



# Peppard News

A community newspaper for the parish of Rotherfield Peppard

Winter 2009

## Joyce Grove - The History of

The Sue Ryder Care Nettlebed Hospice is also known as Joyce Grove; this name derived from 'Mr Joyce's Grove' and was part of the Nettlebed Common Woods. The site was administered by the Stonor Estate; it is believed that 'Mr Joyce was a woodman of some standing in the district'. A plan of the site drawn in 1724 shows a three gabled property on Thomas Stonor's estate, a substantial landowner in the district, and was known as 'Russels House'. The recorded occupier in the 1850's was a Mr John Tovey (Gardeners Directory, 1852) and it is said that William III and Queen Anne dined here once. At this time, Kellys Directory of 1848 reports Nettlebed to be a 'bustling town with a population of 690'.

Mr Robert Fleming (1845-1933), a Scottish Merchant Banker, bought Joyce Grove, the near-by kilns, clay-works, many of the cottages and around 2000 acres in Nettlebed in 1903. He had the original house pulled down and built the current building on the existing foundations. Some of the out-buildings at the back of the house are original and date back to the 1850's. The new house, built in a Jacobean style, was

designed by Charles Edward Mallows (1864-1915); he was a well known architect who had won the RIBA Pugin



Front of Joyce Grove, 1890's

Prize for measured drawings. It was built by London builders, Dove Brothers; it was started in 1904 and finished in 1905. It is noted that the house holds traces of the previous building and one source states this material may date back to the William and Mary era.

Some of the glass windows are of an excellent standard and the woodwork is

another year and the Festive Season is here. A season that is celebrated in so many different ways the world over. On behalf of the Peppard News Team, I would like to say a big 'thank you' to our team of Distributors who trek around the streets and lanes of Peppard and area in all weathers, to deliver Peppard News to you, our readers. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our readers, contributors and advertisers and Graham our printer from the Peppard News Team - Susan, Rita, Penny, Jennifer and Ian.

of a superb quality, it is of Louis XV style and there are many wood ribbed ceilings, painted panels and exquisite fire-places. There was a fire in 1913 so the Flemings took this opportunity to make some changes to the original entrance and the stairway and they also added a new wing. They had a staff of nearly 80 people to run the house, gardens and surrounding farmland.

It is understood that the house was Mr and Mrs Fleming's 'summer time' house. It is also understood that Mrs Kate Fleming never liked the building! In 1940 a deed of gift was made by their son Peter Fleming to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington and in 1948 Joyce Grove and its surrounding gardens were transferred to the Ministry of Health. It was used as a convalescent home for many years.

In 1974 a doctor from the Royal Berkshire Hospital met with Sue Ryder to discuss the need for a home for 'cancer patients requiring terminal care' in the Reading area.

Over the next few years and after several meetings and house viewings, Joyce Grove was suggested to Sue Ryder. The building was said to be in remarkable condition and negotiations ensued for the purchase of the home and finally in 1979 the property plus 26 acres of gardens were conveyed to the Sue Ryder Foundation.

**Phil Cook**

### Editorial

Can you help? We are currently researching the history of Borocourt Hospital. About a year ago I 'bumped into' a lady I had known some years ago when she was a driver at Borocourt. Her name is Brenda, she told me that she was living in Sonning Common (possibly Batten House) and that if Peppard News wanted to talk to her about her memories of living in the area, to contact her. She kindly gave me her phone number and unfortunately, I cannot now find that number... So, if Brenda is reading this, or any of our readers know her, **please** ask her to make contact with us!

Once again we are almost at the end of

*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.

Issues: March, June, September & December

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Contributions accepted via e-mail or post to Penny Harvey, 12 Shiplake Bottom, Peppard, RG9 5HL

Advertising: Ian Fraser - phone: 01491 629631

Printed by Trinity Creative Resources  
Earley RG6 7RH

# Our Schools

## Headteacher at Peppard Primary Leaves After 20 Years' Service

As many readers will already be aware, at the end of this term, Anne Jarvis is due to 'vacate her seat' after twenty years of headship and service to the school.

During this time, many of you within the community will have witnessed and indeed, experienced the dedication, commitment and hard work that Anne has shown and given to Peppard CE Primary School. The very special nature of this school which we all value so much is due in large measure to Anne, for which we owe her our special thanks.

A firm advocate of education in its broadest sense, Anne has always challenged and pushed beyond the boundaries in order to give to and get from, each child the best she can. She has always understood the concept of 'Every Child Matters' – long before it became mandatory in all schools. She introduced French lessons to the classroom some

eighteen years before the subject formed part of the National Curriculum, and championed school outings and residential trips long before they were considered to be the norm. Her love of the arts has borne many musical productions (and talents!) at the school, and there are few pupils – past or present – who won't recall, without nostalgia, the poetry competitions, the Awards and Showing Assemblies, Sports Days on the Common, the Year 6 Tea Party and Leavers' Assembly, and annual participation at the inter-schools Festival



Anne Jarvis

### Peppard C of E Primary School

Peppard Common RG9 5JU

Phone: 01491 628354

Head Teacher - **Anne Jarvis**

Chairman of the Governors  
**David Sell**

of Voices – to mention but a few of the activities Anne has overseen.

Previously a Deputy Head at Long Wittenham Primary School, Anne came to Peppard in January 1990. A fervent supporter of small schools in general, Anne has led several initiatives at County level, and played a significant role in the Small Schools Forum. Her love and knowledge of education has equally been passed on to a considerable number of Student Teachers she has mentored over the years. Deservedly, having given in excess of thirty years to the teaching profession, Anne was presented with the Long Service Award from Oxfordshire County Council in 2008.

