalgar but this one has a particularly local flavour. His centenary will be marked by a new Bond novel written by Sebastian Faulks, and a major exhibition celebrating

Fleming's life at the Imperial War Museum in London and some stamps, but Peppard will be alone in putting on a village event.

His niece, Lucy Fleming, will open the day event and it is hoped that she and her husband, actor Simon Williams, will be able to attend the dinner.

Ian Lancaster Fleming was born on May 28th 1908 in London, the second of four brothers. He wrote 12 Bond novels as well as two collections of short stories. He died of heart failure on August 12th 1964 having just completed his first children's story about the car that flies - Chitty Chitty Bang Bang – and having seen Sean Connery play James Bond in only the first two of the Bond films.

For more information see the website www.peppardrevels.org.uk To book tickets for the dinner contact geoff-pitcher@mac.com or tel: 07515354714

Village Hall Needs Chair

The Peppard War Memorial Hall, built in 1921, urgently seeks a Chairpman to help keep it up and running for its many clubs and groups. The new Chairman will oversee roof repairs and a new kitchen as well as spear-heading the fund-raising campaign. Brian Cresswell became the new Treasurer in November after responding to an advert in Peppard News but the committee has been without a Chairman since John Pumfrey, Chair for eight years, had to step down last July. The post cannot be filled by anyone from within the committee as Charity Commission rules state that the Chair must be someone without any other involvement in hall activities. Christine Gundry, trustee and representative of the Peppard Mother, Baby and Toddler Group said "We are looking for someone from the community who understands the value of this treasured community resource and can help us preserve it for the next generation." Apart from the Toddler Group, the hall has a wide range of other user groups including the Bowls Club, Table Tennis Club, Women's Institute, and the Chiltern Players, as well as hosting quiz nights and private parties. Roger Kendal, director of four productions last year by the Chiltern Players, said "We are using the hall more and more. Our pantomime played to full houses last Christmas so we are aiming to double the number of performances this year – we need the hall at its best!"

If you think that you can help or would like more information please call Jill Kendal, 0118 972 2201. Booking enquiries to : p.w.m.h.bookings@hotmail.co.uk

Charlotte Butler-Creagh

Peppard War Memorial Hall News

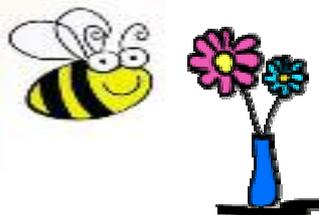
Chiltern Players are putting on the play *After Shakespeare*, written and directed by Jane Brough on the 18th, 19th, 24th and 25th April (See Page 5).

Another Quiz Night is to be scheduled for sometime during May: the hall was at capacity for the last one so keep an eye out for the posters announcing it if you are thinking of attending.

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Church Matters

All Saints' Church of England www.allsaintspeppard.org.uk	Rector:	Revd Graham Foulis Brown	0118 972 3987
	Asst. Priests:	Revd Hugh Warwick	0118 972 3070
		Revd Barry Olsen	0118 924 2812
	Churchwardens:	Keith Atkinson	0118 972 2844
		Peter Hutt	0118 984 1061

Sitting at my desk recently, I wondered if the Vicar of Kidmore End in 1900 would have recognised anything on it: two phones, a mobile phone, a car key, a computer. Apart from pens and paper perhaps only the box of Swan Vestas.

It was another world I was born into. While my father worked, my mother stayed at home and when Granny had friends visit, they kept their hats on. My mother was over seventy before she stopped wearing a hat to church.

I watched the Coronation on television - not on our own set but next door's. And the cars were all dark colours, usually black. We had a Morris, in Morris green.

As my children reach their mid-20's, the world into which they were born is now very different. In all of this 'progress' there has been sacrifice. I recently asked a group of children what they would most like to have: one said a computer games box, another an iPod and a third named a driving licence! If you ask them at HMYOI Huntercombe, they'll say 'freedom'.

The children that keep their parents awake at night by crying go on to keep their parents awake as they listen for the key in the door. The pleasure of seeing children take their first steps soon becomes seeing them leave home. I've been there.

I do worry when today's young people are rather written off because they don't 'conform' while actually, that is exactly what they do. If we want them to grow in wisdom and strength we have to be wise and strong for them; if we want them to behave then we have to behave towards them. An ASBO isn't the answer.

But then, things have changed for us too:

in the workplace, in finance, in technology. In the 70's, the model was one parish with one priest.

However much harder we have to work as a result, in all this change there is good: God is a constant and although He is changeless, He is also right up to date and more than able to help us through times and changes we couldn't have foreseen but a few years ago.

