



Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

Pastures New for Hugh

Winter 2008

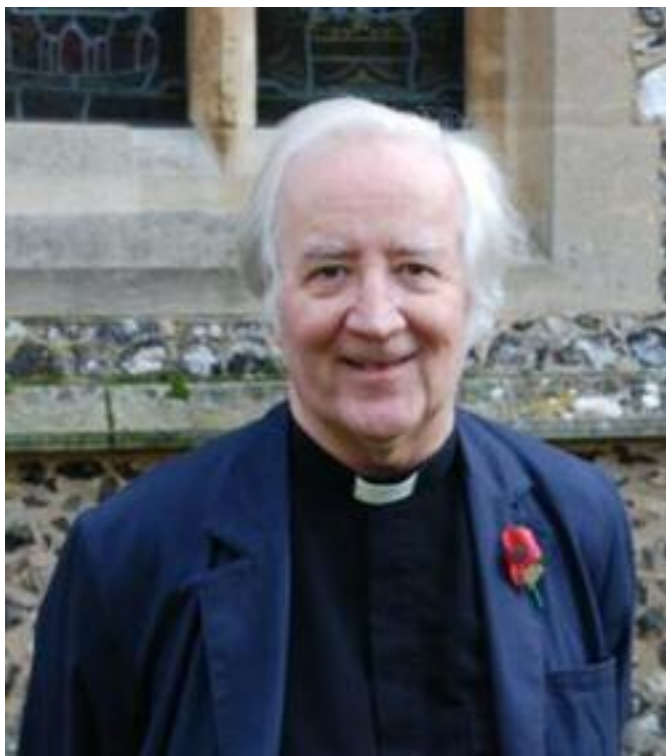
Sadly we are saying Goodbye to the Warwicks who will now embrace a very different benefice in Northamptonshire with wonderful village names such as Farthinghoe, Crouthton and Hinton-in-the-Hedges and we hope that neither will spend too much of their time in the hedgerows on those narrow country lanes! Hugh Warwick has almost a lifetime association with the village of Rotherfield Peppard and All Saints' Church as his parents, Ralph and Beryl, moved to Blounts Court Road from Aylesbury when he was just ten years old. Within three weeks, Hugh contracted polio but fought bravely and survived and never let it affect the way he wanted to lead his life.

He sang as a treble in the choir at All Saints' and was later a most diligent and sensitive Churchwarden serving two terms of office in the mid-seventies and again from 1991 to 1998.

Hugh's chosen career had been at the BBC as a producer of programmes for Radio 3, but when he retired he decided to change tack and train for the ministry to which he always felt he had a calling. He underwent the arduous training with great good cheer, was ordained in 2000 and priested a year later.

Hugh's ordination came at a most auspicious

time for the two Rotherfield parishes as they were entering an interregnum following the retirement of the long-serving Rector, Bob Butler-Smith. Hugh's contribution at that time was



vital as he knew everyone and how things were done at both churches. Many parishioners have commented on how his pastoral care was so evident at that

time.

Following the radical benefice revision in the Henley Deanery and the appointment of Rev Graham Foulis Brown to All Saints' in 2002, Hugh had the opportunity of a still wider ministry in the sister parishes of Sonning Common and Kidmore End which he pursued with enthusiasm.

But Hugh was always involved in the wider community and interested in local affairs and it is he whom we all have to thank for the inspiration behind this very publication! In 1994, he had the idea of a village newsletter so as to reach out to a much wider readership than the church magazine – and so Peppard News was born and has gone from strength to strength under Hugh and subsequent editors.

For this and so many contributions, we thank Hugh and also his wife Auriel, who has been a great support to him and a good friend to many. Hugh is always thoughtful and never self-serving. He is the same consistent, supportive and loving man with that wonderful chuckle who endears himself to

both young and old alike. He has served us well for many years and he will be missed.

Peter Hutt

Editorial

We are being told that we are approaching recession, not only here in our little corner of South Oxfordshire, but globally. How did the world get itself into this state? One could spend many hours debating the various possible causes. Maybe one very simplistic cause is that with the many advances in technology, travel, etc., we have been spoilt for choice in many things and we want and expect to have them **now**. We have foods from all corners of the world available all year round, computers with ever-increasing capabilities, home cinema systems, i-pods, mobile phones that take and send photographs and video. Cheap flights and holidays are available worldwide all year round. In fact, something for everyone and everyone appar-

ently wants it all.

Advertisements in newspapers, magazines, on TV and hoardings have urged us to 'do it now', 'buy it now' and 'pay later' ... Well, we are paying for it now, with loss of jobs, low interest rates etc. This 'recession' will affect us all in one way or another. Let us all take heed and go 'step by step', enjoy what we have and think twice before deciding to update material things when what we have works perfectly well, even though it may not be the latest colour, specification or model.

I would like to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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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Our Schools

Peppard School

SHOUT Project

Once again we are delighted to be one of ten local schools asked to take part in this year's SHOUT project (Schools of Henley OUTreach - the educational organisation attached to the Henley Festival). This year the children will be exploring two different art forms, art and dance. Both projects will be inspired by Native American history as researched by the children.

This term Springwood class has had three exciting workshops led by Julian Walker and Charlie Chance who run a company called HughJart. Their particular expertise lies in mural painting for large events such as Glastonbury Festival to name just one. The children have been hugely enthusiastic about this work, gaining skills in planning and creating a mock-up design and then transferring it to a much larger scale. For this project our motto was Think Big! Springwood classroom was emptied of furniture and replaced by a large canvas measuring 20' x 6'. In apply-



ing their artwork, the children displayed excellent fine brush control and worked as a team to produce a fantastic work of art.