During her time at Peppard, numbers have ranged between 60 and 96 pupils and the school structure has changed to incorporate a fourth classroom. In 1996, the school celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary; it is now some 138 years old and remains at the heart of this community. We look forward to a continuing bright future for our school, its pupils, staff and extended families – and extend our sincere gratitude to Anne for giving our small school such wide horizons.

**The Governing Body**



If you had been enjoying a quiet stroll past the school recently, you may have been forgiven for thinking that you had been transported to a different continent. Maybe it was because of the African drumming emanating from within our walls during a visit from a team of professional drummers. The visiting artistes instructed the children in the art of, well frankly, making a lot of noise.

Each child had access to a drum of their own. In the case of some of our younger pupils the drums were bigger than they were! Gradually as the morning progressed, so did the skills of the children. Different techniques were introduced, for example using the heel of the hand or the finger tips to produce different tones. Eventually an amazing musical sound was produced with layers of rhythms built to good effect. A brilliant example of learning with fun!

The geographic theme continued in Highmoor class as the children worked on a variety of projects relating to India. In looking at Indian architectural and textile designs, the children have been designing their own repeating patterns and have learnt how to produce these, firstly using potato prints and then making their own stencils for printing. Focussing on pattern, the children carried these ideas into movement and explored their choreographic and dancing skills to create repeated sequences of dance; creating visual patterns. The children did well in their attempts to dance within a stylised Indian form.

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On continuing your walk on the common you may have noticed a number of unusual formations of leaves had appeared on the ground. This was the work of Springwood children who have been creating their own artworks using natural resources gathered from our beautiful environment. Their focus was the work of artist Andy Goldworthy, who specialises in working with natural products.

Just prior to our Harvest service many of the children decorated their wellies in preparation for the 'Wear Your Wellies to School Day'. If you were one of the congregation at the service you will have seen these marvellous creations. The theme of the service was entitled *Give poverty the boot*. I'm sure you will also be pleased to learn that there was a collection raising welcome funds for Farm Africa.

In September we, as a Church of England School, received an SIAS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools) Report. During her visit to the school Jenny Earp from the Diocese found that our school's Religious Education has a positive impact on pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. In addressing our parents, the report stated that '...children are happy, care for each other...' It also affirmed that their children are instilled with moral values right from the start of their time at the school. 'Older pupils, in particular, show a well-developed awareness of moral values and social concern'.

It is always good to see our neighbours from the local community at our services. This fact was endorsed by one of our children who was quoted in the report as saying that she felt 'peaceful, relaxed and tranquil' and another child who expressed his appreciation of the adults who attended.

**Rosie Clinkard**

## Friends of Peppard School

We had a great turn out at the annual Lantern Evening with a barbecue, mulled wine, toffee apples, games and face painting. It ended in the children processing around the common with their carved vegetable lanterns, singing harvest songs. A bi-weekly cake stall is also being introduced to raise money for FOPS and to give the children a treat on Friday afternoons!

We are looking forward to a busy end of term with our Christmas Fair on Saturday, 5th December from 12.30-14.30. Everyone is welcome. There will be a barbecue, mulled wine, handmade gifts, children's games, a cake stall, face painting, children's crafts, mix your own potions stall, tombola, pony rides, a truly fabulous raffle, and, of course, no Christmas Fair would be complete without a visit to Santa's Grotto. Also on sale will be the brilliant school calendar and tea towel.

We will be hosting a quiz night in January 2010 - all details will be on the FOPS page of the Peppard School website: [www.peppardprimary.co.uk](http://www.peppardprimary.co.uk)

We would love to welcome local residents and readers of Peppard News to our events so please keep an eye on the Parish Notice board outside the school, or contact the FOPS team via Peppard School on 01491 628354 or email Office.3205@peppard.oxon.sch.uk

Many thanks to the FOPS committee and all the parents for their continued support and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Anne Jarvis for everything that she has brought to Peppard School over the last 20 years and to wish her great happiness in her future activities. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Nowell as the new head teacher in January.

**Antonia Rolph, Chair**

## Peppard Mother & Toddler Group

The last session before Christmas will be Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009 and we will re-open on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010. The group isn't just for those with toddlers, we welcome people with newborn babies right up to school age. In fact, some of those who first started coming as newborn babies are still with us three years later!

For more information about the group please contact Emma Dag on 0118 9242 821

**Emma Dag**

## Sonning Common Baby & Toddler Group

We are a small, friendly, parent-led group that meets every Wednesday morning (10.00-12.00) in Christ the King church hall on Sedgewell Road. We welcome parents, grandparents and carers with children from birth to pre-school age. Every week we offer a different selection of toys for the children to play with: play-doh, role-play toys, jigsaws, books, colouring, cars and ride-on toys to name but a few. We also offer a weekly craft activity for the budding David Hockney or Tracey Emin! A half-time snack for the children of fruit and a biscuit and tea and coffee for the adults are included in the fee. Everyone helps to clear up at the end of the session and we finish with a hearty singing session. It is a good opportunity to meet other parents in the area and for your child to make friends and play in a relaxed atmosphere. Please do drop in to see us!

We follow the Sonning Common school term calendar. Fees are £20 per family per term or £2.50 per session (the first session is free). Please contact Alison on 9721131 or Nikki on 9724241 if you would like further information.

**Alison Howson**

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# The Councils

## District Councillor's Report

### Waste Collection

We are now one of the most efficient councils in the country for the collection of recyclable waste. Over 70% of our waste is recycled which is a massive improvement. Prior to the scheme our recycling rate for the previous year was around 31%.

We have just won the '2009 Best Green Direct Mail' award for our leaflet on the Waste Collection Service explaining the new service which came out in the spring.