Graham Foulis Brown

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Election of Churchwardens will take place in the Parish Room on Friday, 25th April, beginning at 20.00.

Churchwardens are elected by persons whose names are on the church electoral roll **and** by residents of the parish whose names are on the register of local government electors. Virtually every adult resident is therefore entitled to exercise the right to elect the churchwardens. Keith Atkinson will not seek re-election. He was first elected Rector's Warden in 2000.

Draw On, Sweet Night

Quire (from the ancient spelling of the word "choir") is performing at All Saints' Church on Saturday, 10th May at 19.30. They will present a varied programme of sacred and not-so-sacred music and readings, with the theme of *Draw on, Sweet Night*. It will include works by Tallis, Byrd, Wilbye, Elgar, Saint Saëns and the American composer, Eric Whitacre.

Quire is directed by Marie Power, a former Oxford organ scholar. The group came together 15 years ago with a common interest in early choral music, although their current musical repertoire is considerably broader. Now busy doctors, lawyers, consultants and researchers in "real" life, *Quire* still sings for fun, but to very high standards. The choir typically numbers some 14 to 18 singers with experience of a wide range of other first-class groups including the The Tallis Scholars, the Corydon Singers, the Holst Singers, and the New London Chamber Choir.

Quire has performed in many venues in the UK, including Westminster Abbey and the royal church in Edinburgh. It is also increasingly in demand for festivals throughout Europe, and has already sung in Frankfurt, St Petersburg, Rome and Belgium. May is *Quire's* second visit to Rotherfield Peppard, and a welcome return to its favourite county of Oxfordshire.

Entrance is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of Helen and Douglas House, Oxford, which provides hospice care for children and young adults.

Choir Matters

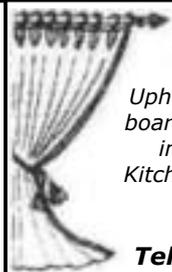
In January, the Rector presented good attendance awards for 2007 to choristers Helena Bell and Eleanor Cunningham. From 7th -9th April, several choristers from All Saints' Church will be attending a Royal School of Church Music singing course in Oxford. Each day will end with a service in the Chapel of Magdalen College at 16.15.

Rector's Anniversary

On 4th July at 20.00, our Rector, the Revd Graham Foulis Brown, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood during a special service at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Kidmore End.

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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

During February we had an official visit from our Bishop whose task is to visit all the parishes in our deanery. The purpose of his visit was three-fold: he came primarily to affirm us in our faith, his principal task as a Bishop. He told us of the support we can expect from the Diocese and assured us that, even in our small corner of South Oxfordshire, we receive the same consideration and support as a really large parish. Thirdly, he listened to us and any of our concerns about the future. We gathered first of all to listen to Bishop Kenney and then went on to enjoy a small cheese-and-wine evening when we could speak to him individually and then, in a

more formal manner, put questions and concerns to him. The result was most encouraging; he is a good listener, and so at the end we all felt very pleased with what had been said and learned.

Earlier, we had met as a group of parishes. There are seven in our small deanery, stretching from Thame to Caversham. Bishop Kenney gave an overview of these parishes and said how delighted he was with the warmth of the welcome and especially with the life and vitality of the faith within each parish.

We now approach Easter in the manner of an inner spring-clean. During the preparation time of Lent we went through a modest programme of faith-development, taking a good inward look into our own lives and trying to root out all the rubbish and clutter.

Easter speaks to us of life and re-birth:

Mother Nature seems to spring to life with warmth and colour. It always seems to me such a hopeful time. It speaks of re-birth after the dead time of winter. Families and friends get together and share in a real sense of the renewal of life and vitality. It could be the sharing of our chocolate, of course, but even the eggs themselves speak to us of new life. The word Easter comes from the name of Oestre, ancient goddess of fertility and life, and we use the word oestrus to refer to the life-cycle.

But as Christians we rejoice in the reality of new life in a very personal way as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection once again, opening ourselves to the warmth and loving mercy of God.

I hope you all had a very happy Easter and that you and your families grow in your love and appreciation of one another

Fr Chris Bester



Minister
 Revd Phil Cheale
 0118 972 4519

'Springwater' - A Fresh Name for a New Era

Peppard Congregational Church is adopting a new name that is appropriate to its vibrant, pro-active and caring local involvement in the communities.

Being a Congregational Church, which it will remain, the membership support this change believing it will enable the church to be more acceptable and accessible to contemporary society.