The mural will be exhibited next year at The Henley Festival before returning home to school to where it will be on display for all to enjoy. You can see more photos of the children working on the mural on www.henley-festival.co.uk/Supersize-Art



The Choir

It has been wonderful to welcome new members into the choir this year and pleasing to see the continuing commitment of the older children. We meet every Tuesday lunch-time in Greys class-

room with enjoyment of music being our primary aim. So far this year our repertoire has been varied incorporating songs from the West End musical *Chicago* and some very catchy Abba hits. Now we are hard at work preparing for Christmas with carols and songs for up and coming events such as the school's Christingle service at All Saints' Church, Peppard on Thursday 18th December at 18.30. The children are looking forward to performing for the ladies of Peppard WI and once again singing at St Mary's Church Henley by kind invitation of the Henley Choral Society.

Rosie Clinkard

Sonning Common Pre-School

We have had a wonderfully busy first term, enjoying a whole range of activities, looking at various topics such as What Makes Us Healthy, Diwali and Opposites. We have filled our classroom walls with the fantastic work the children have produced.

Children have enjoyed plenty of cooking, messy play and being outdoors in all weathers. I think parents are beginning to get used to us now and remembering to send their children in old clothes, with suitable outdoor clothing! We believe that children learn from real experiences and so encourage them to explore their environments without constraints – this sometimes means getting very messy!

Children enjoyed taking part in a Bug Hunt in October and raised £100 for Meningitis UK. Children were sponsored by friends and family to find bugs (cartoon pictures) around the garden. They also enjoyed lots of related activities throughout the week.

We also had our Christmas Fair on December 6th. There was a Santa's Grotto

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and a Silent Auction (including a signed Reading football!), as well as lots of stalls and activities.

The children have been rehearsing for their Nativity Play too, which is a little different this year. We are doing a story trail around the garden, with parts of the Christmas story being enacted at different stations. The children (and staff!) are very excited and keeping our fingers crossed for reasonable weather on the day!

Next Term we will be starting with the topic of Recycling, with a visit from the Wild Waste Show to teach the children all about recycling with a puppet show and activities.

Spaces are still available for afternoon sessions. Telephone Sara or Jo on 0118-9724760 for more information, or see our website

www.sonningcommonplaygroup.co.uk.

Finally, from all at Sonning Common Pre-School we wish you a very peaceful but fun Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Jo Batten

Snippets

Peppard Pantry

We are persuading our pubs to part with their favourite recipes and we kick off with one from the Red Lion, Peppard

Meatballs with Napoletana Sauce

For the Napoletana sauce (serves 4-6)

- 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 large onions, diced
- 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 5 garlic cloves, crushed
- 10 medium Roma tomatoes, diced
- 2 tins chopped tomatoes
- 5 tbsp concentrated tomato paste
- 4 tbsp chopped mixed fresh herbs

For the meatballs (serves 4-6)

- 700g lean minced beef or pork
 - ¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
 - 1 large egg, lightly beaten
 - ½ cup fresh breadcrumbs
 - 2 tbsp crushed garlic
 - 1-2 tsp salt (optional)
 - 1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
 - ½ cup of milk
 - 1 tsp dried oregano
 - 2 tsp dried parsley
 - 3-4 balls mozzarella, sliced
1. Pre-heat oven to 350°F/180°C/gas 4.
 2. For the Napoletana sauce, heat the oil in large saucepan over a medium heat, add the onions and fry gently until translucent. Stir in the black pepper, fry for 1 minute then reduce the heat to low and stir in the crushed garlic. Fry gently for 3-5 minutes then add the fresh and tinned tomatoes, cover with a lid and simmer gently for 5 minutes. Stir in the tomato paste and mixed herbs, remove from the heat and set aside.
 3. For the meatballs, put all the ingredients apart from the mozzarella into a large bowl and mix together then shape the mixture into golf ball sized meatballs.
 4. To assemble the dish, pour Napoletana sauce into a large ovenproof dish, put meatballs into the sauce, cook in the oven for about 30 minutes, or until meatballs are golden-brown and cooked through. Remove from oven, arrange the mozzarella slices on top of the meatballs, return to the oven for 10 minutes.
 5. Serve with garlic bread or freshly cooked pasta.

Carols in The Unicorn

All Saints' Church Choir will once again be singing carols in The Unicorn on Tuesday 23rd December at 19.30.

Come along and join in or just listen if you can't sing!

Local Pub Review The New Inn

My friend and I took ourselves to the New Inn at Kidmore End for lunch where we received a friendly welcome. We were offered a small table in an almost empty restaurant (one of our pet hates) but upon request we were immediately given a larger table. Their menus cater for all tastes and pockets and we opted for their special lunch offer of 2 courses for £8.95.

To start we shared mushrooms in a cream, garlic and tarragon sauce - a generous portion, served with fresh crusty bread. It was most delicious, the tarragon a good complement to the mushrooms, but on the rich side, so sharing was ideal!

To follow, my friend chose the fish and chips - a good portion of tasty haddock in a light, crisp batter with chunky chips and a fresh side salad. I ordered the 'pie of the day' - another good sized dish, generously filled with chunks of lean, tasty steak in an excellent tomato gravy, topped with an impressively light, crumbly home-made pastry. This came with an equally generous portion of new potatoes and a selection of four fresh vegetables.

For pudding we shared a home-made apple crumble. The chunky pieces of apple, although nicely cooked, were unfortunately not very flavoursome; the crumble topping was dry and somewhat tasteless; the only disappointing dish of an otherwise excellent lunch.

Our only other grumble was that what had started off as friendly and attentive service, unfortunately tailed off towards the end of the meal; we had to wait a long time to order our pudding and then to pay our bill, even though by then we were the only two customers in the restaurant.

Overall, generous portions of freshly cooked food at a good price, although let down by the service at the end.

