

Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

Blount's Court

Summer 2009

Many of you doubtless drive along Blounts Court Road past the Johnson Matthey site on a regular basis without realising what lies behind the façade. Behind the relatively uninspiring looking modern block housing some of our laboratories, is a beautiful house with a very interesting history.

A house is known to have stood here since 1287. In 1465, it was sold to Thomas Stonor and remained in the Stonor family until the early 18th Century. The Stonors were a well known Roman Catholic family who supported the King during the Civil War. During and after the Civil War the Stonor family suffered financially and, in addition, Blount's Court was set on fire by Cromwell's soldiers. In 1660, the monarchy was restored and the Stonors returned. The last record of the Stonor family in connection with Blount's Court is in 1701. Over the next 20 years it appears to have been leased several times until in 1852 it was acquired by the Knollys family, who owned it until the end of the 19th Century. The final period during which the house continued as a private residence began in 1933 when it was purchased by the Hon Arthur Peel and his wife, Lady Agnes, who, along with their son and daughter, used the house as a weekend retreat. The gardener employed by the Peels was able to provide an interesting insight into life at Blount's Court during this period; information on the layout of the house and



what the rooms were used for. These included a Servants' Hall for the many live-in staff and a Butler's Pantry. He was also able to describe the grounds as they were at that time with tennis courts, a croquet lawn and a magnificent pavilion mounted on a turntable. It must have been a very privileged way of life.

When Lady Peel died in 1960, the prop-

erty and 8.2 acres was sold to the American Machine Foundry Ltd. The house was converted into laboratories before it was sold to Brooke Bond Tea Ltd in 1964.

Block 1 was added in 1968 and further building was completed in 1972. After Brooke Bond Leibig moved, the site was acquired by Johnson Matthey in 1975.

It is interesting to reflect on the history attached to a house such as Blount's Court. Unfortunately, very little is

known, apart from some tantalising glimpses.

During some renovation work in the 1960s, some panelling was removed to reveal an old fireplace and beside it, an oak window frame with herringbone brick below. Both features are thought to date from the reign of Elizabeth I.

During the course of more rebuilding work in the 1990s, a document was found hidden in a wall. This proved to be a Marriage Settlement Deed dated 1605 referring to the marriage between William Knollys, Earl of Banbury and Lady Elizabeth Howard. Both families were well connected and highly regarded in royal circles. Following the birth of two sons, controversy raged over their paternity and they were denied the Banbury title. How this document came to be at Blount's Court is a matter of speculation and the true reason will probably never be known. In 2004, it was deposited at the Bodleian Library in Oxford where, in view of the aristocratic families involved and the issue of the Knollys family's right to the Banbury title, it is regarded as a very important original historical document.

It is rumoured that Charles I planted a tulip tree in the grounds which stood until the early 1900s. But we will never know for certain!

A follow up article on Johnson Matthey at Blount's Court will appear in the next issue of Peppard News.

Anne McGuigan

Editorial

Welcome to our Summer edition of Peppard News. We hope you will find the above article about Blount's Court interesting. If anyone has memories of having worked there, either during AMF or Brooke Bond days, we would like to hear from you. Similarly, if anyone has any further historical notes regarding Blount's Court, do please let us know.

Before Brooke Bond left Blount's Court at the end of 1974, their Administration Manager (Eric Rendell) researched and wrote a comprehensive 'History of

Blount's Court'. I have a copy of this and it makes very interesting reading. I was his secretary at the time and painstakingly typed his handwritten manuscript, duplicated and then bound the finished tome - no computers/word processors in those days! A copy is held by Henley Library and can be viewed on request.

Don't forget to check our website for updates on local events over the summer holidays (and beyond) and thanks to those people who have left comments on the Guestbook.

Susan Carter

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Peppard News is also available by e-mail.

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Our Schools

News from Peppard C Of E Primary School

Term Five has seen the gradual appearance of summer at Peppard Primary School. With the arrival of the warmer weather, the children have enjoyed more time playing on the Common at lunch times and the teachers have been able to use our beautiful environment to support the children's learning.

This term, of course, is notable for the start of the SATS tests. We are very proud of the positive attitude that the children have maintained throughout this time and congratulate them on all their hard work.

It was really pleasing then to be able to offer an alternative, less structured period of learning through the range of residential visits that have taken place.

Mrs Jarvis took Year 6 for a week-long stay at The Manor in Shropshire. The weather was kind to them and Mrs Jarvis reported that fun was had by all with everyone going with gusto for every challenge set them; be it archery, hill walking or abseiling.

Charlotte Ayers writes:

'My favourite part of The Manor was definitely the High Ropes. I wasn't sure about doing it but still went up even though I felt like I was going to die! When I finally got back to earth I felt wonderful, as if I was the bravest girl on the planet!'

Year 5, accompanied by Mr Sharpe and Mrs Harrison, spent two nights away at Kilve Court in Somerset. Once there, they enjoyed a variety of activities from utilising their artistic skills to make willow sculptures, to putting their collective best foot forward during a stream walk.

Mr Sharpe and Mrs Jarvis once again gave

Peppard C of E Primary School

Peppard Common RG9 5JU

Phone: 01491 628354

Head Teacher - **Anne Jarvis**

Chairman of the Governors
David Sell

their time to accompany Year 4 to Chiltern Study Centre in Buckinghamshire where the children became engrossed in their surroundings. They visited the village of Ivinghoe looking for clues as to the village's history. In continuing their environmental studies they visited a nearby watermill.



Photo courtesy of the Henley Standard

Meanwhile back at school the Foundation children joined forces with Years 1 and 2 to find out about the life cycle of a butterfly. Each child, with the help of Miss Hudson and Mrs Gordon, nurtured a caterpillar through its period of pupation and then marvelled at the transformations that took place as the butterflies later emerged from their chrysalises. On the last day of term all gathered on the Common to release the butterflies into the wide blue yonder. Many of the butterflies seemed reluctant to part from

their carers as they sat on the children's fingertips, slowly exercising their wings in readiness for flight, much to the delight of the children.