Over the last year the church has experienced some significant changes. We have

appointed an assistant minister, Paul Homans, who is involved with the local schools, the continued close relationship with the C.C.A. shop in the village and the addition of more young families to the congregation. Our help to Liberia, in West Africa continues to expand as we seek for more used computers and other IT equipment.

These things all had an influence on our desire to mark this as a good time for a new beginning but more importantly, as a Christian fellowship, a good deal of prayer was involved. The minister, Phil Cheale and other key members felt not only was a new and more descriptive name needed but that the name should be 'Springwater'.

Many of you will be aware that the church's location in Blounts Court Road is close to Springwood. In this wood

there is a spring, which in the past was a great natural resource for the people of this area. There is an inscription above the spring which is taken from the Bible (John 4:v14) here is a modern translation of it: "but whoever drinks the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring which will provide him with life-giving water and give him eternal life."

So you can understand why, for many reasons, Peppard Congregational Church is now to be known as 'Springwater' and hopefully it also will be used as a resource of love and enjoyed by many in the Peppard and Sonning Common area. Services are held every Sunday at 10.30. and everybody is very welcome.

Chris Mills

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Clubs and Societies

Peppard Bowls Club

The 2008 season begins on Saturday 19th April when we will be open for the payment of membership fees, the chance to sign up for the first few matches and - weather and green permitting - the possibility of a friendly roll-up, so bring your shoes and woods along. (At the time of writing the green looks exceptionally good for the time of year, thanks to the work of Geoff Mitson and his team of helpers.) On Saturday and Sunday, 5th-6th April volunteers are requested for a work-party to get everything ready.

The first match is an away fixture at Wokingham on Sunday 20th April. Monday 21st April is the first "Club Afternoon", followed by another on Thursday 24th. Club Afternoons, on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the season have proved to be very popular. Just come along at 13.00 - teams will be organised according to the number of players present; so everybody gets a game. We wear grey trousers and white shirts and, of course, correct bowls shoes. Club competitions will begin in May - the first being an all day Pairs Competition for the Dick Bishop Cup.

Peppard Bowls Club will be happy to welcome new members, young or old - it doesn't matter if you have never played before. We are a "mixed" club - mixed in ability as well!

We have various social events and we play bowls for fun. If this sounds like your thing, come along on Sunday 27th April at 14.30 for a try-out at our green situated at the rear of Peppard Memorial Hall in Gallowstree Road, Peppard. Or telephone Irene Penny on 01189 470404 for membership details.

Our website can be found at www.peppardbowlsclub.btk.com.

Betty Freeman

Cricket Club

As a new season beckons the cricket club has been very active. The work done in September on the cricket square has been beneficial and anyone walking by will have seen work has begun.

Currently the club tops the Berkshire Indoor Cricket League and looks set to retain their title. In the national competition, having beaten the Oxfordshire Champions, the team journeyed to the County Ground at Taunton, Somerset, to play in the last 16 of the National Indoor Competition. The Devon Champions, Sidmouth, were duly despatched and Havant were the regional final opponents. This proved a bridge too far and Peppard were narrowly beaten by 5 runs to miss out on a trip to Lord's.

To get back into the swing of things, indoor nets sessions take place at the Oratory School on the 30th March and 6th April from 11.00-12.00. New players are welcome and should contact Ronnie Brock - 01491 629971.

We have some significant costs and as part of our fund raising activities a "Race Night" will be held at Henley Town Football Club on Friday 11th April at 20.00. All are welcome and even if you cannot come, please contact Andy Bryan, 0118 972 3962, with a view to sponsoring a horse or a race. This is a fun night and an ideal opportunity to help the cricket club and meet the players. Pre-season activity rounds off with the Golf day at Badgemore Park Golf Club on the 17th April. Again all are welcome to join the cricketers and Don Townsin is the man in charge - 0118 582 887. This is the time when cricketers, young and old, dust off the bat, find their pads and get their dreams and expectations ready for another season.

Ronnie Brock

Peppard WI

We are in celebratory mood! In February we enjoyed our 89th Birthday Lunch at the New Inn, Kidmore End and plans are already afoot to celebrate our 90th birthday with a series of events throughout the year. Indeed if anyone has memories or photographs of Peppard WI in years gone by, we would like to hear from you. To cover the costs of these events, members are busy thinking of individual money raising ideas. Our small Bridge Group enjoyed a Bridge Lunch at the home of one member while another is opening her garden on August 13th to members and friends - more details next time - but please put that date in your diary!

Our newly formed Walking Group stepped out on our second walk, early in March and were joined by those unable to walk for an hour, for lunch afterwards at a local hostelry.