For more information see:

[www.greenawards.co.uk/home](http://www.greenawards.co.uk/home)

### Councillor Terry Buckett

It is with great sadness I heard of the death of Councillor Terry Buckett MBE. From 1999 to 2003, I was one of the District Councillors in Henley so had the opportunity to work closely with him over many years. He was a decent man and worked tirelessly for his community. In many respects he was the human face of the Henley Residents Group and the one who kept them planted in reality and common sense. He will be missed by Councillors and officers on all sides of the political spectrum.

### Bishopswood Sports Ground

On 7<sup>th</sup> October the application for planning permission for a new sports pavilion, restaurant/café and bar was approved by the District Council. Details of the planning permission can be found on the SODC website and the planning reference number is P08/E0440.

### Proposed reduction in costs by £1,000,000

It's now a year since we combined the strategic teams of both South Oxfordshire District Council and the Vale of the White Horse District Council. Although this was not the first time two District Councils had merged their services together, it was the first to be run by two different political groups. Effectively both councils are independent of each other but they now share the same set of officers.

In the first year the strategic director level was merged, saving SODC over £400,000 a year. We are now looking at the next level of management and we are intent on

## Parish Council

Chairman: Nick Launders  
01491 628243

Parish Clerk: Barbara Marston  
01491 684188

Website: [www.rppc.org.uk](http://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.

merging these functions with a projected saving of over £1,000,000. We will still provide the same levels of service and hopefully an improved service but we will be able to do this more efficiently.

**Paul Harrison**

### Saving Your Red Telephone Kiosks

SODC is asking Parish Councils and Councillors to have their say on proposals to protect traditional red phone boxes, by allowing towns and villages to adopt them. Some 47 telephone kiosks have been identified in British Telecom's (BT) latest proposals.

BT is looking to introduce the 'Adopt a Kiosk' scheme, so that local councils adopt their distinctive red telephone kiosks and take on maintenance costs.

The initiative follows BT's payphone removal programme last year. At the time, the Council objected to the removal of 35 out of 50 payphones after feedback from residents raised objections to the loss of these community lifelines.

The Secretary of State has decided that the red telephone box by Peppard School does not meet the criteria for listing.

#### What does adoption mean?

- Adoption of the red kiosks would come at an initial £1 fee.

- The telephony service found within the telephone boxes would be **removed** if the kiosks **are** adopted
- The maintenance costs would have to be met by the Town or Parish Council
- Once adopted the red kiosk (the structure itself) will remain
- The status of any boxes that are grade II listed is not being challenged

#### Find out more

To find out more and have your say on these proposals, please visit

[www.southoxon.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/haveyoursay)

### Dog Bins

In response to requests from parishioners and to help solve the ever increasing nuisance of dog fouling in public places, the Parish Council have arranged the siting of two new dog bins. These are located at:

- 1) The Wyfold Lane entrance to Carlings Orchard (opposite the Unicorn PH)
- 2) Far left corner (opposite the Sports Pavilion) of the Peppard Cricket Club ground, near the lane.

**Ilse Eve, Councillor, RPPC**

### OCC Report

The Department for Transport has requested all highway authorities to review speed limits on A and B roads and implement changes by 2011. Accordingly, OCC officers carried out an initial assessment of the existing speed limits (taking account of the guidelines). Any potential changes were considered by the Speed Management Reference Group, an advisory group comprising five OCC members, together with representatives of the Thames Valley Police traffic management team, prior to being put forward for informal consultation. Part of the proposal was to raise the speed limit at the top of Peppard Hill on the B481 to 40mph. I have since been approached by a number of local residents who are very concerned about this and I am putting forward their views.

Oxfordshire County Council has been required by the Government to make savings of £60 million and all members are presently engaged in the knotty problem of protecting front line services and finding further efficiency savings.

**Councillor Carol Viney**



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# Snippets

## Local Pub Review The Cherry Tree

I don't go to restaurants often but, when I do, it is because I want something I can't or don't want to cook myself or fancy eating something from my husband's long list of dislikes. We both cook (despite his long list) so both our demands and our standards are high. We went to the Cherry Tree in Stoke Row with friends some months ago and took advantage of their £13.50 lunchtime menu. We were all very impressed having enjoyed an excellent lunch. Our friends returned not long afterwards and reported an extremely disappointing experience and vowed they will never return. Perhaps Richard Coates was on holiday or ill or left it to a trainee – we can only speculate. Intrigued, we decided to give it another try so returned for lunch last week (now £13.95).

I thoroughly enjoyed mine and felt it was up to the standard I had expected. I chose a spicy pork salad followed by wild boar sausages – very rich, so not to everyone's taste, but served with interesting mashed potatoes, it worked for me. My husband, however, was disappointed: he had fishcakes followed by mussels - two of his favourites. He thought the proportion of potato to fish in the fishcakes was far too high and he found the steamed mussels rather tasteless even though they were served with a yummy sauce. Now to be fair, I cook a pretty mean moules marinière myself so perhaps he has been a bit spoilt. The answer, I think, lies in what you choose. Our experience is that the Cherry Tree does either very good or not good at all – what it doesn't do is mediocre.

The service, by the way, is very friendly if a little haphazard. We got the impression that training the waiting staff isn't a priority.

**A Contributor**

## Christmas Carols at The Unicorn

Come and join All Saints' Choir and Friends for carols at The Unicorn on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 20.00 hosted by new landlords, Paul and Jane. Everyone welcome.

**Isobel Brooker**  
01491 628027

## Lions 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Run

Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club, 10K Run, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 at 10.30.

Please support the principal beneficiary of this event – Bishopswood Special School.