Rosie Clinkard

The Rainbow Children's Centre,

The Rainbow Children's Centre is a new Phase 3 Children's Centre in Oxfordshire and has been delivering services since September 2008, but now would like to spread the word far and wide.

We are working closely with Health, Housing, Jobcentre Plus, Library services, pre-schools, schools and many other service providers.

We are committed to parents' and carers' involvement in the developing of the services we provide and some have come along to the advisory group. The staff and volunteer team are great and create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone, especially the children!

Current activities run and supported by the centre include Rainbow music groups at Sonning Common village hall on Tuesdays at 14.00. There is also a local post-natal group in Sonning Common. We provide outreach work to many families across the area and have recently purchased a nine seater vehicle through Oxfordshire Rural Community Council funding and can now provide transport for families to attend regular sessions.

All the sessions are free-of-charge, with just a recommended 50p donation for drinks/fruit.

We are really looking forward to the run up to designation, potentially later in 2009 and to seeing what the future holds...

If you would like further details please contact Fran Bunkall on 01491 635739 or fran@nomadhenley.co.uk.

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Snippets

Peppard Mother, Baby and Toddler Group

We are made up of parents, grandparents and carers who meet every Tuesday during term time from 09.45 to 11.45 at Peppard War Memorial Hall on Gallowstree Road. We welcome everyone from near and far, from Mums with newborn babies looking for somewhere to meet with friends, or to make new friends, to those with pre-schoolers looking for somewhere for them to burn off some energy, while they have a coffee and a chat with others. We have lots of toys to play with, a cosy baby corner, crafts and activities, story time and singing.

This term, one of the mums launched a fund-raising *Grow a Giant Sunflower for Guatemala* competition. The children each planted a sunflower seed in a pot and the child who has the tallest sunflower on Independence Day in Guatemala (15th September) will win a book. The competition was also run at the Sonning Common Baby and Toddler Group and a fantastic £117.58 was raised for ASOFAMILIA, a small Guatemalan charity. ASOFAMILIA will put the money towards setting up small community pharmacies selling cheaper generic medicines. Marisol Esquivel, the Director, wrote: 'A million thanks to you all for your generosity. Your kindness made me cry with happiness.' So when you next see a giant sunflower in a local garden. it might have helped someone in Guatemala have access to cheap medicines, as well as helping children here develop an interest in gardening. If anyone would like more information about this very worthwhile project, please contact Kathryn Gray kathryngray28@yahoo.co.uk.

For further information about the Toddler Group contact Emma Dag email emmadag@hotmail.com or on 0118 9242821

Local Pub Review The Hare & Hounds

I was recently instructed by my wife to visit the Hare and Hounds Pub in Sonning Common for lunch. I was to take a friend with me and we were to order a main course, dessert and coffee. I was also to discretely note down various details such as price of food and menu choices and to report back on my experience in the form of a full pub review.

Owing to selective hearing, memory, or possibly both, I failed miserably on the majority of instructions but am happily able to recall the essential information.

It was a Tuesday lunchtime when my friend and I visited and we were made to feel welcome by the landlord. The pub is basic but clean and has a good children's play area, barbecue and some rather nice trees and shrubs that make it seem far away from Sonning Common and Somerfields.

As we made our choices from the selection of affordable dishes on the menu my friend declared his pint of Brakspears 'excellent'. Our food arrived after 15 minutes and I was very impressed with my generous portion of lamb shank with its rich, dark, flavour-some gravy. The meat was falling off the bone as slow cooked lamb should and was served with a superb selection of cabbage, broccoli, carrots and new potatoes - all for just £6.95.

My friend enjoyed his large cheeseburger with salad and chips (£5.95), his only criticism: it was 'not quite as good' as his own homemade burger. Fortunately the 'excellent and freshly cooked' chips were just how he liked them.

After such generous portions we were too full to sample desserts, and I must have forgotten that I was meant to sam-

ple the coffee, but I'm pleased to report that I would be happy to make a return visit to gather this information (unfortunately not in time for publication date).

This clean and pleasant pub may not be bursting with 'olde worlde' charm or gastro-pub chalkboards, but it does offer good value pub food that's more than a match for many far more expensive pubs in the area.

A Contributor

Elephant Sighted in Springwood!

One of our readers was recently taking a walk in Springwood and came across the monument where the spring in Springwood rises to the surface. The children were fascinated by the outline of an elephant carved into the stonework - what was the significance of this fine carving? Answers please to Peppard News (PeppardNews@aol.com)



Oakley Wood

The Recycling Centre is due to open at the end of June. Please phone SODC Public Amenities Refuse & Waste Recycling Tel: 01491 823416 for further information.

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The Councils

Jamie Corrie

It is with great sadness that we report the tragic death of Jamie Corrie who served on the Parish Council for many years. He was the victim of a road accident as he was travelling to the Le Mans 24 Hour Endurance motor race in France.

We send our condolences and sympathies to his wife, Laura, and children, Josh and Lucinda.

District Councillor's Report Shared Management

The council has shared services of Finance and Benefits with the Vale of the White Horse District Council for more than two years so it made sense to have a shared management structure in place. David Buckle has been appointed as a shared Chief Executive. Steve Bishop, Matt Prosser and Anna Robinson are the Strategic Directors, a reduction of four to three. Eight Heads of Service have been appointed (a reduction from fourteen) and took up their new roles on 3rd March.

This shared management team is due to save both councils more than £750,000 a year, with a saving of over £400,000 to South Oxfordshire District Council.

Top Council

South Oxfordshire District Council is officially one of the best councils to work for in the country, according to the 'Times Best Council to Work For award 2008'. We came in at number 11 out of 95 council entries.

It was a tough competition, which involved a searching examination of what staff do and how they feel about working at the council. The judges particularly praised the council for its commitment to providing a healthy work-life balance for staff, as well as offering excellent training opportunities and supporting staff social events.

New Waste Contract

On Monday 8th June Verdant took the waste collection contract from Grundens, who have performed magnificently over the last few years. Our collection day remains on Wednesday.