Visitors are always warmly welcome to our meetings, as was the mystery gentleman who, having seen one of our regular posters advertising a lecture by Judy Dewey on 'Wallingford and the Museum', joined us at the last minute and left before tea! You can always ring me on 0118 9478392

See Peppard Diary for forthcoming talks.

Irene Lindsay

1st Peppard Guides

As Easter approached, the Guides enjoyed various sessions with chocolate as a central theme. We not only tasted different types and makes of chocolate (which did get a big thumbs up from everyone), we learnt about the history of chocolate, we looked at Fair Trade chocolate and worked out what percentage of the cost of a bar of chocolate goes to the growers (7%) and the UK tax man (17.5%). We did not, of course, forget our mothers and

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Rotherfield Peppard Educational Trust

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)

the Guides had a messy, but fun, evening making chocolate truffles and strawberries dipped in chocolate as Mother's Day presents. Some of the Guides attended the Mothering Sunday service at All Saints' Church. They helped to distribute flowers to the mothers in the congregation and made biscuits and cakes for everyone to enjoy with their cup of tea after the service.

We recently visited the Wyfold RDA (Riding for the Disabled) Centre. The Guides learnt about what makes a good RDA horse and the work involved in caring for the horses at the centre. We also met one of the disabled riders and learnt about the work undertaken at the centre for disabled children and adults.

We are now organising activities for next term which will include bell boating in Marlow and our first pack holiday at the purpose built Jubilee House where we will be busy abseiling, orienteering, and tackling the assault course!

Amanda Coull
01491 628904

2nd Kidmore End Brownies

Spring is already upon us, yet it seems no time at all since we were enjoying one of winter's delights – a trip to the pantomime. In our case, it was more of an adventure because the theatre was the Novello at Sunningdale and this involved a journey by train and a hike by footpath and lane and return by torchlight.

Once back to our regular meetings, we embarked on a variety of activities leading to the gaining of Craft and Toymaker badges – mosaic pictures, woven patterns, portraits from fabric and wool, puppets and pincushions. It was a long haul, but after all the untangling and unsticking of fingers everyone got there – just in time for Thinking Day celebrations.

Thinking Day commemorates the birthdays of Robert and Olive Baden-Powell, the founders of the Scout and Guide movements and it is a day to think of fellow members around the world. So we played international games, made origami houses and held a candlelit ceremony naming the many countries where there are Brownies. We were pleased to be able to invite a long-time friend of guiding and former District Commissioner, Mrs June Green.

The second half of the term we have focussed on Road Safety, with the Brownies being reminded of all they need to know – as pedestrians and cyclists – by a mixture of games, discussions and crafts. Having played 'On the Buses', 'Traffic' and made a mini-pelican crossing, hopefully the serious points will remain in the mind.

For more information on our pack please contact Ros Jennings 0118 9723520 or Karen Broadbent 0118 9724606.

1st Sonning Common Cubs

Now that our new kitchen is installed the cubs have completed their Chef's Badge. Thanks to all the 'volunteer' food tasters who were all served a tasty two course dinner when it was their turn!

We are now doing the Entertainer's Badge ready for a big musical spectacular at the start of April.

Our Annual General Meeting is on 1st April. At the end of my first year as Chairman I would like to thank the pack leaders (Penny – Akela, Claire – Bagheera, John – Kaa and Sharon – Mowgli) for their hard work and for making cubs such fun for our boys. Also, I would like to thank the members of the committee (Penny, Gina and Jerry) for their support and the many

other parents who volunteered their time to help with our activities.

We meet every Tuesday in Baskerville Road, Sonning Common. If you are interested in joining us please contact Penny Cottrell (Akela) on 0118 3262790.

You can put your name down at any age and we always look forward to welcoming new Cubs. Come and see us at the St Georges Day Parade, on 20th April, in Henley.

Chris Dillistone
Committee Chairman

Peppard Tennis Club

Here we are again looking forward to an enjoyable summer of tennis. As soon as the clocks go back we will be starting our evening club sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 18.30 onwards.

Early in April we will be having an Open Evening when everyone, big and small, is very welcome to come and join us for a game of tennis and a chat about our club and the facilities it has to offer. We have coaches who will help those who need a hand to get back into the swing of things (no pun intended) and a very strong Junior section with coaching every Saturday morning with Easter and Summer camps as well. So if you have a budding Andy Murray or even two, bring them along for a game and extend their social circle.

We will also be running a couple of American tournaments during the summer where a very informal group have some fun on court and this usually finishes with a BBQ when we are all exhausted. So do come and see us: we are situated behind the Red Lion Pub on Peppard Common through the wicket gate and along the path.. Hope to see you soon.

