

# SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

www.sonningcommonmagazine.org

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# FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

The month of celebration has arrived and often is a time for appreciating and thanking those around us. I have been given this opportunity through three messages received about the last magazine.

*"I just wanted to say thank you for putting the article about Nigel in the Sonning Common Magazine. It has achieved three things: More publicity for Brain Tumour Research, a donation from someone who read the article and, finally, a beautiful keepsake! I have a "memory box" which I fill with things for my two sons so they have mementos and information to remember their Dad by. The magazine will go in there."*

*"Thank you so much for including the article on our shop, written by Joan Grummant, in your magazine. We would like to send a copy to our HQ. Also, would it be possible to get a few more copies of the magazine to have on our coffee table in the shop?"*

*"I just wanted to thank you for including the superb article written by our home exchange partners in Spain. We skyped them this evening and showed them the front cover and article inside and will send them a copy. They were delighted. The magazine looks fantastic and is a real credit to you and the entire editorial team."*

While my enormous thanks are due to the editorial team, our graphic designer and the committee who work hard behind the scenes, the people who added to the charm of the last issue were residents. Perhaps in those quiet days after Christmas some of you will be inspired to provide yet more interesting articles.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2015.

*Diana*

Diana Pearman Editor

Email: [editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org](mailto:editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org)



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**SC** SONNING COMMON  
MAGAZINE

## MEET THE TEAM ...



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## Appeal to Driver

Village residents Colleen and Ben Paviour are appealing for the driver, who hit their black cat last month, to contact them. The incident took place opposite the car wash on Reades Lane, near the junction with Wood Lane, at just after 11.30pm on 3 October.

After witnesses came forward it is now known the man driving 4x4 vehicle returned to the spot to move the cat off the road with care. The Pavioirs now urge the individual to phone or email them on 07967 443 374 or colleen.paviour@gmail.com

Mrs Paviour said: "We are not at all angry and understand it could happen to anybody. We just want as much information as we can get about our cat's death and would be very grateful if he contacted us."

Contrary to reports in the local press which suggested the cat's death may be linked to the feline beheadings in the Tilehurst area it is now known 'Alfred Pushkin' was killed on impact with the vehicle. ●

# FIRST CAREERS FAIR AT CHILTERN EDGE

The school recently held their inaugural Careers Fair for year 9 and year 11 students. Local colleges attended to give information regarding A-levels and other courses available for those in Year 11 moving on after GCSE's next summer.

There were twenty-four exhibitors from local colleges, businesses and training providers ranging from retail to rail, hairdressing to hospitality, the Forces to civil aviation.

The event was attended by over 50% of Year 11 students with their parents, and more than a third of Year 9. A great turnout!

It was well received by both exhibitors and below are some comments from feedback by exhibitors and students:

"Excellent first event !Thanks for inviting us"  
(Exhibitor)

"Great to have a student helping me to set up"  
(Exhibitor)

"Very well organised, excellent facilities and wonderful refreshments" (Exhibitor)

"Do it again soon please!" (Exhibitor)

"Thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the students"  
(Exhibitor)

"It was well organised and covered all areas"  
(student)

"I think it went very well and I enjoyed it"  
(student)

"Very informative. It was great. Thank you!"  
(student)

Angela Adamson and Clare Biddis who organised the event were very pleased with the evening event - *'both of us agree that it was worth all the hard work to see the hall full of students and their parents, and to have the Year 10 students excited about coming along next year'* said Angela. ●



## 15TH ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK

The day before the start of the school half term holiday saw the whole school 15th annual sponsored walk take place. This year half of the proceeds raised will be for the benefit of the school and its students. The other half of the proceeds will be donated to a charity in memory of Martin Floyd, who sadly passed away at this time last year.

On Friday 24 October all students in Years 7 to 11 had the opportunity to take part in the sponsored walk. The route was planned by the PE Department and was very similar to last year's, with some tried and tested changes. The route used local, well-established footpaths and crossed a minimum number of roads, marshalled

throughout by staff, parent volunteers and governors.

Starting at school, the 10 mile walk took the students through some of the glorious countryside of South Oxfordshire via Busgrove Woods and Stoke Row.