There have been issues; particularly with

Parish Council

Chairman: Nick Lauanders
01491 628243

Parish Clerk: Barbara Marston
01491 684188

Website: www.rppc.org.uk

SODC Councillors: Paul Harrison
0118 972 2665

& Alan Rooke—01491 572919

OCC Councillor: Carol Viney
01491 680887

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

the 'rollout' of the wheelie bins to terraced properties and flats. There have also been issues due to the difficulty of moving the bins up and down steps or slopes on some properties. Finally the size of the green recyclable bin has been an issue for those who are physically frail or infirm.

A lot of these problems have been resolved but it will take time for the new service to bed in. There is talk of a smaller green bin for those who find the large recyclable bin too big for their use but as yet these bins are not available.

If any of you has a physical difficulty with moving these bins, you should contact the Council (Tel 03000 610610) who can replace the bin with sacks provided by the council. These are also colour coded to allow you to split your recyclable and food waste from your residual waste. Hence you will still be able to help improve our overall recycling rates.

It is important that we, as a district, improve our recycling rates and those councils with the best recycling rates all have a wheelie bin service.

Concessionary Fares for the Over 60s

Last April the Government introduced a free bus pass for the over 60s. In our case the Government gave £319,000 per year to South Oxfordshire District Council for

this service. Unfortunately the cost of this service is a lot more, so this year we have had to put an extra £233,000 into this service to make up the shortfall. One may ask how the Government made such a miscalculation as the majority of district councils have been hit with a massive increase above the grant given to them. My view is the Government did not build in any increase in take up of the service when it was rolled out nationally. We are not as badly effected as many tourist towns on the south coast. For some of these councils the shortfall is in many millions.

Council Tax

Despite the current economic problems, the council set a council tax below inflation increase of 2.9%. This is one of the lowest in the South East.

Paul Harrison
District Councillor

Carol Viney

Our congratulations to Carol Viney who was re-elected as our County Councillor on 4th June with 66.25% of the vote. She received 1,843 votes.

Grants Received

The Parish Council would like to thank various bodies for grants given to the council during 2008/09.

The Sports Pavilion has been refurbished, given a new coat of paint and has a new modern kitchen, which meets all safety standards. It is a very charming hall with sports facilities, including a sports field, which can be hired from the Parish Council.

We received £800 for new flooring from the Chiltern Educational Community Association and a further £1,000 from the Doris Field Trust.

Chiltern Conservation Board gave us a grant of £250 to replace old fruit trees and to improve the variety of different fruits in Carlings Orchard. 15 small trees were purchased and it is hoped that in a few years people in Peppard will harvest and share the fruit in a 'food for free' initiative.

Cherry Postlethwaite



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More Snippets

Kingwood Common

This beautiful place contains a mixture of important habitats, including oak and beech coppice, open heathland glades, three ponds and younger woodland of mainly aspen, oak and birch – a designated Local Wildlife Site.

Currently work by a dedicated group of local volunteers which includes footpath clearance, cutting back grass and bracken in the open heathland glades and scraping to encourage new heathers, is not sustainable - hence the proposal to produce a management plan for the future.



Using livestock to graze the vegetation growth in the open heathland glades will:

- Create good quality heathland, containing a mixture of ages, species and growth stages of different species, e.g. heather, heath bedstraw and tormentil, providing good habitats. (Mechanical equipment cuts to uniform heights, allowing grasses to dominate, which could cause the loss of important species that occur on Kingwood.)
- Involve a high capital outlay, with relatively small annual running costs.
- Permit volunteers to concentrate their efforts on other areas of the commons.

Only around 6 cattle would be used for two grazing periods of approximately 6-8

weeks in Mar-May, and Sept-Nov. There is insufficient food to support livestock all year round and plants, like heather, need time to flower and seed.

So far, numerous comments have been received in response to the consultation, some expressing concern about grazing, others offering support; but more consultation is required.

Please come to drop-in events at Peppard Cricket Pavilion, which will show detailed information about how grazing could work on Kingwood and give you the opportunity to ask questions:

- Thursday 16th July: 11:00-15:00
- Tuesday 21st July: 18:00-22:00
- Sunday 26th July: 13:00-17:00

For more information, please visit:
www.nettlebed-commons.org

Jenni Hignett,
Commons Project Officer

Clare's Gates

Clare Bailey was a founding member of the Sonning Common Health Walks, serving as one of the original walk leaders, and then as Secretary for almost ten years. Following Clare's death last August, the Health Walkers wanted to mark her significant contribution to the walks, and we decided that replacing one of the stiles on her favourite walk would be a fitting tribute. Generous donations from the Health Walkers, plus additional funding from Oxfordshire County Council, have made it possible for us to replace two stiles on the footpath from The Maltsters to Cross Lane. Thanks also to the Green Gym who kindly installed these gates for us as part of their countryside improvement projects.

A special walk was held on 14th June to enjoy the new stile-free route from The Maltsters through to the Dog Golf Course.

Health Walks take place every day of the week (except Bank Holidays). If you would like a timetable of the walks, these are available from the Health Centre, the Library and The Herb Farm or online at www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk or on www.PeppardNews.co.uk.

Chris Brook,
0118 9242515

Christian Aid 2009

The house to house collection during Christian Aid Week in May amounted to £1,401. Christian Aid also benefited from the retiring collections at the *Mémoires* concert at All Saints' in March, and the performance of Stainer's *Crucifixion* at St Bartholomew's Church, Nettlebed, in April. When all this is taken into account, together with reclaimable Gift Aid tax, the local community has donated a very generous £2,265 to enable Christian Aid to continue its work of fighting against poverty and injustice throughout the world.

Ian & Pat Fraser

Run, Walk or Toddle to Help Feed The Children

Serious or fun runners and enthusiastic leisure walkers are invited to help raise money for Feed The Children (UK), by taking part in the annual Peppard Walk and Run starting at Greys Green Golf Course, on Sunday 6th September. For keen athletes and fun runners there is a 10k run, starting at 10.30 and for leisure walkers and families (including the dog!), a slightly shorter 7k route starting at 10.35. Registration is at 09.30.