Kim Fry
0118 947 4051

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Peppard Diary

APRIL																
Wed	2	Police Surgery/S.C. Village Hall/10.00 – 12.00								Mon	12	RPPC Meeting/19.30/Pavilion, Peppard				
Fri	4	Term 4 Ends										RPPC Planning Committee/20.15/Scheduled				
Sun	6	PCC/Indoor Net Session/Oratory (01491629971)								Wed	14	Peppard WI/Discs on resolutions/14.30/Mem Hall				
Mon	7	FISH/Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details Fish office								Thurs	15	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/Details FISH Office				
Tues	8	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.55-12.10								Sat	17	Hort Soc/Coach trip to Gardens/01189723245				
Wed	9	WI/Green Gym/Talk R. Howles/14.30/Mem. Hall								Tues	20	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.55-12.10				
Fri	11	PCC/Race Night/Henley/20.00/01491629971								Wed	21	Peppard Lunch Club/12.15/Memorial Hall				
Mon	14	RPPC Planning Committee/20.15/Scheduled								Fri	23	Hort Soc/Oxford Botanical Gardens Talk (01189723245)				
Wed	16	Peppard Lunch Club/12.15/Memorial Hall										Term 5 Ends				
Thurs	17	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/Details FISH Office Green Gym/Greys Court/09.30 -12.30								Sat	24	Green Gym/Kennylands Field/09.30-12.30				
Mon	21	Term 5 Starts								JUNE						
Tues	22	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.55-12.10								Mon	2	Term 6 starts				
Wed	23	RPPC/AGM/Memorial Hall/20.00										FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office				
Fri	25	Sue Ryder/Art Exhibition (25 th to 27 th)								Tues	3	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.55-12.10				
Sat	26	Green Gym/Flowercroft Wood/09.30 – 12.30								Wed	4	Police Surgery/SC Village Hall/10.00-12.00				
Sun	27	Peppard Bowls Club Try-Out 14.30 Sue Ryder/Art Exhibition finish								Sun	8	Sue Ryder Challenge Walk 1.5 or 13 mls/01491641070				
Mon	28	FISH AGM – 14.00 – SC Village Hall								Mon	9	Police Surgery/Sports Pavilion/17.30-19.30				
MAY																
Tues	6	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.55-12.10								Wed	11	Pep. WI/Arrive Alive Driving Forum/14.30/Mem.Hall				
Wed	7	Police Surgery/SC Village Hall/10.00-12.00								Fri	13	Sue Ryder Dragon Boat Race/Remenham/01491641070				
Thurs	8	Green Gym/Kingwood Common/09.30-12.30								Tues	17	Mobile Library/Peppard School/11.55-12.10				
Sat	10	Green Gym/SC Primary School/09.30-12.30								Wed	18	Peppard Lunch Club/12.15/Memorial Hall				
Sun	11	Christian Aid Week Starts								Thur	19	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/Details FISH Office				
Mon	12	FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/Details FISH Office Police Surgery/Sports Pavilion/17.30-19.30								Sat	21	Hort Soc/Coach Outing Brackley/01189723245 Green Gym/Springwood/09.30-12.30				
Mobile Library – time & place – Peppard School 11.55 – 12.10								Mon	23	RPPC Plan.Comm/Sports Pavilion/20.15/Scheduled						
Green Gym: Robin Howles – 0118 9723528								FISH Office: 0118 9723986 ((Mon-Fri, 09.30-11.30)								
								Peppard Lunch Club: Sally Longhurst 0118 9722808								

STATIC ATTENDED DUSTCARTS/KERBSIDE GARDEN WASTE

Month	April					May				June			
	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	30 th	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
Date													
Place	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC	RP	SC
Place: RP = Peppard Xroads SC = behind Somerfield Garden/electrical waste will NOT be accepted, ONLY Non-recyclable general													
Times: Wed 08.00-11.00													
Gdn Wste		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Services at All Saints'	APRIL				MAY				JUNE				NOTES	
	6	13	20	27	4	11 ^①	18	25	1	8	15	22		29
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	① Whit Sunday ② Guild Service ③ Peppard Revels Service on Common at 11.30 am ④ Benefice Eucharist at Kidmore End
10.30 Communion (sung)		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓			④	
10.30 Matins	✓				✓				✓			③		
10.30 Family Service			✓				✓				✓			
10.30 Sunday School		✓				✓				✓				
18.30 Evensong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	②	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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

Mass at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church

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