A Contributor

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The Councils

Parish Council

Recent vandalism to the Sports Pavilion, cricket pitch and field had been quickly repaired by the Cricket Club, for which the Parish Council was extremely grateful. Michael Barlow had generously donated and installed an alarm in the Pavilion free of charge.

The Parish Council had responded to Reading Transport Limited that the level of bus services in Peppard should be maintained, including a Sunday service. It was also requested that up to date timetables should be maintained in the bus timetable display boxes.

Chairman of the Parish Council, Vivienne Kemp, has given notice that she will be leaving the Council on 31st December.

Community Plan

Our Community Plan Questionnaire is being designed and we are waiting for it to be printed. As soon as the questionnaire has been created, we will need volunteers to help us distribute them to every household in Peppard. If you would like to help, please contact us to register your interest.



John Howell with Rosalyn Varnes & Anne Symons at the Herb Farm

We were very happy to discuss our plan with MP John Howell last month.

Also, if you would like to suggest any questions or issues to be included in the questionnaire, please contact the Community Plan Group by emailing rotherfieldpeppardcp@yahoo.co.uk, texting/ phoning 07526 922112 or writing to Tony Cotton, Woodlands, Colmore Lane, Kingwood Common RG9 5NA.

Anna Moulton

Parish Council

Chairman: Vivienne Kemp

Parish Clerk: Barbara Marston
0118 946 2459

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.

Oxfordshire County Council Report

Adult social care provided by Oxfordshire County Council has received the second highest possible rating following an in-depth assessment by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI).

The authority received an overall 'good' rating and two out of a possible three stars and was judged as 'excellent' for its work around increasing choice and control for those in its care in 2007/8.

It was judged as 'good' in the criteria of improving quality of life, making a positive contribution, freedom from discrimination and harassment, economic well-being and maintaining personal dignity and respect.

Carol Viney

South Oxfordshire District Council

Advice on new planning rules

In October new Central Government rules came into effect for people wanting to extend their homes. In many circumstances you can now carry out extensions and alterations to your home without applying for formal planning permission.

However, in some circumstances, restrictions would remain, for example, in conservation areas and also in our Area

of Outstanding Beauty (AONB). There are tighter controls on paving over driveways to help reduce water run-off contributing to flooding. Building regulations will also still apply. To find out more go to www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/hhg/houseguide.html As most of Peppard falls within the AONB, I would advise anyone wishing to make alterations to contact the District Council's planning team first. It's better to get it right first time rather than go through the massive costs of rectifying something that has already been built.

Information on planning permission can also be obtained by contacting a Planning Enquiry Officer on 01491 823272/01491 823663.

Alarms database

SODC is encouraging people with burglar alarms to join a new alarm database to stop alarms disturbing the neighbourhood if they go off accidentally.

The council is responsible for stopping alarms if they cause annoyance. If a burglar alarm is set off accidentally, the owner risks annoying neighbours and if the council can't contact the owner of the property, it can obtain a warrant and force entry to the premises and then the owner is charged for the cost of the work.

The database stores contact details of the person with the burglar alarm and if the council receives a complaint, it can make contact to have the alarm switched off as soon as possible. The registration is free and only the owners and authorised council officers can access the information. Contact SODC on 01491 823203 or environmental.services@southoxon.gov.uk

Report Potholes!

Potholes are a regular topic of conversation. In order to try to keep on top of the repairs, the County Council has set up a quick service for people to report them as they appear. If you see a pothole on the road or pavement you can either report it using the online form at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/potholes or by phoning 0845 3101111. The more information you can include about the location, size and severity of the potholes the better. This is a great way to play our part in improving the roads in our District.

Paul Harrison



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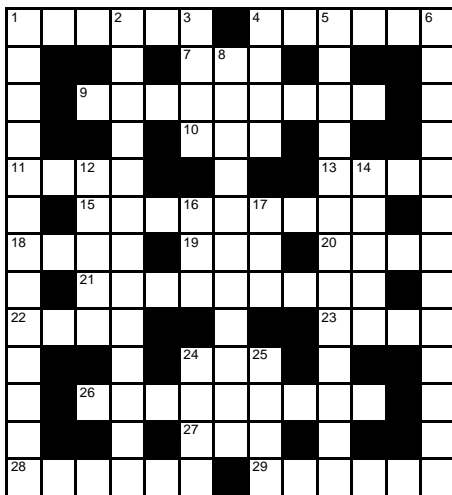
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More Snippets

We bring you a new Snippet this issue. Try out the Crossword with a Christmas theme.



Across

- 1 A day after 1 down. (6)
 4 A type to go with a thickhead. (6)
 7 Reel in the catch. (3)
 9 When the twelfth has elapsed. (2,7)
 10 Strange spirit. (3)
 11 Sailor with nothing but an eddo plant. (4)
 13 Encourages them to be put in one basket. (4)
 15 A typical example of cheap tyre fitting. (9)
 18 Helper in paid employment..... (4)
 19 ... be present and care too much. (3)
 20 There was not enough for them. (4)
 21 Embedded in planed timber half knotted. (9)
 22 Instrument initially made of bone or ebony. (4)
 23 Stitches points around opposite quarters. (4)
 24 Back out by boozy restricted creatures. (3)
 26 Take notice of the bravest; no confusion. (9)
 27 Employ and excuse a former college head departing. (3)
 28 More crowds at the Inn perhaps. (6)
 29 Snuggle down in the hay. (6)

Down

- 1/3 A new beginning. (5,3,2,3,4)
 2 Ed a Tory member about to reminisce over a special event. (3,2,8)
 3 See 1
 4 Perhaps Scrooge involved in "Humbug, lump it or leave it". (4)
 5 King's gifts. (5,8)
 6 Maths is metric from this month. (9,4)

- 8 Arms en route to be checked by Customs. (11)
 12 On which The Queen airs her message. (5)
 14 Undergoes runs into the crystal cave. (5)
 16 A little man swallowed by a whale. (3)
 17 Counts the number jumping. (3)
 24 Mythological god returning to Suez. (4)
 25 Hot spot for birds perhaps. (4)
 We'll print the solution in the next issue.