Feed The Children need volunteers to help with this event. Can you help? Call the number below.

For an official sponsorship form, please ring 0118 932 0095. Those taking part can download a registration form from the website, www.feedthechildren.org.uk

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Our Village

Beating the Bounds

On Sunday 17th May, Tim Meikle led a hardy group to Beat the Parish Bounds. This ancient tradition is carried out to remind local inhabitants of the exact position of important boundaries, such as that of the parish and common land within it.

As is the tradition, children were turned upside down and had their heads 'dipped towards the ground' to aid the memory! Hazel sticks were used to beat the Boundaries.

The group met on the Common outside the Red Lion pub and were sent on their way in the time honoured tradition with a Rogation tide prayer and blessing by the Reverend Graham Foulis Brown. Although the sun didn't actually break through, at least the rain stopped and we had a great one and a half hour walk through the golf course over Dog Lane into the woods to the east of the parish returning along the fields and back past the parish church finishing at the Red Lion.

It was great to meet old friends as well as new faces and all agreed that, although it was hard to be motivated on a rainy May Sunday, it was worth it to keep up the tradition; enjoy good company and fresh air – Oh, and perhaps that pint at the end!

Tim Meikle

News from Greys Court

On Friday 10th July, join the Custodian at 18:30 for an outdoor tour of the buildings of Greys Court and learn more about the history of this beautiful property. This will be followed by delicious canapés and wine, included with the ticket, £15.

18th July, 18.45-22.00, sees Greys Court's annual *Music and Moonlight*, a chance to enjoy a wide variety of music, from Classical to Blue Grass, performed in the stunning garden; bring a picnic and dress up for the occasion. Tickets £15.

On 7th August Illyria returns to perform *The Three Musketeers*, tickets adults £12, children £8, starting at 18:30. Bring a picnic, seating or rug.

Join us on the 13th and 14th August, 10.30, for our Creepy Crawlies Days, a chance to look for various small creatures in the garden, before joining the craft activities. An organic picnic lunch is included in the ticket price for children. Please note children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets £15.

On 21st August, at 18.30, we are joined by Heartbreak Productions for our final outdoor theatre event *Emma*, based on the Jane Austen classic, tickets adult £12, child £8; bring a picnic, seating or rug.

For all these events, advance booking is essential, via the National Trust ticket line on 0844 249 1895 or the website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thamesandsolentevents.

One final event takes place on Saturday 19th September, when we host our annual Apple Day starting at 12.00. There will be a chance to find out more about apples and apple trees and ask questions; craft activities available for children at a small additional charge plus other activities. Organic apples from the garden will be on sale. Admission is included in normal admission charges.

Paul Williamson

Community Spirit Confronts the Elements and Wins

On 6th June, Peppard Village Fair was in danger of being washed away after



Tag Rugby Teams

many hours of rain but, to the relief of the organising team, our local community rose to the occasion and came in droves. The huge car park was full an hour after the start.

Despite the constant drizzle, all agreed it had been a great afternoon. The arena events took pride of place, with Peppard Primary School opening with a song and dance performance of *Fame* and the choir singing *All That Jazz*. There followed a very competitive tag rugby

competition between four local primary schools, Badgemore, Kidmore End, Peppard and Sonning Common. Sonning Common triumphed and held the trophy aloft but all who took part received well-deserved medals.

An unusual and very popular attraction was the climbing wall with 4 different faces to climb; queues all afternoon by intrepid children anxious to test their climbing skills. And yes, the huge bouncy castle reaching to the sky was back!

There were a host of other activities for young and old, including rides on Mattie, the pony, and a chance for children to have a guided tour of a police Land Rover bristling with technology. There were many games of chance and a variety of produce and craft stalls, not to mention the ever-popular cake stall and BBQ. Hot drinks in the tea tent were especially popular!

A welcome visitor to the Fair was our local MP, John Howell, and his wife, braving the showers and to quote him, 'We've had a most enjoyable afternoon'. Everyone seemed to agree with this sentiment.

The enthusiasm of the extensive team of helpers who ignored the bad weather made a telling contribution to the success of this event. The funds raised will benefit Peppard C of E Primary School and All Saints' Church.

Ian Fraser

On Your Bike

Sunday 26th April dawned. It was time to dust off the bike, find those padded shorts, pump up those tyres, spray all moving parts with WD40 and tie on the gel saddles – yes, two in my case. It was the day of the annual 'On Your Bike' event, excellently organised by the Sonning Common Primary School.

Our MP, John Howell, started the event as we set off in groups intent on completing either the short (6 mile) or long (12 mile)

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routes. It was a ride for all ages and I know quite a number of Peppard based riders, and in some cases their passengers, enjoyed the experience.

The weather was kind – dry, yet not too hot. The outer reaches of the longer route were just beyond the Black Horse pub, which in my case I have to admit, provided refreshment of a non-alcoholic nature - it being the Sabbath!

The cycle ride provided an opportunity to appreciate the beauty of the area we live in: the wheeling kites, the bluebell carpeted woods and a young foal full of the joys of spring.

The exothermic exercise and energy expended in struggling uphill was more than matched by the euphoric exhilaration as we stormed downhill with the draught in our faces.

Our thanks must go to the organisers and volunteers who expertly marshalled, provided refreshment and ensured the safety of all riders.

For all cycling enthusiasts of all ages in Peppard, if you missed the event this year, be sure to sign up for it next year. 'On Your Bike' will help your health especially if it convinces you to carry on cycling.

Rob Crawshaw

News from the Library

Rhymetimes have started! After a month of consultation with prospective users, we decided that Monday mornings at 10.00 would be the most appropriate time to hold them. They will be on the first and third Mondays of each month. So over the summer *Rhymetimes* will take place on: July 13th and 27th, and August 10th and 24th. We'll then review the situation again to see if we need to make any changes. So if you have a baby or toddler, and you're looking for something to do with them at 10.00 on the above dates, the library will be open especially for you!