Daniel Sadler, Headteacher, said 'despite the best efforts of the weather forecasters to dampen our spirits, the sponsored walk took place in almost perfect conditions. The event is not possible without teamwork, and grateful thanks go out to everyone involved—and especially to all of the students who were a credit to the school'. ●





# OXFORDSHIRE PLAY ASSOCIATION HAS A MISSION STATEMENT

**`To champion and to support the rights of all Children & Young People to have access to high quality inclusive play opportunities`**

**With that mission in mind a special free activity day was organised during the October half term holiday at the Bishopswood home of local football club Rotherfield United FC, who kindly donated the use of the ground for the day.**

We asked the organisers – Martin Gillett from Oxfordshire Play Association and Jo Vines from the Sonning Common Children's Centre - a few questions to find out how the event came about....

**Why was it held and whose idea was it?** We were originally going to work with SOHA (South Oxfordshire Housing Association) to provide a 'Street Play' event in Ashford Avenue and Pages Orchard. I met with SOHA and Jo from the Children's Centre to plan this and it just grew from there into a full blown Community Play & Activity Day. This was made possible with local support and because of free use of the Sports Ground. Thanks to Rotherfield Utd FC and funding from SOHA, Healthwatch and Cllr David Bartholomew.

**How many people came?** We estimate that around 500 people attended. This was really great and better than expected.

## **What type of activities were there?**

Tricky Trails Biking from Adventure Plus, Orinoco Scrapstore, using real tools (saws, drills) to make Bug Hotels and Bird Feeders with the Earth Trust, Body Zorbing from Vertigo Zorbing, PCSO's with a police car, Go Kart Party, Bouldering / Climbing Wall from Riverside, Fire Play with the Banbury Play Rangers, SOHA Treasure Hunt, Arts & Crafts with the Family Learning Service, Local Scouts group, Health Bus, Rainbow Childrens Centre, Healthwatch and OPA providing DIY face painting and Smoothie Bike

**Most popular activity?** because the entrance and ALL activities were FREE they were all popular!

## **What kind of feedback have you had?**

the most common feedback was that it was good to see an event like this in Sonning Common and parents loved because it was free. Parents loved the Smoothie Bike because it encouraged Physical Activity and Healthy Eating.

All in all this was a great 'Community' event giving children of all ages opportunities for art, craft and physical activity – all for free!

Over 500 children and parents or carers attended this very successful event and although the weather was not perfect, everyone had a great time. ●



## SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

### **GRANDPARENTS WEEK**

During October SCPS hosted their Grandparents week when children show off their classrooms and work. Donations for Royal British Legion were collected.

### **FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT**

Fourteen Year Six boys represented the school at the annual Chiltern Edge Partnership Football Tournament, held at Rotherfield Football Club. Ten teams took part with an excellent spirit and one of the SCPS teams finished a creditable

seventh, another, a victory over Shiplake. Congratulations to all boys involved and many thanks to the parents who came to support, transport, or to take photographs.

### **PIRATE WORKSHOP IN YEAR 2**

Traditionally during October, Year 2 experienced a fun-filled week learning about pirates! History off the Page visited the school for a Pirate workshop. The children made pirate puppets, watched a puppet show, learnt what

pirates were really like and enjoyed dressing up. Thanks to parents who created such amazing costumes.

### **MR BUTLER**

Pat Butler has been the caretaker at SCPS since 1973 and has seen thousands of pupils, staff and many headmasters, come and go over the years. Pat is deservedly retiring at the end of the year and everyone at the school would like to wish him the very best and hope he enjoys life in retirement.



## Brownies Remember

On a beautiful sunny morning on the 9 November, five young Brownies and their Brown Owl took part in the Remembrance Day parade in Caversham.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War and so the parade and the service, was particularly special.

2nd Kidmore End Brownie pack meet on Wednesday evenings at Christ the King Church Hall in Sedgewell Road. The Brownies have a full and very enjoyable session working towards their badges each week - playing games, making things, working in teams and finding out about the world around them.

Unfortunately the current Brown Owl - Helen Scarrott - will be leaving in February 2015 due to other commitments, and the pack is looking for a new leader. The girls very much enjoy Brownies and to ensure the future of the pack, (which started life in 1961!) the local Guiding Association are very keen to find someone who would like to take over.

If you, or anyone you know, is interested please contact Helen in the first instance by email as below.