Entry form available from [www.lions-gwd.org.uk](http://www.lions-gwd.org.uk)

**Jon Solman**  
0118 9471970

## Drug Awareness!

Local people have come across 'Cannabis smoking tote cans' discarded in some lanes in the Parish. These seem to be Red Bull cans adapted into a type of pipe and used for smoking Cannabis. If you should come across any of these, please would you let the local Police know where and when you saw them. They can be contacted on: 0845 8505 505 or at Sonning Common Police Station in Lea Road.

## The Red Lion

Congratulations to Graham Martin, the Red Lion's landlord, who organised an evening of racing on his birthday and raised £290 for the Sue Ryder Care Hospice.

**Jennifer Smith**

## Mrs Beryl Warwick

*An edited version of Judith Howles' Tribute at Beryl's funeral at All Saints' Church on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009.*

Four years ago Beryl wrote an account of her early years. 'My entry into this world is recorded in an old exercise book in which my mother noted the important events of the day. Thus the entry for Easter Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 1914 reads as follows: 'Church collection 6d, Baby born 4.30 p.m. 12 eggs.' When I was 6 weeks old it suddenly dawned on my parents that my birth had not been registered. So my father set off for the nearest small town, realising when he got there that he didn't know what my name was to be. His solution was to give me my mother's name, Bertha, and that of a distant cousin of hers, Millicent. My mother ignored both names and decreed that my name was Beryl, and for the past 91 years that is how I have been known.'

Beryl's Methodist uncle wanted her to be a missionary but Beryl decided instead to marry Ralph. They met at work and married in 1938. After military service on Malta, Ralph returned and the family settled at Highclere in Blounts Court Road in 1949. They had three children, Hugh, Ian and Alison.

Beryl played a full part in the community and Church. She sang in the church choir and for a time ran the Junior Choir with Joan Openshaw. She played the piano for Sunday School and the organ for the Congregational and Stoke Row Chapels. She was a lifelong member of the Mothers' Union and longstanding member of the Women's Institute.

Beryl had a talent for listening and many have gone to her with their concerns. She had a calm and comforting presence. But she was also interesting to talk with about a lifetime of experiences and her much-loved books, especially Dickens.

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# Our Village

## Kingwood Common Grazing Project

The proposal to introduce grazing and fencing to the common in order to better manage the open glades has attracted a large amount of attention over the past few months. Due consideration of all comments is being made, particularly those that have raised concerns about the proposal. However, it is important to point out that there is a large amount of support for the proposal, often going unreported.

A balance has to be found between the need to manage the open glades for the benefit of wildlife, and the need to maintain access to the Common. Finding this balance is a difficult task and unfortunately it is proving impossible to find a scheme which balances these needs and meets with unanimous approval.

Information about the advantages and disadvantages of the different options for managing the open glades on Kingwood Common, and the consultation process are available at [www.nettlebed-commons.org](http://www.nettlebed-commons.org). If you do not have access to the internet and would like to receive paper copies of these documents please contact me on 01491 642001 or by letter to Warburg Nature Reserve, Bix Bottom, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 6BL.

**Jenni Hignett, Project Officer**

## Proposed Enclosure of Kingwood Common

A proposal by the Commons Conservators to enclose Kingwood Common with a three kilometre long fence, interspersed with 23 gates, to enclose six cows for four months of the year, has provoked opposition from a number of residents. It is proposed that the cows will keep the woodland glades open but Kingwood Common covers a large area, of which the glades form only a very small part. To enclose the whole common for the sake of these glades does not make sense to us. We believe that the fact that there will be cows on the Common will deter many people from continuing to use it: livestock can be unpredictable particularly when there are dogs around.

At a recent meeting the Parish Council voted to request that the Conservators find alternative solutions and concerned residents have got together to form the Kingwood Common Preservation Group. The group has a website:

[www.kingwoodcommonpreservationgroup.co.uk](http://www.kingwoodcommonpreservationgroup.co.uk) and can be contacted by e-mail at [opposeenclosure@yahoo.com](mailto:opposeenclosure@yahoo.com)

**Ann Pearce,  
Membership Co-ordinator**

## News from The Library

With the approach of Christmas, the Library tends to get quieter as people are too busy to read. To get the children from under your feet, there will be Saturday storytimes with a seasonal flavour throughout December and on 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 10.00. *Rhymetimes* will continue for the under 3s (and older siblings if necessary!) on the first and third Mondays of the month (7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December, 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January, and 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> February).

We are grateful to Andrew from the Children's Centre for his help with these.

We are planning a special children's storytime in the week before Christmas. Places will be limited, so get in touch with the Library for more details.

We have held several successful Internet Taster Sessions and Family History Days over the past year. Please let Library staff know if you would be interested in these in the future.

The Library will close for the holiday period on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 13.00, and not open again until Saturday January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 09.30. We'd like to wish all our Library users a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

For more information about any Library activities, call in at the Library in Grove Road, or phone 0118 9722448

**Rosemary Dunstan**

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2009

Once again Peppard, Greys and Stoke Row have contributed superbly to the RBL 2009 Poppy Appeal with the total collected being £3,569.04. The area being very widespread means many of the collectors have great distances to cover - not for them easy streets!

My sincere thanks go to everyone who was involved this year, without all their help we wouldn't be able to support the Appeal so brilliantly.

**Penny Harvey  
Hon. Poppy Appeal Organiser**

## Duckingham Palace

Have you seen the grand refurbished Duckingham Palace on Widmore Pond? Using his boatbuilding skills, Dave Brownjohn built the original Palace and gave it a new lease of life recently, funded by Sonning Common Parish Council. Living nearby, he has looked after Widmore Pond for over twenty years and his wife, Sheila, cares for the waterfowl and feeds them throughout the winter.

**Pat Hughes**



*Widmore Pond*

## Sonning Common Health Walks

Want to get fit in 2010?