Our one-to-one Internet taster sessions have proved particularly popular. The initial dates in May and June were booked up quickly, so we are planning to hold more in the autumn. Please tell library staff if you'd be interested in these internet sessions, so that we can contact you

when arranging future dates.

The Summer Reading Scheme for children will be starting on 4th July, and this year the theme is the *Reading Quest*. There are stickers, fridge magnets, bookmarks, pens, medals and certificates to collect. All the children have to do is make three trips to the library over the summer (between the beginning of July and the middle of September) and read six books ... Not too difficult, surely?!

For more information about any of these activities, call in at the library in Grove Road, or phone on (0118) 9722448.

Rosemary Dunstan

FISH

As in previous years, with summer now in full swing, FISH is organising a number of social days out on the big yellow bus. These trips are additional to the regular shopping, pub lunch, market and garden centre visits. The photo shows a group on a visit last year to Kew Gardens. We have also visited Savill Gardens and Wisley.



The FISH bus outside Kew Gardens

When you're passing the Sonning Common Village Hall, have a look at the currently planned trips or call us on 0118 9723986 – our village hall office is manned weekday mornings from 9.30–11.30. If the phone is engaged, leave a message and someone will call you back.

Don't forget our regular shopping trips to Reading and Henley – most shopping

trips qualify for Bus Pass use – no petrol, no parking and door to door service. It's the same phone number for bus trips and for organising a volunteer car driver to take you to that doctor's or dentist's visit.

FISH is always interested to hear from friends who would like to act as volunteer drivers or man the office but at the moment we really are looking for a specific person. Our Bus Manager is retiring and we need someone with the motivation to co-ordinate our Bus, its drivers and the schedule of trips. If you have even a slight interest, call the above number and Reg, our current Bus Manager, will call you back and give you the lowdown.

Phil Clark

Police News

The summer often sees an increase in house burglary, so it would seem timely to remind people about not leaving windows open, either overnight or when leaving your property for a short time.

This time of year also sees an increase in thefts from sheds. Please permanently mark your garden tools and lawnmowers

and keep a record of any model and serial numbers. This not only makes them easily identifiable, but will also help if you need to make an insurance claim.

We are continuing to conduct Speed Enforcement around the Henley Rural area throughout the summer.

The Henley Rural Pub Watch now holds meetings every two months, sharing information in an effort to reduce crime.

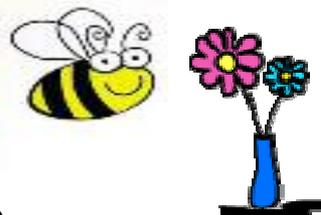
The date for the Monthly PCSO Surgery will be arranged shortly, please look out for the posters or consult the Thames Valley Police neighbourhood website www.thamesvalley.police.uk We will continue to hold them outside the village shop in Sonning Common during the summer; I look forward to meeting members of the community and discussing any concerns they may have.

PCSO Janice Smith

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Our Churches

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

From the Rectory ...

Our June Discussion Group and many of my sermons recently have drawn on the remarkable report produced for the Children's Society, *A Good Childhood*. It received a lot of attention when it came out a few months ago but it is important that it is not forgotten. It brings together all the latest research into childhood along with material from the Commission's own extensive consultations, in 178 pages of readable text.

The Report celebrates the good things. 'Our children are ... more educated and less often sick than ever before. They are more open and honest about themselves and more tolerant of human diversity in all its forms. And they are more concerned about the environment. We are proud of our children and their accomplishments, and rightly so.'

But there are things that are not right – 'the commercial pressures they face, the violence they are exposed to, the stresses at school, and the increased emotional distress.' Our discussion group was alarmed that amongst the developed countries the United Kingdom comes close to bottom in many of the tables about Child Well-being.

I've alluded to several things in sermons. There is the need for loving families in which boundaries are set by parents who are firm but not dictatorial. Children need friends; if they develop good friendships they are on the way to happy and fulfilled lives. And children should be helped to develop the spiritual qualities of wonder and inner peace – and the sense of something greater than themselves.

More in future sermons! If you can't come

along, then read the book!

Barry Olsen

Election of Churchwardens

The Annual Parochial Church meeting at All Saints' was preceded by a short Vestry Meeting at which Adrienne Heriot was re-elected to serve another year as Churchwarden and Toby Greenwood was elected to serve in place of Peter Hutt who was not seeking re-election.

Another Successful Concert

On a beautiful evening at the end of May, Elizabeth French made a return visit to All Saints' to play piano sonatas for a very appreciative audience. Elizabeth has an exceptional touch on the keyboard and really makes the piano 'sing'. A retiring collection realised £300 for the Peppard Educational Trust.

Peter Hutt

Peter Hutt stood down as Churchwarden at this year's Annual Meeting having relocated recently from Peppard to Tidmarsh. He had served as warden for four years and been part of All Saints' for many years. In addition to duties as reader and sidesman, Peter has been on the team of lay people who conduct Morning and Evening Prayer and periodically has given the address at Morning Prayer. He has been a member of the PCC since 1982 and was PCC vice chairman for 4 years. In paying tribute to Peter, Adrienne Heriot said how fortunate she had been in working alongside Peter for her first year and benefiting from his wise guidance, quiet professionalism and positive but unassum-

ing approach to everything. Peter's wife, Cynthia, also did much to support the church and ran the Junior Choir very successfully for seven years, as well as assisting the senior choir and stepping in to help out by playing the organ when required. They will both be missed.

By Way of a Change

This year there will not be the usual parish lunch to celebrate All Saints' Day. Instead there will be a Harvest lunch on Sunday 27th September. Do make a note of the date now.