[HelenScarrott@aol.com](mailto:HelenScarrott@aol.com)

# ARTS AWARD

Club SC is now offering its members the chance to take part in the Arts Award - similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Experts from print making to video production will work with members. As a taster session we decorated old classroom chairs found in the school's skip. Those who complete their bronze level will be taken on a trip to see Fame! at the Kenton Theatre. Sue Carson, Deputy Youth Leader is trained to deliver the course, funded by our umbrella organisation, Oxfordshire Youth.



## CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY REQUIRED

### Sonning Common Village Hall Management Committee

**Sonning Common residents - previous experience if possible to support the very busy and well-used Village Hall within the Community**

**The principle role of Chair encompasses:**

- The convening and Chairing of meetings
- Checking the Draft Minutes and monitoring the outcomes
- Initiating and/or writing letters as necessary
- Liaising with the Treasurer, Booking Agent and Cleaner (all in post.)

**The role of the Secretary**

- To minute meetings and circulate to Committee members
- Additionally he/she will fulfil the usual administrative duties
- Liaise with the Chairman.

**Additional Trustees would also be very welcome to join us.**

Duties are not onerous - up to 6 Committee meetings per year

The Management Committee is well supported by Philip Collings, Parish Clerk - who liaises with the Committee in the maintenance of the Hall.

We would be delighted to receive any statements of interest in any - or all - of these positions. Please post your application, with any relevant information of your choice and your contact details to:

**SCVHMC**  
**c/o Philip Collings**

**in the Parish Office Post-box in the front door of the Village Hall, Wood Lane.**







## NEXT TWINNING TRIP TO GUICHAINVILLE ST. LUC

From lunchtime Friday 12 June to late Sunday 14 June 2015. If you are interested in joining a group from Sonning Common for a 2 night stay in our twin village please contact [joquinton@gmail.com](mailto:joquinton@gmail.com)

The ability to host someone on a future return visit from the French is preferable.

# GREENSHOOTS GROWING LOCALLY



The Charity Greenshoots has been busy fundraising all this year through their Community Matters Scheme, with a view to enabling the whole charity to move entirely to Manor Farm, Peppard. Tokens were collected from customers in the Place to Eat restaurant during May, June and July this year and converted to a

donation from John Lewis for the Relocation Fund. The adults who attend Greenshoots are really excited at the prospect of everyone being on the same site. Heating for the warehouse is now their most important project to finish. All involved are extremely grateful for donations received. ●

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISER FOR MACMILLAN CANCER

On Sunday 19 October there was a very successful fund raising event organised by June Fisher and Linda Webb for Macmillan cancer. It consisted of an optional three mile walk followed by coffee and cake in the Sonning Common Village Hall. The turn out and weather was very good and June led a walk of about three miles walk around local footpaths and back to base for some very welcome refreshments.

There was a raffle as well as a cake sale and the entire event raised £399.20. Thanks are due to Jill and Fiona Moore who staffed the raffle, Jenny and Denise for the cake stall and Pauline and Chris who kept everyone topped up with tea and coffee. Thanks to John Lambourne for his sterling efforts.

Linda and June should be congratulated for all their fantastic fund raising over the years and the total now stands at about an amazing £1800. ●

# WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

## WINNERS OF THE VILLAGE SIGN COMPETITION

The first is Ken Evans (below left) and the second Colin Mather (below right) - with their designs for the Village Sign. They each received a £10 prize and the Sonning Common Primary School Art Club received a £20 voucher - all for their excellent entries in the competition. The committee is preparing a final design incorporating several different views of the village as shown in the design entries

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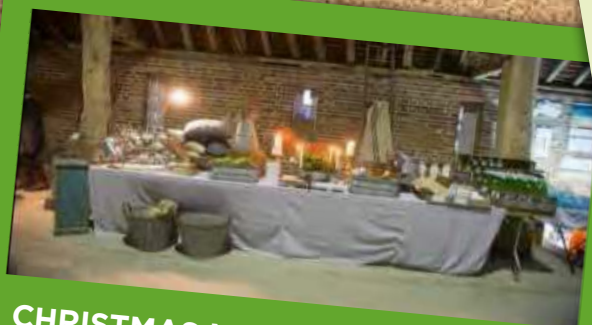
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## Nottakwire's Christmas Concerts VILLAGE HALL

Friday 12 December - 5pm  
Saturday 13 December - 2pm

Tickets, which include refreshments, have been on sale  
since 7 November

There may be some left - if you hurry!  
Call Liz and Graham on Tel. 0118 947 7302  
We look forward to seeing you.