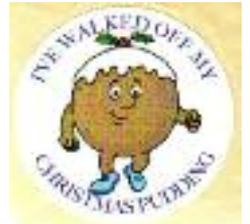
Join our special 'Walk Off Your Christmas Pudding' Walk on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> January at 14.00.

Starting from Sonning Common Health Centre, there will be a choice of a three mile or a five mile walk. Everyone is welcome on this free walk! For more information contact Chris Brook on 0118 924 2515, or email her at [chris@sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk](mailto:chris@sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk)

Sonning Common Health Walks continue daily walks until Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December and then start again - with a new timetable - on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. For details of the walks, and the new timetable, take a look at our website:

[www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk](http://www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk)

**Chris Brook**



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## FISH

The FISH bus, in its gleaming mustard-yellow, is a common sight in and around the local area. One of the most popular trips is the monthly pub lunch outing. It is so popular that often a particular trip gets fully booked. The message is try to book up early and if you need to cancel, even at the last minute, please call the office and we can try to arrange to fill your seat.

Remember that we run a regular bus most weeks for shopping to both Reading and Henley. FISH is there to help all of our community. Our Constitution states that we will endeavour to help those in need because of age, mental or physical disability, or poverty. Sometimes we hear of older people who mistakenly think that, as they have a car of their own, they are not entitled or should not be using the FISH bus. We often run the bus, particularly into Reading, less than full – we welcome all our qualifying friends from the local area to use the bus, irrespective of whether you still drive a car (no petrol, no parking costs and door to door service). Most shopping trips qualify for Bus Pass use!

To book bus trips or request a volunteer driver to take you to a medically related appointment, call 0118 9723986 or pop in to our office in the Sonning Common Village Hall - someone is there to help Monday to Friday from 09.30 -11.30; the phone is often busy, so leave a message and someone will call you back.

**Phil Clark, Chairman**



Over the last few weeks, I have set the Speed Indicator Device (SID) up at various points and different times of the day along the Stoke Row Road at the request of several concerned residents. I am pleased to say that the percentage of speeding vehicles was very low. However, those speeding were mainly locals so we urge you to watch your speed!

We have had a few burglaries in the rural areas over the past few weeks. In re-

sponse, we have increased our proactive patrolling in the burglary hotspots as well as conducting Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) operations in order to gather intelligence on vehicles used in crime, and supporting crime reduction initiatives. If you see any suspicious people or vehicles in your area, please do not hesitate to inform us.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Police surgery outside Peppard Stores which will be running on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009 between 15.30 and 16.15 hours.

**PCSO Lisa Wallman**

Sonning Common Police Office

[lisa.wallman@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lisa.wallman@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

## Annapurna Trek: Onwards and Upwards!

It wasn't the *hardest* challenge I've ever done (that was dog sledging in Lapland) or the *longest* trek I've ever done (that was the trek to Everest Base Camp), or the *most painful* on the feet (that was the Summer Solstice Marathon in Iceland) – but I've never before climbed so many steps in one day!

We camped the first night at 1,641m, and our next camp at the end of Day 2 was to be at Tara Top at 2,800m. The steps started immediately: it was a warm day with a blue cloudless sky so we were pleased to enter the clouds to climb in shade. We stopped every now and then to give our muscles a rest, or to let some heavily-laden porters pass, or to take a photo, but still the steps went on. After about 4 hours climbing we had a picnic lunch in a relatively level place, but after lunch it was onwards and upwards again, until finally we got to Tara Top, with a stunningly breathtaking view of the Annapurna range. We could even see distant peaks which we were told were in Tibet! After a rather chilly night we were up before 05.30 to see the sun rise over the mountains: first a faint glow of amber, deepening gradually to orange, until finally the golden orb appeared. I can well understand why primitive people used to worship the sun.



*Rosemary Dunstan*

We had a day of 'a little bit up, a little bit down' (to quote our Nepalese guides), and then came the day when it was all down – hour upon hour of steps again to take us to the valley floor and the banks of a river. I think everyone's legs were trembling with tiredness that evening! My admiration really goes to the porters, who coped with moving camping equipment, food and luggage up and down the same steps that we struggled with – but far quicker!

The whole purpose of my exertions was to raise money for the Institute of Cancer Research, which is celebrating its centenary this year. I'd like to thank all the people who have already been so generous with their sponsorship – and it's not too late to donate! You can give by cash or cheque payable to *Institute of Cancer Research* or online through [www.justgiving.com/rosemary-dunstan](http://www.justgiving.com/rosemary-dunstan).

## Peppard War Memorial Hall

The Trustees of Peppard War Memorial Hall are delighted to announce that a new kitchen is to be fitted at the Hall week commencing 14th December. This will update the Hall facilities considerably and will allow for those wishing to hire the Hall to cater for events.

If you are interested in booking the Hall please contact Maggie Brakspear on 0118 972 4751 or visit:

[www.peppardwarmemorialhall.btik.com](http://www.peppardwarmemorialhall.btik.com)

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# Our Churches

<b>All Saints'</b> Church of England  <a href="http://www.allsaintspeppard.org.uk">www.allsaintspeppard.org.uk</a>	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 Priory Copse

Occasionally I get out a book of Lady Marion Fraser's Piano pieces, Grade Three or thereabouts, and try once again to master them without much success. But when I use the book I remember a lovely story she told. She was teaching the piano to a seven-year-old. As Christmas approached she asked him which carol he would like to learn to play. 'The one about the three wee kings,' he said.

Soon we'll be celebrating again the coming of Christ into the world. Why do we celebrate this particular person?

For some he provides the great example of living. He shows what it means 'to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' But examples can be quite dispiriting. I despair of ever reaching Lady Marion Fraser's standard of piano playing.