Three Days in Oxford

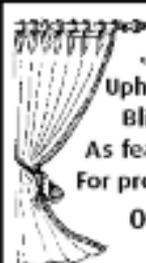
Eight junior choristers from All Saints' joined more than 70 others to attend a three day course run by the Royal School of Church Music. Apart from learning new music and improving their skills the young people had an enjoyable time which they will probably never forget. How many people have processed over Magdalen Bridge to sing Evensong in Magdalen College Chapel? Not something you normally do! Well done choristers.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust

After having achieved outstanding results in recent years, the All Saints' Church team of Riders and Striders is already in training for this year's event which will take place on Saturday 12th September. The OHCT has just confirmed that the total amount raised from the 2008 event was a record of £116,246. Half of this total has been returned pro rata to over 250 participating churches, with the other half being used to fund churches in urgent need of repair. All Saints' team organiser, Ian Fraser, would welcome new team members - do contact him for further details on 01491 629631.

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

Much of our lives parallel what is happening in Mother Nature. So at this time of the year we can expect abundant and lush growth if we did some pruning in the autumn and early spring and if we also remembered to do some planting at the appropriate time too. Within our parish community we try to mirror the cycle and tempo of the seasons and to acknowledge that we are firmly rooted on this good earth.

In our Catholic worship we make use of the seasons to measure our own growth and progress in life. Lent was a time of pruning – of clearing out the rubbish and dead growth in our lives. Now, in the afterglow of Easter and Whitsun we are happy to enjoy an abundant growth and

experience a sense of fulfilment and contentment as a result of that painful pruning all those months ago.

At this time of the year, it is mainly our young children who are in the spotlight. Twenty-five made their first Communion in May and later this month another group will be Confirmed when our Bishop comes to visit us. These are major growth points in the lives of our youngsters and we hope and pray that they will be able to see these events as important markers for their developing lives, and go forward with confidence to their futures.

When these events take place in the parish, we adults have the chance to reminisce about our own childhood experiences and reflect on what effect those celebrations had on us not only when we were young, but continue to have, as we share with our children in their great celebrations.

At the end of May, we gathered for our Parish AGM. These are never the most exciting of events, but a very happy shared lunch and BBQ meant that we came to the meeting in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity as we looked back over the past year and made tentative plans for the future.

We note with some satisfaction that our numerical strength is increasing and the presence of young families and very young children is a very hopeful sign for a bright future. As more families move into our lovely area we wish to ensure that we are able to support them in any way we can and help them to enjoy the great blessings we all so often take for granted; of living in this marvellous country, and this very blessed part of it.

May we enjoy a marvellous summer, as we all blossom and flourish and enjoy life in all its fullness.

Fr Chris Bester



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

There is no doubt that we live in exciting and changing times. This is not only true of our country and our world, where events sometimes move at a breathtaking pace, but also in our small corner of Peppard at Springwater church. Following the retirement of Phil Cheale last year, the search for a new Senior Leader is progressing well with a good number of applicants coming forward for interview and selection. We hope to make the appointment during the summer so that the new team is ready and in place for the post-holiday season.

Ruth Elwell, who has looked after the

fabric of the church so well and cared for the baby and toddler groups for many years, is moving on to a position with Nomad, again caring for the youth in this area. Our congratulations and sincere thanks to Ruth, who happily stays as an active member, and we welcome Dean and Kelly Harris who will now be taking care of the church and the gardens.

And yet, amidst all this change there are strands of permanence and continuity. For example, at Whitsun this year Springwater (originally known as Providence Chapel) celebrated its 214th anniversary. As you stroll around the gardens and graveyard you can feel a strong sense of history and it is easy to imagine the faithful folk of the late 18th century making their way through the leafy lanes

to take part in the service at the chapel. And Whitsun, or Pentecost, reminds us of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early Christians in Jerusalem which set the church on fire and on its explosive spread throughout the world. Pentecost is 50 days after Easter, when we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. This happened at Passover which marks the miraculous delivery of the Israelites from the Egyptians in 1450 BC, nearly 3500 years ago. So as modern life swirls around us, and amidst the busyness of our daily activities, it is good to reflect on the true and lasting values found in the Bible and the thread of God's love and mercy that is woven throughout human history.

Chris Mills

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Clubs and Societies

Peppard Cricket Club

The season is now well under way and early results for both league sides have been mixed to say the least. The 1st XI has certainly not been 'guilty' of playing boring cricket by managing to win or lose each of their first five games but at least the margin is three to two in favour of wins leaving them 3rd in the Premier Division of the Berkshire League. The 2nd XI have found the move up to Division 3 a difficult step managing only one win in their first four games leaving them 7th.

The Sunday XI however had been sweeping all before them, until recently, with four wins to start off the season. The composition of the team each week has generally included five youngsters ranging from 13-17, each of whom has contributed to the success of the side. Anyone wishing to follow the fortunes of the teams can access the Club's website at <http://peppard.play-cricket.com/home/home.asp>. It is also possible to look at club results over the past nine years and view statistics of the players and games completed.

Those of you who enjoy the walk by the common will agree that the whole setting from the playing square, the outfield and the pavilion look an absolute picture now and we can but hope that the weather plays its part for the remaining games in the season.

Ronnie Brock

Peppard Bowls Club

Peppard Bowls Club had a very good response from the Open Day held in April. A dozen new members are now enjoying bowling on Club afternoons, held on Mondays and Thursdays from 14.00 to 16.00 and Fridays from 18.00 throughout the season. Prospective bowlers are always welcome. A full fixture list of League and friendly games is well under-

way and we look forward to Peppard's ever-popular Gala Day on Sunday 9th August from 10.30, when many local Bowls Clubs will be represented to compete for the Shield.

Betty Freeman

Peppard WI

At our Annual Meeting, our President, Irene Lindsay, was re-elected and Molly Lindlaw, a past President and Treasurer and a very enthusiastic member, cut our 90th anniversary cake. The cake featured a copy of the painting, presented by a grateful member in years gone by. The original still hangs in the hall.

Our Birthday Celebrations continue: a visit to The Mill to see Ben Travers' *The Bed before Yesterday*; a visit to an Art Exhibition and a light lunch at the Waterfront Café at Benson in August, and a trip to Waterperry to admire the Michaelmas Daisy border, followed by tea, in September.