Want to get fit in 2009?

Join our special 'Walk Off Your Christmas Pudding' Walk on Saturday Jan 10th at 14.00.

Starting from Sonning Common Health Centre, there will be a choice of three or five mile walks. **Everyone is welcome on this free walk!** For more info contact Chris Brook on 0118 924 2515, or email her on chris@sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk

Sonning Common Health Walks continue their daily walks until Sunday December 21st and then start up again - with a new timetable - on Monday January 5th. For details of the walks, and the new timetable, take a look at our web site, at www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk

Lost Property

We have the following items lost during the Peppard Revels in the summer. Anyone wanting to claim them should contact me on 01491 628478 otherwise we will dispose of them at the end of January 2009.

A small key with plastic photograph holder attached showing black and white pictures of a baby on one side and a toddler with dark hair holding a teddy bear on the other.

Black bangle with gold design on it.

John Hasler

Circle Dancing

The group has now been established for eighteen months and continues to grow in its appeal. If you love music from around the world and in different moods come and see what Circle Dancing can offer you. No age limits and no partners needed! Call Ros on 0118 9723520.

Ros Jennings

Computer Courses

A comprehensive range of computer courses is being offered in the New Year to be run in Sonning Common and Wallingford. For more information see www.PeppardNews.co.uk or telephone 01491 836710.

When the Lion Roared

As the Flat Earth Society crossed Peppard Common one Friday evening, there were strange shadows flitting in and out of the porch light of the Red Lion. It could have been moths around a candle, but they seemed rather more substantial. As we got closer it became apparent that no single one was less than six feet and that was just the ladies!

Seventy five "Suspects", "Fathers" and "Grandfathers", all bikers from an anonymous, but countrywide, Motor Cycle Club of UK had descended on the Red Lion for the weekend. Peppard had been chosen for its scenic rides and the Red Lion for its good beer and fresh food. With a promise of a return next year, Graham and Julie seemed unfazed by the prospect of cooking seventy five breakfasts two mornings in a row after two heavy nights' work pulling the pints for such a thirsty crew of jovial drinkers.

May they come back again!

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Our Village

Greenshoots

At Greenshoots we've been busy getting the ground cleared of the remains of the year's crops and digging through the compost heaps, sieving all the new compost before putting it onto the beds.

The students have been battling with the wet weather, many of them are keen to be outside digging at this time of the year but it is detrimental to the ground to be trodden and dug while it is so wet. So they've been doing lots of indoor activities and tidying up.

We had winter bedding in and planted up hanging baskets for winter colour. The pansies, violas, polyanthus and cyclamen have sold well; we'll have a greater variety next year.

For Christmas, we have a selection of baskets of indoor plants and wreaths which we are selling from our site at Manor Farm. Wreaths can be made to order, using a specific colour scheme or range of natural decorations. Please come and see what we've got available.

In December we are looking forward to a visit from John Howell MP. Boris Johnson was very supportive of us at Greenshoots and he visited several times, we hope that Mr Howell will be equally supportive and enjoy his visit to see what we get up to.

Looking forward to the spring, if you bring back your hanging baskets, tubs or troughs from last year we can replant them with your choice of plants. Or if you would like a particular colour scheme, or have a requirement for large quantities of bedding, please come and talk to me and I will happily discuss growing to your requirements.

Wishing everybody a Very Happy Christmas from the Staff and Students at Greenshoots.

Angela Fordham

Establishing a New Footpath

There are two footpaths that turn off Wyfold Lane and cross the fields towards Gallowstree Common and into New Copse (footpaths 28 and 31 see map). For many years the two fields have had open access, and an unofficial new path developed at the beginning of footpath 28 and cut across the adjacent field, around the old sewerage works and into the corner of New Copse (broken line see map). This year both fields were sold and the field with the 'new' path has been gated and locked with notices 'Private No Access'.

An expert on Oxfordshire footpaths has suggested that the unofficial path did seem to have its own function, as using FP31 involves walking along a narrow lane with blind bends. However trying to establish a new pathway is very difficult. We need a sufficient number of people willing and able to give evidence that they used this path without let or hindrance (that is that there were no notices inferring no admittance nor did anyone tell them that it was private land and therefore not accessible) for 20 years or so before the new owners obstructed it. If some people have used it less, what ever evidence you can give is worth recording. It is important to ensure that the path was well used over a significant time.



Peppard Parish Council is interested in applying for an alteration in the footpath map but needs help from walkers. We hope to involve the Ramblers as well, but anyone who feels strongly about this please contact Cherry Postlethwaite (Parish Councillor) at cherrythompson@mac.com or leave a message on 01491 680495.

FISH Volunteer Centre

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you all, and many thanks to all those who gave their time as drivers or helpers in 2008.

Our regular shopping trips to Reading were extended by an hour for December and this extended time will continue through January. Bus passes or tokens are accepted, as they are for all our

shopping trips.

To book your place on the bus or to book a driver, please call the FISH office between 09.30 & 11.30 Monday to Friday.

The office will close on 24th December; reopen 29th to 30th December and close again 31st December to 5th January. Sonning Common Village Hall will be closed for refurbishment from 5th to 9th January, however the FISH phone (0118 9723986) will be manned over this period during office hours.

Our Annual Charity Christmas Card & Gift Sale, which took place in October, was very successful and 12 charities benefited. Many thanks to Barbara Butler for all her efforts.