## Club SC Needs volunteers

Wednesday and/or Thursday evenings  
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## Chiltern Edge School

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## More help needed to save Mrs Tiggy Winkle

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Contact Ben: [b.williams@pgr.reading.ac.uk](mailto:b.williams@pgr.reading.ac.uk)



## Royal British Legion Kidmore End Women's section

New members wanted please come and join us

**Batten House**

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Talks, Quiz, Raffle, Bring and Buy  
To raise funds for Benevolent Fund  
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## Christmas Day Lunch

TRADITIONAL HOME-COOKED TURKEY LUNCH WITH WINE.

**Sonning Common Village Hall**  
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## Sonning Common Annual Village Quiz

**FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2015**

at  
**SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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Start time: 7.30 p.m.

Teams of up to 6 players  
(limit of 22 teams)

Entry Fee - £3 per team member

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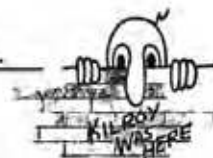
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# JOHN AND CAROLE LAMBOURNE LIGHTING UP LIVES

By ROS VARNES



**Their garden has become something of a talking point in the village. Whether it contains a giant silver watering can or Father Christmas' legs sticking out of the hedge – their displays cause amusement and often puzzlement.**

John and Carole Lambourne began their elaborate constructions in their Kennylands Road garden, near the junction with Reades Lane, about 10 years ago. The purpose? To amuse their grandsons and to mark major annual and national/international sporting events.

Who recalls the elegant mannequin draped in a red and white scarf to mark England's participation in the 2010 FIFA World Cup and the displays for the 2012 Olympic Games or the 2014 Winter Olympics and the last Rugby World Cup? But it's the Christmas garden, with its multitude of lights,

which gives the Lambournes the most pleasure.

Last Christmas they decided to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Local people showed their appreciation of the display by donating money to the renowned children's hospital. A total of £660 was raised.

Said John: "The response from residents was phenomenal. We thought we might get £100 and we were really surprised by how much money people gave."

He said that one woman told him her children pressurised her to take them to see the garden every day after from school. Another woman came especially from Woodley with her mother and children to see the lights. When they arrived to a dark garden they asked John to switch on the lights!

John, who confesses to always having been a bit creative, revealed how he got his watering can display to stand up.

"I took a 45 gallon oil drum and a galvanised pipe, which I bent around a tree, then attached it to the drum as a handle," he explained. "I welded on three curved metal pipes to make the structure stand and added blue drainage pipes. Then I spray painted the whole lot silver and topped everything off with a red squirrel because grey squirrels are common."

The result was what looked like a huge watering can spouting streams of water on to flower-filled troughs. It was created as a tribute to the Village Gardeners and to mark Sonning Common's first entry into the Britain in Bloom competition this summer.

The mannequin, John found in a friend's shed. It had previously been a scarecrow. And Father Christmas'

red-trousered legs, usually seen poking out of the hedge, belong to the same mannequin.

John was born in Sonning Common, on the Peppard Road, and has lived in the village all of his life. When he and Carole, who comes from Pangbourne, got married they lived in Westleigh Drive before moving to their bungalow on Kennylands Road 28 years ago.

The couple's sons, Gary and Mark, were keen footballers growing up and John and Carole were founder members of Rotherfield Boys Football Club, which later became Rotherfield United Football Club.

John, a retired agricultural engineer, is a great fan of vintage tractors and regularly takes part in charity tractor runs through the South Oxfordshire Tractor Society, which is based at The Reformation pub in Gallowstree Common. ●



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# WOMEN WHO ENJOY WORKING TOGETHER AS A GROUP, FOR THE SAME PURPOSE



Some 30 years ago Vicki Mountford's husband persuaded her to go along to a meeting of Inner Wheel, and she has never regretted it. Vicki, who lives in Kennylands Road, is a founder member of the Caversham group. She was appointed Club Chairman in 1991, and is now District Secretary – although she has been Club Secretary many times.

Inner Wheel is a world wide service organisation for women with members in 103 countries. 2013/14 was the 90th anniversary of their foundation in Manchester. Initially it was a female branch of the Rotarians; women who got together to enjoy companionship and raise money to help local people less fortunate than themselves.

Today's guiding principles, Vicki told me, are little changed. Their objectives are "to promote friendship, encourage personal service and foster international understanding". She told me that what she enjoys most is "working together as a group for the same purpose". She

also admitted that she is greatly looking forward to attending the International Conference in Copenhagen next year when she will have the opportunity to stay on and do some sightseeing.