Three WI Presidents: Pamela Davies, Molly Laidlaw and Irene Lindsay

One of our last celebrations of the year will be our Open Afternoon in Peppard Memorial Hall on 14th October to which EVERYONE is invited. Many of our archives, minute books, scrapbooks,

banners, tablecloths, etc., will be on display together with members' own Art and Crafts. (You may find pictures of Granny or Mum in our scrapbooks.) We also plan to show you how the WI is moving forward into the C21st. Teas will be available together with a traditional WI Cake and Produce stall. Local businesses have promised to donate prizes to a Grand Raffle. Any profits made will go to local good causes, including the Memorial Hall. Do, please try and join us for a while between 14.00 and 17.00 that afternoon.

Irene Lindsay, President
0118 947 8392

2nd Kidmore End Brownies

Summer is upon us and we are already nearing the end of another busy Brownie year. Most terms we work our way through a couple of badges. This term the focus has been on Home-skills (maybe not trendy but still very necessary) and Wildlife Explorer. The girls have learnt about the insect world, the birds and mammals around us, and, as part of the badge syllabus, have visited the BBOWT Warburg Reserve near Bix. To end the term with a flourish; we hope to hold a concert with a nature theme and raise money for a nature charity.

The term also marks the end of an era. After 25 years as Brown Owl, I am 'flying off' to pastures new. My Assistant Leader, Karen Broadbent and Unit Helper, Eleanor Chettle, will be stepping down after more than 20 years; though stepping up into a fresh role as a Ranger Guider and Helper for a new unit opening shortly for older girls, 14+.

It has been a rewarding time for the three of us and Wednesday evenings without Brownies will never be the same! I am pleased to say, however, that we leave the pack in the capable hands of Jess Higson and her two assistants, Carole Townhill

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and Laura Muncer. It can only go from strength to strength.

For information contact Jess Higson 0118 9723026

Ros Jennings

Peppard Lawn Tennis Club

Situated behind the Red Lion Pub, we have started a new coaching programme for adults and children this season. With the professional help of Ash Taylor and his team (Attack Tennis), we can now provide a comprehensive junior coaching programme with classes running after school during the week as well as at weekends. Exciting Summer Camps are organised during the School holidays by James Brannan.

Adults are provided for too; we have Ladies' sessions on Wednesday and Friday mornings and a Rusty Racket session on Wednesday evening between 19.30 and 21.00. We also have our normal club sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday evenings at 18.30. See our website www.attacktennis/peppard.co.uk or tel. Ash on 07961 127 741.

Kim Fry

Special Events for RDA

Many of the riders at Riding for the Disabled (RDA) had the chance to enter a real dressage competition this spring, organised by the dedicated team of volunteers at Wyfold. Annette Allport, ex-chairman of the Riding Club and an experienced dressage rider herself, judged the competition, which was arranged in four sections: 'walk only' (lead and un-lead) and 'walk and trot' (lead and un-lead). It was a fun week for everyone involved; six groups took part and everyone received a rosette. Several riders made good progress with their riding skills during the preparations, including mov-

ing off, steering, turning, trotting and halting. A dressage exercise usually lasts a few minutes, during which the horse and rider form controlled geometric patterns in the arena.

Magic, Wyfold's smallest pony, competed in fancy dress at the Royal Windsor Horse Show this year, where there were two classes for people with disabilities. Cameron Eames with various helpers rode Magic, dressed in an Incey Wincey Spider theme, and came 8th out of 12. Helen Towner came 6th in the driving class, and a chatty Prince Philip presented rosettes.

Also in Windsor, Basil and Magic went on a sponsored drive through the Great Park; an open event. The day was very enjoyable and raised money for various charities.

Alison Stodolnic, a Rider's parent
0845 450 7017

Peppard Flat Earth Society

The spring and early summer has been a very busy period for the society, both educationally and socially. First a visit was made to the Cross Ness Pumping Station, (anyone into sewage or large beam engines, it's a must), although the absence of the jetty was somewhat a mystery; maybe it was washed away by the tides? Our re-creation of the tale by JKJ up and down the Thames from

Shiplake to Temple Island and back was enjoyable, as was the lunch, but the weather would have been better had we stuck with our original date. Lastly a visit organised by the Navigator to the Car Museum at Bourton-on-the-Water, followed by the Wellington (Aircraft) Museum at Moreton-in-Marsh was exceptional, marred only by the appearance of an old soldier two days early; why wasn't he a casualty in Normandy? And I admit I had one or two poignant moments in the garden of the Wellington. Visits may be somewhat curtailed for the rest of the summer, as Wat Tyler said many years ago, the wives are revolting.

Terry Ryan

The Edge Youth Club

The Edge Youth Club is for young people from the Chiltern Edge School catchment area. The Parish Council funds an evening for 11-13 year olds. At present the club operates on two nights a week but it is hoped to extend to a third night. The club offers a wide range of activities including football, badminton, netball or rounders in the sports hall or on the field, table tennis or pool in the club area or various quieter activities. The club can only operate at this level with the aid of adult volunteers who assist with one or more of the activities. The Tuck-shop is an important feature of the club for which older volunteers can be invaluable by releasing younger helpers for other tasks. If you can't commit to regular attendance then perhaps a team of two friends could agree to cover the Tuck-shop for one evening a week. The aim is to provide a safe environment for young people to socialise and have fun.