Caroline Stockhill

News from the Library

From the beginning of September all Oxfordshire libraries have had access to 'Ancestry' (<http://ancestrylibrary.proquest.com>), the popular family history database, via the library computers. The licence covers library use only – this is a condition set by the publisher.

However, none of the library staff has had any particular experience or training in using the site yet, but if you need help we'll do our best. If we find we have a lot of interest and lots of requests for help, we will arrange for 'taster sessions' in the new year, with the kind help of the Berkshire Family History Society. If you're interested, let us know!

The library holds the current copy of the Homechoice Property Newsletter, about choice-based lettings, which comes out every fortnight. This information is also available on the internet, and Soha housing is holding a free drop-in session in the library, on Wednesday 28th January from 16.00-18.30, to answer questions about the Homechoice website, and the Soha website.

The library in Grove Road will be closed from Tuesday 23rd December until Friday 2nd January. We will be having a special Christmas story time on Monday, 22nd

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December at 10.00. This will be aimed at the under 7s – it will be free of charge, but booking is essential!

We'd like to send best wishes to all our library users for a happy and healthy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year

Rosemary Dunstan
Library Manager

Greys Court

By the time we closed at the end of September, we had had over 20,000 visitors during the season, which was slightly over our target. We were also the property that sold the winning first prize ticket in the National Trust 2008 Raffle, so proving it is always worth "having a go".

We have had major restoration work to a value of over £9,000 carried out on our Greenhouse, paid for from donations from visitors, gifts from local National Trust Associations and Centres and from a legacy left to us by a local resident.

With links to *The Keep Britain Tidy* Campaign, which was originally launched by Lady Brunner, we have taken part in their new *Big Tidy Up* Campaign, launched with the help of Lady Brunner's granddaughters. In November a team of staff and volunteers completed the Estate Walk, which includes parts of the Broad Plat Lane and Rocky Lane, and managed to remove six bags of rubbish, including a rather flattened old fashioned coal bucket; we were rather proud to say the majority of the rubbish was from the roads and not from the Estate.

One event before we open in April will be our *Spring Has Sprung Walks*, in the Garden. These take place on 20th and 21st March 2009, starting at 10:30. Join the Gardeners for a guided walk through the garden, as well as the chance to ask questions, but if that is not enough, a delicious home-made soup lunch will be served in the Cromwellian Tea Room afterwards to warm you up. Tickets £12 each. You must book in advance via the National Trust ticket line on 0844 249 1895 or via the website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thamesandsolentevents. Please note that bookings will open on 2nd January 2009.

Paul Williamson
Custodian – Greys Court

Green Gym

The Sonning Common Green Gym has been awarded a certificate of Special Commendation by the Chilterns Conservation Board for their entry in Chilterns Conservation Award 2008. The award was for a year-long project at Watlington Hill Nature Reserve to restore an ancient sunken trackway. The scrub growing on the southern margin of the track was cleared by the Green Gym volunteers, allowing many varieties of wild flowers to grow once again, and walkers can now use the track instead of a path which was eroding the rare chalk grassland habitat.



Green Gym Volunteers opening the track

This was a very popular project with all our volunteers and we're really pleased to have had our work recognised as contributing to the natural environment and history of the Chilterns.

Julia Booker

Police News

In October we held a Crime Prevention Event at Sonning Common Village Hall, which was well attended and enabled us to meet members of the community of both Sonning Common and surrounding parishes.

We now have regular Pub Watch meetings. Landlords kindly provide their premises on a rota basis which enables us to visit all the member parishes.

Over the next few weeks, the Neighbourhood team will be observing dwelling properties that during the early evening have no lights on, therefore suggesting to criminals that the house is unoccupied. An information leaflet on

how to combat opportunist burglary will be posted through the letter-box. We hope this will assist and provide necessary information on your home security.

PC Julie Greenough
PCSOs Janice Smith & Ben Wyatt

New Trees in Carling's Orchard

The Chilterns has always been famous for its orchards, particularly cherry orchards, but sadly in our area, as in most of the country, the majority of orchards have been lost

Peppard Parish Council has obtained a small grant from The Chilterns Conservation Board which we want to spend on a mixture of new fruit trees for Carling's Orchard. Apart from enjoying the wonderful blossom and shining fruits of autumn, we want to encourage local people to harvest the fruit in a *Food For Free* initiative. Similar programmes are underway throughout the country where fruit trees are being planted alongside roads and on waste land.

Some time early next year we would be grateful for just one or two hours' help planting the trees, so that we spend the grant money on buying as many trees as possible.

If you can help please contact Cherry Postlethwaite 01491 680495 or cherrythompson@mac.com

Poppy Appeal 2008

The Peppard & District Branch of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal for 2008 raised the sum of £4,069.37, an increase on last year of just under 1%.

When other branches have reported quite severe shortages in their collections even such an extremely small increase is to be applauded. I must praise all of my collectors who worked so very hard to achieve this during a time of such financial upheaval. One collector raised almost £400 on his own and another over £200. I cannot thank them enough for this splendid effort.

We are always looking for new collectors and helpers and if you are interested please contact Penny Harvey on 0118 9723779.

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**New premises now open opposite
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42 Wood Lane, Sonning Common**

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 Peter Hutt	01491 629254 0118 984 1061

From the Rectory ...