For me, Christ is rather the one who reveals to me the unconditional love of God, so that I know that I am accepted as I am with all my failings, bad piano playing being only one of many!

Fortunately there are many good musicians around Peppard and they'll be contributing to our worship and celebrations of Christmas and, as Christ shows us, everyone is invited to the celebrations. We may even sing 'The three wee kings'.

The Rector joins me in wishing you a very happy Christmas.

**Barry Olsen**

## Hidden Talents at Harvest

A good gathering of supporters from All Saints' celebrated harvest with a wonder-

ful lunch in Peppard War Memorial Hall which was followed by some excellent entertainment. The programme was very varied and featured many young people as well as some not quite so young. The event which seems to improve year on year revealed much hidden talent and the Junior Choir Mistress may never be seen in the same light again! It was good, old fashioned fun.

## Medals and Ribbons

Talking of success and the Junior Choir, Stephanie Franklin and Catherine Hill were presented with their Royal School of Church Music Bronze medals and ribbons at Christ Church in Oxford on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Trained by Junior Choir Mistress, Rebecca Bell, the achievement should not be underrated. Training the voice is one thing, singing solo in front of an examiner takes courage. Both girls have done really well.

## Cards with a Difference

All Saints' is a very attractive and ancient village church, parts of which date back to Norman times. There are some double sided cards available showing a snow dusted image of the church on the front and a reproduction of a watercolour on the back. These cards (with envelopes) make really good Christmas cards at 50p each. Call Adrienne on 01491 629 254 for more information and supplies.

## A Good Sing Song

The choir is already practising for the Christmas Services and, in addition, joined by various friends, they will again

be leading the community singing at the Unicorn Pub on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 20.00 onwards. This is by kind invitation of the new landlords, Paul and Jane, and is bound to include many of the old favourite carols. Do come along, it should be very enjoyable.

## Christmas Services

Advent is the time in the church calendar leading up to Christmas. Prior to the Christmas decorations going up there will be the traditional candelabra on display with an additional candle being lit each week. A special Advent Carol service will be held at 18.30 on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December when an augmented choir will treat us to carols old and new. The School will be holding two Christmas Christingle Services at the church on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December. On Christmas Eve there will be the ever popular Nativity Play at 17.30 followed by Holy Communion at 23.00 to see us into Christmas Day itself. The day then starts with a quiet service of said Holy Communion at 09.00 before the traditional service of Seven Lessons and Carols at 11.00.

**Adrienne Heriot**

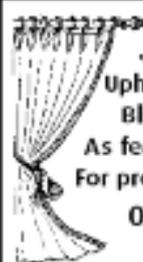
## A Great Result!

There was another exceptional performance by the team representing All Saints' Church when they took part in this year's Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) Ride or Stride fund raising event on 12<sup>th</sup> September. A brilliant sunny day encouraged the team to visit many different churches, either on bike or foot. By the end of the day a total of £2,328 had been raised from sponsors. Half of this total will be used on fabric maintenance at All Saints', and the other half will go into the OHCT fund. Since April 2008 the Trust has distributed £322,000 to Oxfordshire county churches in urgent need of repair. This charity really does make a difference.

**Ian Fraser**

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 Revd Chris Bester 0118 972 3418  
 Revd Francis Andrews 0118 972 2354  
[chris.bester@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.bester@btinternet.com)

During the month of Remembrance we remembered all those who had gone before us, especially those who had given their lives in the service of their country. And we recalled the words of Jesus, 'Greater love than this no man has, that he should lay down his life for his friends'. We thanked God for the loving sacrifice which so many made so that we could live our lives in freedom and peace, and we prayed for their families whose grief never leaves them.

Now we enter the time of Advent, when we look forward to the great feast of Christmas. We can so easily overlook the importance of this time in our rush and

hurry to ensure everything is bought and wrapped and our larders and cellars are fully stocked.

Advent is the beginning of the word 'adventure', a journey of excitement and discovery. It is a retrospective look at the hope and expectations which the People of God had at the time when the Messiah was so eagerly awaited. When would he come? What would he be like? Would he be a great warrior king to rid the country of the invading Romans?

The birth of Jesus comes as a great surprise to many who had such expectations, because he comes in such a very simple, homely and human manner that

it is difficult to accept that this little helpless baby will be the one to transform human history.

Advent is time to re-adjust and re-examine our understanding of what it means to be fully human; because it is such a great compliment to us from God that He came to join us in our broken and fractured humanity, in order to invite us to join Him in His divinity.

So our preparation for Christmas during Advent should include a re-evaluation of ourselves as human beings so that we can come to see how greatly enhanced our humanity is because God has come to share it with us.

**Chris Bester**



Revd Barry Kirk  
 0118 972 4519  
[www.springwater.org.uk](http://www.springwater.org.uk)

Another year, another Christmas to enjoy with family and friends; It is also a time to reflect on the true message of this season – the birth of Jesus over 2000 years ago, an event which changed the world for ever. Most of us are familiar with the Christmas stories – Jesus born in a stable 'because there was no room at the inn', the shepherds in the fields, and the wise men on their camels arriving from the East with their gifts.

Have you ever wondered why educated men would drop everything to follow a star for hundreds of miles? You are not alone: there has been a great deal of speculation about the star that led them to the town of Bethlehem. What does this

star represent? Firstly, Hope. The Bible tells us that 'God loved us and through His grace He gave us ... hope ... that continues for ever'. This star didn't merely lead the wise men to their destination; it points us all to the Hope of the world. Secondly, Joy. In the book of Matthew we read that 'When they saw the star, they rejoiced with ... great joy' – the kind of joy that lifts us above our circumstances and gives out to others. And thirdly, Guidance. The star united and brought together shepherds and philosophers, rich and poor, intellectual and illiterate around Jesus.