Interested? Contact Ketlin Varkki 0118 972 4418, 07866509329, or ketlin.varkki@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Robin Hunter



Pete Ballard Jack Stanger Dan Seymour Jim Smith Ian Heriot
Pete Taylor Bill Wilkes Terry Ryan Alan Smith Dave Watson
Photo courtesy of Dave Watson

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Peppard Diary

JULY					
Sat	4 Summer Reading Scheme/SC Library/01189722448				
Sun	5 Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00				
Mon	6 FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office				
	6 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/20.15				
Wed	8 WI/Garden Party/14.30				
Fri	10 Historical Tour/Greys Ct/18.30/0844 2491895				
Sat	11 Hort Soc/50 th Anni Boat Trip & tea at R & R Museum				
Mon	13 <i>Rhymetimes</i> Babies & Toddlers/SCLibrary/10.00				
	13 RPPC Council Meeting/Pavilion/19.30				
	13 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/21.30				
Tue	14 Mobile Library – see below for time & place				
	14 Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491 578267				
Wed	15 Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00				
Thu	16 K'wood Cmn Conservation Consult/Pav/11-1500				
	16 FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office				
Fri	17 Peppard School term ends				
Sat	18 <i>Music & Moonlight</i> /Greys Ct/18.45/0844 2491895				
Mon	20 Henley Fringe Festival starts				
Tue	21 K'wood Cmn Conservation Consult/Pav/18-22.00				
Fri	24 Moth Night/Greenshoots/01491628933				
Sat	25 Henley Fringe Festival ends				
Sun	26 K'wood Cmn Conservation Consult/Pav/13-17.00				
Mon	27 <i>Rhymetimes</i> Babies & Toddlers/SCLibrary/10.00				
	27 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/20.15				
Tue	28 Mobile Library – see below for time & place				
AUGUST					
Sun	2 Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00				
Mon	3 FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office				
Fri	7 <i>Illyria Three Musketeers</i> /Greys Ct/18.30/0844 2491895				
Sat	8 Police Open Day/10-16.00/01865 846699				
Sun	9 Peppard Bowls Club Gala Day/10.30				
Mobile Library – time & place – Peppard School 11.55 – 12.10		FISH Office: 0118 9723986 (Mon-Fri, 09.30-11.30)			
Green Gym: Robin Howles – 0118 9723528		Peppard Lunch Club: Sally Longhurst 0118 9722808			
JULY		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER	
Mon	10 <i>Rhymetimes</i> Babies & Toddlers/SCLibrary/10.00	Wed	2 Peppard School term starts	Wed	2 Peppard School term starts
Mon	10 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/20.15	Sat	5 Hort Soc Autumn Show/C Edge/15.00/0118 9723245	Sat	5 Hort Soc Autumn Show/C Edge/15.00/0118 9723245
Tue	11 Mobile Library – see below for time & place	Sun	6 Feed the Children 10K run/Greys Grn Golf Club/09.30	Sun	6 Feed the Children 10K run/Greys Grn Golf Club/09.30
	11 Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491 578267		6 Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00		6 Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Thu	13 <i>Creepy Crawlies</i> Day/Greys Crt/10.30/0844 2491895	Mon	7 FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office	Mon	7 FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office
Fri	14 <i>Creepy Crawlies</i> Day/Greys Crt/10.30/0844 2491895	Tue	8 Mobile Library – see below for time & place	Tue	8 Mobile Library – see below for time & place
Thu	20 FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office		8 Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491 578267		8 Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491 578267
Fri	21 Heartbreak <i>Emma</i> /Greys Ct/18.30-22.00/0844 2491895	Wed	9 WI/40 yrs' catching smugglers/14.30/Mem Hall	Wed	9 WI/40 yrs' catching smugglers/14.30/Mem Hall
Sat	22 Nettlebed Art Show/N'bed Sch Comm Hall/12.30-21.00	Mon	14 RPPC Council Meeting/Pavilion/19.30	Mon	14 RPPC Council Meeting/Pavilion/19.30
Sun	23 Nettlebed Art Show/Ne'bed Sch Comm Hall/10.00-17.00		14 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/21.30		14 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/21.30
Mon	24 <i>Rhymetimes</i> Babies & Toddlers/SCLibrary/10.00	Wed	16 Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00	Wed	16 Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00
Tue	25 Mobile Library – see below for time & place	Thu	17 FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office	Thu	17 FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office
	25 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/20.15	Sat	19 Hort Soc/Knoll Gdns & Kingston Lacey/0118 9723245	Sat	19 Hort Soc/Knoll Gdns & Kingston Lacey/0118 9723245
SEPTEMBER			19 Apple Day/Greys Ct/12.00/0844 2491895		19 Apple Day/Greys Ct/12.00/0844 2491895
Wed	2 Peppard School term starts	Tue	22 Mobile Library – see below for time & place	Tue	22 Mobile Library – see below for time & place
Sat	5 Hort Soc Autumn Show/C Edge/15.00/0118 9723245	Sat	26 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/10.00	Sat	26 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/10.00
Sun	6 Feed the Children 10K run/Greys Grn Golf Club/09.30	Sun	27 All Saints' Harvest Festival	Sun	27 All Saints' Harvest Festival
	6 Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00				
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	19 Apple Day/Greys Ct/12.00/0844 2491895				
Tue	22 Mobile Library – see below for time & place				
Sat	26 RPPC Planning/Pavilion/10.00				
Sun	27 All Saints' Harvest Festival				

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Month	July					August				September				
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Waste	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	

Food waste will be collected weekly. Please see SODC leaflets delivered with your new bins for more information
 Static attended Dustcarts have been discontinued.

CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Services at All Saints'	JULY				AUGUST					SEPTEMBER				NOTES
	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27 ^②	
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	① Sung Eucharist – Benefice Service at Kidmore End ② Harvest Thanksgiving Back to Church Sunday
10.30 Communion (sung)		✓		✓		✓		✓	①		✓		✓	
10.30 Matins	✓				✓					✓				
10.30 Family Service			✓			✓						✓		
10.30 Sunday School		✓				✓					✓			
18.30 Evensong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Sunday Services at Springwater (Peppard Congregational Church) Family Service: 10.30 - 11.45 ♦ Sunday School 10.30 - 11.30	Mass at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church ♦Monday-Friday 09.00♦ Saturday 17.30 ♦ Sunday 09.00 & 10.30
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	<h2>Trade Counter</h2> <p>Bishopsland Farm, Peppard Road, Dunsden, Reading RG4 9NR</p> <p>Tel: 0118 972 2028 Fax: 0118 972 4559</p>
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