By a happy co-incidence, following All Saints' Day, I talked with the Peppard School children about the various saints depicted in stained glass in All Saints' Church. It happened that Years 3 and 4 were learning about stained glass windows. Wulfred, Archbishop of Canterbury, declared at the Synod of Calcyth in 816 that a new church should have on display a depiction of the saint for whom it was named. All Saints' has plenty. One window shows St Nicholas. The window was given in memory of Fleet Surgeon Hugh Winckworth Macnamara. St Nicholas is the patron saint of sailors; it is said that he saved a fleet of ships during a storm. All that we can confidently know about him is that he was a Bishop of Myra in south-western Asia Minor during the fourth century. But, of course he is also the patron saint of children, and we remember him as Santa Claus, which name is derived, via America, from the Dutch dialect form of his name, *Sinte Klaas*. That he is associated particularly with giving presents derives from the legend that he enabled three girls to enter into marriages by throwing bags of gold through their window as dowries (sic).

Over the next weeks and at our Christmas services I hope that we'll share in his spirit of generosity, which ultimately derives from the Christmas story – the story of a God who gives

us his Son to free us from our fears and to bring us hope and joy.

The Rector and I wish you every joy at Christmas.

Barry Olsen

Hugh Warwick

An all too brief appreciation for all that you have done for us, and with us. A sincere thank you from me, personally, for your help, and thank you from HIM, you have served so well, and thank you from all of us who have felt the benefit of your devotion. But most importantly, to thank you for your dedication to HIM, to me, and to us. Thank you from all of us, but especially me.

Bob Butler-Smith

Young Entertainment

On Sunday 2nd November members and friends of All Saints' Church met together to enjoy a good lunch and celebrate their Patronal Festival of All Saints' Day. The lunch was followed by entertainment including two items from the young people of the church who did extremely well. It is to be hoped that they will be back again next year - if not sooner!

Concert at All Saints'

Plans are being finalised for a concert to be given by Julia Booker (soprano) and Robin Howles (tenor) on Saturday 28th March. Please make a note of the date and support this talented local duo.

There will be a retiring collection for Christian Aid.

Time Stands Still

At the time of writing it appears that time stands still as the hands of the church clock are not moving. After many years of volunteers climbing the ladder each week to wind and adjust the clock, it is being automated. This wonderful turret clock which is over 100 years old has been cleaned and will be fitted with a mechanism which will wind and adjust the time automatically. However the change of hour in spring and autumn will still necessitate a climb up the ladder. This change occurs just as we are celebrating the centenary of the tower itself.

Re-Roofed

The Lych Gate at the entrance to the Churchyard was damaged some years ago by a branch which fell from a tree. It has now been beautifully restored to its former glory and the roof tiled to match the Lych Gate at the entrance to the Church. The work was carried out by David Empringham.

Seasons' Greetings

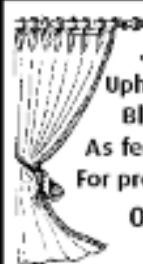
There are some very attractive cards available which show a snow dusted view of the church and a reproduction of a water colour of All Saints'. These cards, which cost 50p including envelope, would make excellent Christmas cards. Please call Adrienne Heriot on 01491 629254 if you would like to purchase any.

Christmas Time at All Saints'

The Christmas Services will start with a Nativity Play and Carols at 17.30 on Christmas Eve, with Holy Communion at 23.00. On Christmas Day Holy Communion will be celebrated at 09.00 and a Service of Seven Lessons and Carols at 11.00. Do come and join us!

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

We all complain about the commercialisation of Christmas, but when the Feast itself arrives it always triumphs over our grumbles. The song (by Andy Williams) tells us that .. "It's the most wonderful time of the year". And it is.

Families make great efforts to be together; friends are invited, neighbours come round to visit, and there is a great sense of relaxed happiness all around. Everyone smiles and we all seem so much

happier and the better for it. It is the most wonderful time of the year.

Here at St Michael's we set ourselves to remember those in need, particularly the homeless and try to raise money for them. We put up a *tree of gifts*; a large Christmas tree is placed in church, with small gift tags on the branches. Each tag asks for a specific gift for someone at the Drop-in centre in Reading. We then place our gifts under the tree and in due time these are delivered to the Drop-in centre.

We particularly encourage children to be mindful of children their own age who are in need and to be generous to them, so we also intend to raise money for Dr

Barnardo's Homes

It is my task to remind our parishioners of why we make such a fuss at Christmas, ensuring that we do not forget what is at the heart of all our celebrations and our giving of gifts: it is because we are once again celebrating the birth of Jesus as one of us.

God has come to share with us in our humanity and to help us see how best we can live our lives to ensure we are happy and fulfilled. Without this underpinning we might be in danger of missing out on the centrality of the great festival.

I wish you all every happiness and joy for this most wonderful time of the year.

Fr Chris Bester

 Revd Barry Kirk
 0118 972 4519

A New Charity for a New Chapter

How can we, in South Oxfordshire *really* help people in Africa?

Well, we have for many years ...and there are thousands of lives to prove it in Liberia as it rises from the ashes of 14 years of civil war, reputedly the most devastating ever seen on the African continent.

Springwater Church has, since 1992 (with the fantastic help of the wider community, business and schools) been helping Liberians, at community level, rebuild their lives and create sustainable lives, to be able to earn an income and feed themselves.

Not an easy task for any Liberian when unemployment stands at 85% and 76% live in poverty and the life expectancy stands at 45 years (most of us reading this would now be passed our 'sell by date'!)

And how would we cope with *no electricity, water or waste drainage system for 14 years?* The whole country and its total infrastructure have been decimated.

Liberia is known internationally as one of the world's greatest development challenges to get a nation back on its feet.

Too big a problem for a small community to have an effect? By no means. Go and see our



new website www.onelife-int.org, with mini movies and all you need to know about how we are rising to the challenge and changing lives.

And you are invited to join us, we all have some gifting that can help another person, family, community... what's yours?

We only have one life and even in an economic climate, the greatest gift and life experience is to give to and help others. No better remedy to chase away the economic blues!