It is this hope, joy and guidance that the church is bringing to the war torn country of Liberia in West Africa, where our recently retired minister, Phil Cheale, spent so many years as a missionary.

Earlier this year Phil and a team from the Reading Christian Network of churches spent two weeks in Liberia helping to train three hundred local pastors. Through an RCN initiative, 'Sponsor a Pastor', they were able to give bibles and other books to these pastors to help them take the God News to their people. In October we were greatly blessed by the visit here of Rev Philipson Nagbe from Monrovia who pastors 16 churches in Liberia.

There'll be a warm welcome to our Nativity Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December, the Carol Service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> and our Christmas Day Service, all at 10.30.

We wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas, and a year ahead filled with hope, joy and guidance for every step of the way.

**Chris Mills**

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# Clubs and Societies

## 1<sup>st</sup> Peppard Guides

The big news this term was the 'Big Gig' at Wembley Arena – a pop concert staged exclusively for Girl Guides. As I mentioned last time, this is the first year we have had tickets. Wow! What an event ... 80,000 screaming Girl Guides, with fireworks/laser light shows to enhance the music provided by the most current artists in the pop charts. The show started with Pixie Lott and about two hours, and numerous singers and groups later, finished with Scouting For Girls who had everyone up and dancing – even us Guide Leaders!

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November at All Saints' Church we staged our own (somewhat smaller) recital to thank everyone who has helped us this year and raised funds for charity. In addition, we would like to say a big thank you now to our supporters and helpers, for without people like you, Mel and I wouldn't be able to do half the things we do for our guides. Thank you.

**Amanda Coull**

## Christmas is Coming to Wyfold

The weeks are trotting by, and very soon the 'season to be jolly' will be upon us again. There will be a festive atmosphere as you drive - or walk - up the hill through the cold dark woods on the night of our Christmas Celebration. Local people, friends and supporters of Wyfold Riding for the Disabled (RDA) are welcome to join us for our annual fundraising event, outside in the fresh night air, at the stables. There will be mince pies, mulled wine, Christmas carols by candlelight, things to buy, and activities for visitors of all ages. We hope to see you there on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 17.00-19.00. For information or to enquire about becoming a volunteer, please call 0845 450 7017.

**Alison Stodolnic**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Kidmore End Brownies

The Brownies have been very busy last half term working towards their 'Out and About' badge. We have made the most of the mild autumn to go orienteering at Dinton Pastures where the girls were learning to read and set a map with a compass. We have also been looking at road and water safety, and keeping safe when out at night. We had a visit from PCSO Wallman who kindly came to talk to the Brownies about safety on Halloween and Fireworks night.

This term, up until Christmas, we will be working towards the Craft badge. Brownies will be making decorations out of wood, making Christmas gift tags and decorating biscuits. The term will end with a carol concert for the residents of Orchard Lodge on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

After Christmas we will be focussing on the 'Adventure 100' badge which is full of challenges to help us celebrate 100 years of Guiding.

For further information please contact Jessica Higson: 0118 972 3026.

## Peppard Revels Film Club

The first film night was on December 4<sup>th</sup> with *A Fish Called Wanda*. The next three films will be on Fridays 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 19<sup>th</sup> February and 12<sup>th</sup> March. We'll be announcing the titles once the votes from the first night have been counted. If you are not already on our emailing list let Geoff Pitcher have your e-mail address – [geoff\\_pitcher@mac.com](mailto:geoff_pitcher@mac.com). Put the dates in your diary now – don't forget that for just £10 you get supper, a glass of wine as well as the film.

Peppard Revels Film Club Committee - [www.peppardrevels.org.uk](http://www.peppardrevels.org.uk) e-mail: [peppardrevels@mac.com](mailto:peppardrevels@mac.com)

## Peppard Bowls Club

Members enjoyed the annual dinner at Badgemore Golf Club where the Cups and Trophies were awarded to the winners of this season's competitions by Chairman, David Jennings and Captain, Elaine Roberts. This was the last event for this year. The 'green' team are now working on the green for next season, which will start with an Open Day in April for members and prospective new members; date to be announced later.

**Betty Freeman**



*Colin Benger, Penny Russell and Bill Outram receiving the Ron Watts Triple cup*

## Circle Dancing

If you haven't tried it yet, why not make Circle Dancing your New Year's Resolution? Join us on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January at Christ the King Hall, 15.30-17.00. Some people think it's a variation on line dancing – but it's completely different! It is perhaps best described as international folk dance; with a special flavour. The music can be fast, slow, with haunting melodies or exciting rhythms; the steps can be tricky or as easy as walking. You can join in, or sit out (though hardly anyone does). Once you've got the bug you'll go miles to ensure you can keep circle dancing. So come along – you won't regret it. For more information phone Ros 01491 874220.

**Ros Jennings**

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## Peppard Flat Earth Society

We thought you might like to know some of the exploits of the Flat Earth Society.

For instance, we started the Friends of Peppard School, and over the years provided numerous Committee members, Chairmen and School Governors. We raised the funds, designed and built the Staff Room (now the office), the covered way and paved the playground. We started the Rotherfield Boys Football Club (now Rotherfield United) and acquired the football ground.

After contractors had built the Parish Room at All Saints', we re-erected the War Memorial. We provided the Church clock-winder, his assistant and his deputy-assistant; posts which modern technology have rendered redundant.

Our membership has spread north and south as far as the Antipodes. But perhaps our greatest contributions have been; providing the school with 26 children, supporting The Red Lion with, at today's prices, £96,096 and doing dozens of things for the village too numerous to mention or recollect!