Nick Crowder

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Clubs and Societies

Peppard Cricket Club

Some thirty-four hardy souls gathered in The Unicorn for Peppard Cricket Club's annual dinner. The atmosphere was, as always, welcoming and the food up to its usual standard with Tim, Steve and their team looking after us superbly well.

The main purpose was to recognise achievements and Vice President John Nelson presented the trophies to the winners. Hugh Asquith, eloquently and more concisely than in previous years, described the ups and downs of the season for the 1st XI as Paul Vines completed the grand slam by taking Batsman of the Year, Bowler of the Year and Player's Player of the Year awards. Andy Bryan, no less eloquently and considerably more concisely, described the 2nd XI season with the award for Batsman of the Year for Garry Legg, Bowler of the Year was Richard Woolfrey and the Players' Player of the Year, Alan Mayers. Andy also gave a rundown of the Sunday XI's season and awarded the Player of the Year award to Taylor Vines. Clubs such as Peppard rely on the effort and goodwill of many people and although there were many contenders for the Clubman of the Year award, Ian Halliday proved a worthy winner. Ian worked tirelessly to repair the damage that vandalism inflicted on the score box and pavilion during the summer as well as refurbishing the commemorative benches that surround the ground.

John Nelson presented trophies to the Berkshire Indoor League six-a-side winners, who also reached the quarter finals of the National competition. Finally Dan Hayden was presented with a tankard for his maiden hundred for the club, always a special occasion and no doubt, it will be the first of many hundreds for him.

The organisation of such events does not just happen and all our thanks to Andy

Bryan for ensuring we all knew when and where to turn up.

Ronnie Brock, Chairman

Wyfold RDA Celebrates Twice!

Wyfold Group Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) had two pieces of good news last month.



One of the ponies, Basil, was assessed for his suitability as a driving pony by two national RDA inspectors. They checked the harness, carriage and Basil's temperament. On Tuesday mornings, adults and older children in wheelchairs can now drive in his carriage, equipped with a hydraulic lift system, alongside an able-bodied driver.

Lynn Johnson, a paediatric physiotherapist, has passed her Level 2 'Horse in Rehabilitation' exam. As well as assisting with other riders, Lynn can now do 'back-riding', where a disabled child sits on the pony in front of her and the movement activates the muscles, encouraging the child to sit up and support his/her own weight.

The riding at Wyfold helps people with physical and learning difficulties to de-

velop strength, posture, balance and confidence. More volunteers are needed, please call 0845 450 7017.

Alison Stodolnic, (A rider's parent).

2nd Kidmore End Brownies

The autumn term is long and that always gives scope for being very busy! The first half of the term was taken up with a double theme – preparing for a concert, as part of the Entertainer badge, and learning about the training of puppies to become guide dogs for the blind, as part of the Friend to Animals badge. We were very fortunate to have a visit from Mrs Chris Secker of Caversham with her retired guide dog, Nuala, and went on to rehearse and play a song about working dogs, ready for the concert. The Brownies also prepared their own individual items on piano or recorder, and recited poems and performed dances. It all resulted in the raising of nearly £50 for Guide Dogs.

The second half of the term began with our meeting on Bonfire Night and appropriately was made up of games and craft connected with the Gunpowder Plot. And, not unrelated, we have now moved on to the Crime Prevention badge!

If you wish your daughter's name to be added to our waiting list, please telephone 0118 9723520

Ros Jennings

Peppard WI

Members have continued to work hard to raise funds for next year's 90th birthday celebrations. We were given a traditional welcome from 'Behind the Veil' when we arrived for tea at the home of Elaine Douglas. Members and friends who had lived in the Middle East told us of their experiences and showed us some of their

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costumes and souvenirs, after which we had tea and sampled some delicacies from the region. Elaine was ably assisted by Shirley Hartley-Booth and the afternoon was such a great success they have promised an encore for those members who missed the first session.

Our secretary, Ruth Whitaker has devised a Christmas Quiz, the type of thing which will keep the family busy after Christmas Lunch while the cook has a nap - worth £1 of anyone's money! Completed forms are to be returned to Ruth before January 9th.

Next year promises to be a happy one for us and any ladies interested in joining us, or anyone who needs a quiz sheet should ring Ruth on 0118 9722704.

Irene Lindsay

1st Peppard Guides

This term the guides looked at how kites are designed then made their own. There was also a fashion show with music and costumes from around the world. Although we all loved the Indian costumes, we voted the French our favourites because of the level of detail.

We are always so grateful to volunteers who give up their time to help with particular activities. We had a Glamorama evening where Jem Ozgu, Sara Donaldson and Debbie Neale came to discuss and demonstrate skincare and beauty regimes. Gillian Scozzafava organised an Italian cooking evening where the girls loved learning about the food.

After the festival of Diwali, the guides enjoyed an Indian meal at the Tandoori Connoisseur Restaurant in Sonning Common. Ahmed and his staff were fantastic; not only did they prepare a veritable feast for us, but they also took the time to tell the girls about each dish – the ingredients used and how it was cooked. Afterwards the guides were treated to a behind-the-

scenes tour of the kitchen and then were given chocolates and lollipops – what a great evening!



Finally, a Carol Concert was held at All Saints' Church with a retiring collection in aid of Wyfold Riding for the Disabled raising £105.75: our friends, families and guests all joined in singing the carols with gusto. The girls performed their various Christmas songs and poems accompanied by volunteer Gavin Coull. Afterwards, everyone was treated to supper in the Parish Room. After another action packed term we are all now in a festive mood and are looking forward to the holidays – almost as much as we are looking forward to next term!

Amanda Coull

Tennis Club

We are still playing under floodlights on a Tues and Thurs evening from 18.30 onwards. So if anyone would like to join us you are very welcome. The Junior coaching takes place on Saturday mornings; anyone interested please contact James Brannan on 077 9609 0740. On a more competitive note we are entering our Winter league teams and these are played on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. We are situated behind the Red Lion Pub on Peppard Common. Any enquiries, phone Kim Fry 0118 9474051

Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club

The club continues to thrive and new members are always welcome. The club's revitalised junior sessions on Monday evenings go from strength to strength with sessions now split from 17.00-18.00 and 18.00-19.00 to accommodate the large number of youngsters interested. I have been mightily impressed with the standard of play from those as young as 8 years old achieved in such a short space of time. Most are already starring in the Reading League's Youth Division on Friday evenings. Any parent who has a child they think would be interested in playing table tennis can just turn up at the Peppard War Memorial Hall on Gallowstree Road on Mondays at 17.00.

Nigel Maltby, Club Secretary,
0118 9463191

Chiltern Players

Following last year's sell out production of Sleeping Beauty, the Chiltern Players bring you Dick Whittington – the Pantomime! Directed by Tiffany Saul and performed by the Chiltern Players Team Panto. Bring the whole family to a fun filled and traditional show.

Performances at Peppard Memorial Hall Thursday 8th January 2009 – 19.30; Friday 9th January – 19.30; Saturday 10th January – 14.00 (Matinee) and 18.30.

Ticket Prices: Thursday £5 each, Friday and Saturday £6 each. Matinee, children 12 and under £4 each.

To book, please call 0118-972-4870 or see www.monkey-island.biz/whittington

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Tiffany Saul

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Peppard Diary

JANUARY		
Sun	4	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Mon	5	FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office
Tue	6	Primary School Term 3 starts
Thu	8	Chiltern Players/Dick Whittington/Mem.Hall/19.30/£5
Fri	9	Chiltern Players/Dick Whittington/Mem.Hall/19.30/£6
Sat	10	As above/14.00 £4 & 18.30/£6
	10	Sue Ryder Sale/01491 641070
	10	Health Walk <i>Walk off Xmas Pud</i> /SC Health Ctr/14.00
Tue	13	Mobile Library – see below for time and place
	13	Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/call 01491 578267
Wed	14	WI/Family History/Mem Hall/14.30
	14	Hort Soc/Container Gardening/C Edge/19.30
Wed	21	Primary School/Church Service/09.15
	21	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00
Thu	22	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office
Tue	27	Mobile Library – see below for time and place
	27	Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/call 01491 578267
Sat	31	Sue Ryder Sale/01491 641070

FEBRUARY		
Sun	1	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Mon	2	FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office
Wed	4	Primary School/Church Service/09.15
Mon	9	RPPC Council Meeting/Pavilion/19.30
Tue	10	Mobile Library – see below for time and place
	10	Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/call 01491 578267

MARCH		
Sun	1	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Mon	2	FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office
Mon	9	RPPC Council Meeting/Pavilion/19.30
Tue	10	Mobile Library – see below for time and place
	10	Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/call 01491 578267
Wed	11	WI/90 th AGM/Mem Hall/14.30
	11	Hort Soc/Clematis Talk/C Edge/19.30
Sat	14	Sue Ryder Sale/01491 641070
Wed	18	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00
Thu	19	FISH Pub Lunch/11.30/details FISH office
Fri	20	<i>Spring has Sprung Walk</i> /Greys Ct/10.30/08442491895
Sat	21	<i>Spring has Sprung Walk</i> /Greys Ct/10.30/08442491895
Tue	24	Mobile Library – see below for time and place
	24	Citizens Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/call 01491 578267
Mon	30	Primary School Year 6/Residential trip to Manor

Mobile Library – time & place – Peppard School 11.45 – 11.55	FISH Office: 0118 9723986 (Mon-Fri, 09.30-11.30)
Green Gym: Robin Howles – 0118 9723528	Peppard Lunch Club: Sally Longhurst 0118 9722808

CHURCH SERVICES

CHRISTMAS SERVICES		
All Saints'		
Christmas Eve	17.30	Nativity Play & Carols
	23.00	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	09.00	Holy Communion
	11.00	Seven Lessons & Carols
St Michael's Church		
Monday 15 th December	19.00	Service of Reconciliation
Christmas Eve	18.00	Children's Mass
	21.00	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.30	Christmas Morning Mass
Springwater Congregational Church		
Sunday 14 th December	10.30	Nativity Play
Sunday 21 st December	10.30	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	23.30	Midnight Service
Christmas Day	10.30	Christmas Day Service



**STATIC ATTENDED DUSTCARTS/
KERBSIDE GARDEN WASTE (BROWN BINS)**

Month	January			February			March		
Date	14 th	16 th	28 th	11 th	13 th	25 th	11 th	13 th	25 th
Place		SC			RP			SC	
Gdn Wste	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓

The Peppard News team wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a special Thank You to our Distributors



Sunday Services at All Saints'	JANUARY				FEBRUARY				MARCH					NOTES
	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	1	8	15	22	29	
09.00 Communion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1. Benefice Service at All Saints' Church 2. Ecumenical Service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, held St Michael's RC Church, Sonning Common at 18.30.
10.30 Communion (sung)		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓ ¹	
10.30 Matins	✓				✓				✓					
10.30 Family Service			✓				✓			✓				
10.30 Sunday School		✓				✓			✓					
18.30 Evensong	✓	✓	✓ ²	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

<p>Sunday Services at Springwater (Peppard Congregational Church) Family Service: 10.30 - 11.45 ♦ Sunday School 10.30 - 11.30</p>	<p>Mass at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church ♦Monday-Friday 09.00♦ Saturday 17.30 ♦ Sunday 09.00 & 10.30</p>
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<h1>PEPPARD</h1> <h2>BUILDING SUPPLIES</h2>	<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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