**Jack Stanger**

## Sonning Common Judo Club

The Bushido Zazen held its annual Junior Judo Championship at High Wycombe Judo Club on the 18th October. Sixteen students from Komurakwai, Sonning Common Judo Club came home with six golds, three silvers and seven bronze. Very well done to all who came and congratulations to all our medal winners.

We meet in Kidmore End Memorial Hall on Thursday evenings. Come and join us. Members range from 5 to 55 years of age. The classes are as follows: 5-8yrs; 8-11yrs; 11-16yrs and Seniors 16+

Contact Jim Lawson on 01491 872294 or 07767 640215 for more information.

**Norma Lawson**

## Peppard WI

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October our members worked tirelessly to create attractive displays of craftwork, cookery, WI literature and our archives which, they hoped, would interest any visitors popping in to our Open Afternoon.

After a snatched lunch we stood with bated breath, as 14.00 approached.

We need not have worried, the hall was soon buzzing with happy voices.

'Look, my Mum won the competition that year!'

'I didn't think Granny would ever have stood up to give a vote of thanks!'

Those were just two exclamations overheard.



*The Peppard WI Open Morning*

We would like to thank everyone who came on that afternoon and hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. We congratulate all those who walked away with the attractive raffle prizes, generously donated by local businesses and we welcome those ladies who showed an interest in joining us in the near future. You all helped to make the last of

our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations an afternoon we will not easily forget.

**Irene Lindsay, President**  
0118 9478392

## Rotherfield United Football Club

A drive to encourage Under-6s to join the Club has proved very successful. Boys and Girls are taking part and having a lot of fun.

**Graham Day**

e-mail: Grabags99@yahoo.co.uk

## Sonning Common & Peppard Table Tennis Club

We have teams across all divisions in the local league. The A team in Division 1 have yet to record a victory but they are still hopeful of breaking their duck. The B team are third in Division 2 and the C team are currently fourth in Division 3 with both having a reasonable chance of promotion this season.

In Division 4, the D team are in a relegation position but do have matches in hand. The E team are hovering dangerously close to the Division 5 relegation zone, but with Tony House and new recruit Mark Corbett in the side they should be all right. The F team, meanwhile, are firmly amongst the promotion chasers in Division 5 with Jacek Kryzanowski, Derek Brook-Wavell, Dave Aust, Jim McClure and Anthony Reeve all playing well. Finally the new look G team in Division 6 recently managed their first point with new players, David and Adam Parks, fitting in nicely alongside Michael Legg and Albert Shephard.

The club's junior coaching sessions continue on Monday evenings at the Peppard War Memorial Hall from 17.00-19.00

**Nigel Maltby, Club Secretary**

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DECEMBER	
See last issue or website for more December dates	
Sat 5	S C Pre-School/Xmas Fair/SC Vill Hall/10.00-12.00
Sat 12	Help the Heroes Sale/SC Village Hall/10.00-12.00
Wed 16	2 <sup>nd</sup> KE Brownies/Carol Concert/Orchard Lodge
Tue 22	The Unicorn/All Saints' Choir Carols/20.00
JANUARY	
Sat 2	Storytime/SC Library/10.00
Sun 3	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Mon 4	Rhymetimes Baby & Toddlers/SC Library/10.00 FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office
Tue 5	Peppard Mother & Toddler Group term starts Peppard School terms starts
Sat 9	Health Walks/Walk off Xmas pud/SC Surgery/14.00
Sun 10	10K Run for Bishopswood Spec Sch/lions-gwd.org.uk
Mon 11	Mobile Library/see below for time & place
Tue 12	Citizens' Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491578267
Wed 13	WI/Mitford Sisters/Mem Hall/14.30 Hort Soc/Talk Richard Bisgrove/C Edge/19.30
Mon 18	Rhymetimes Baby & Toddlers/SC Library/10.00
Wed 20	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00
Thu 21	FISH Pub lunch/11.30/details FISH office
Fri 22	Peppard Film Club/ Mem Hall/19.15
Mon 25	Mobile Library/see below for time & place
FEBRUARY	
Mon 1	Rhymetimes Baby & Toddlers/SC Library/10.00
Mobile Library – Peppard School 11.45 – 11.55   Green Gym: Robin Howles – 0118 9723528   FISH Office: 0118 9723986 (Mon-Fri, 09.30-11.30)	
Health Walks: Chris Brook – 0118 9242515   Peppard Lunch Club: Sally Longhurst 0118 9722808	

MARCH	
Mon 1	FISH Garden Centre Outing/13.30/details FISH office
Sun 7	Circle Dancing/Christ the King/15.30-17.00
Mon 8	Mobile Library/see below for time & place
Tue 9	Citizens' Advice Bureau/SC Surgery/01491578267
Wed 10	WI/91 <sup>st</sup> AGM/Mem Hall/14.30 Hort Soc/Talk Lyn Miles/C Edge/19.30
Fri 12	Peppard Film Club/Mem Hall/19.15
Wed 17	Peppard Lunch Club/Mem Hall/12.00
Thu 18	FISH Pub lunch/11.30/details FISH office
Mon 22	Mobile Library/see below for time & place

**GARDEN WASTE**

Month	January		February		March	
	7 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Brown bin Garden waste</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

For Green (recycling) and Grey (non-recycling) bins please see SODC Calendars, which have been amended for some properties in the Parish. Food waste will be collected weekly. Phone: 03000 610610, or see [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk) or [www.PeppardNews.co.uk](http://www.PeppardNews.co.uk)

**CHURCH SERVICES**

All Saints' Church		
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		
Christmas Eve	18.00	Mass for Children
	21.00	'Midnight' Mass
Christmas Day	10.30	Family Mass
Springwater Congregational Church		
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30	Nativity Service
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30	Carol Service
Christmas Day	10.30	Christmas Day Service

The Peppard News team wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



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