The Caversham group meets at 10.30am on the first Thursday of the month at the Grace Church, Emmer Green. A typical meeting schedule would be business followed by coffee and biscuits and plenty of chat – which might well continue over lunch.

The group aims to raise about £1000 a year for local charities. In recent years they have supported Sue Ryder, Green Shoots and Christian Community Action in Reading. This year the Chairman's chosen charity is Daisy's Dream, a Twyford based group who support children and their families afflicted by bereavement and life threatening illnesses. The money is raised through friendship lunches, coffee mornings and afternoon teas; through raffles and talks. Apparently a recent talk from a local milliner was, not only very interesting, but caused much mirth when members tried on some of the hats afterwards.

International charities are often supported by collecting things like old ink cartridges, stamps and spectacles. Currently they're collecting bras which Oxfam send out to Senegal where they are very much appreciated.

The group is one of 20 in the District covering Whitney to Wallingford, Thame and Ascot, and currently has 15 members. They are looking to recruit new members. Vicki said "Newly retired, active women with like ideals would be great candidates for membership. And the rules for membership have been relaxed to include such women. Previously they had to be connected to either Inner Wheel members or Rotarians." ●

So if you're interested in becoming a member of Inner Wheel contact Rosalie Pulleyn (Club Secretary) 0118 9464251 email [rosalie.pulleyn123@btinternet.com](mailto:rosalie.pulleyn123@btinternet.com) or Vicki Mountford, 0118 972 2276 or email [vmountford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:vmountford@yahoo.co.uk)



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# NETWORKING WITH SONNING COMMON'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

By CHRISTINE ATKINSON

Kathryn Willis moved to the village after getting married to her husband, who grew up locally. She was starting out in her own business as a photographer, but realised that she needed to get to know the local community in order to grow. So she came up with the idea of setting up a group with others in the same position.

She and her husband live quite near to the Butchers Arms in Blounts Court Road and soon became friendly with the landlord. So the Sonning Common Business Collaboration – SCBC – was born in the pub!

Kathryn knew that there would be a few people in the village also working from home and setting up on their own, but not all of them would have the knowledge and contacts to cover all the other aspects of running a business.

The aim of the group is to share, and to learn from each other. They meet approximately every 6 weeks from

10.30 to 12 on a Monday morning in the Butchers Arms and have invited speakers to come and present to them on various subjects. These have included marketing, social media use and website design. Kathryn is keen to have speakers on other subjects such as pensions, personnel issues and anything else that can affect small business.

The group have approximately 50 members with a dozen or so who come to each meeting. New members – male and female – are welcome from all kinds of services and industry.

SCBC have just celebrated their first birthday which 25 members attending a small celebration – which Brakespears kindly sponsored – in the pub!

Kathryn said: ***“The idea is to promote businesses in Sonning Common and the surrounding villages to pull the local business community together. Next we are hoping to create a website where businesses pay a small fee and work in collaboration to support each other and recommend each other to friends and neighbours.”*** ●



For further information about the group please contact Kathryn...  
kathrynfellphotography@hotmail.co.uk

## WET AND HAPPY YOUNGSTERS

On Sunday 28 September, 13 members of Club SC (Sonning Common Youth Club) were treated to a day trip to Thorpe Park.

Chiltern Edge Community Association kindly donated funds to make the trip possible and FISH provided a mini bus and driver. It was a real community effort all round in order to provide the trip and the young people had a fabulous day.

We were particularly proud of our young leaders Calum Bulloch and Alex Jolly for taking younger members ‘under their wing’ on the day and encouraging them on to the bigger rides and showing them around the park. By helping on the day Calum and

Alex were both awarded their young leader certificates and hoodies, this was part of their leadership course. Both are regularly volunteering with our younger group and are an asset to Club SC.

Luckily the weather was on our side, but this didn't stop the young people getting drenched on the log flume and made for a rather soggy drive home! We are hoping to return to Thorpe Park in May again for the ‘Youth Groups Big Weekend’ and are currently fundraising for a trip to ‘Gravity Force’ indoor bounce/trampoline centre in Camberley. If you are able to help fund Club SC, please contact our committee chair at [carolyviney@aol.com](mailto:carolyviney@aol.com) ●



# AGE CONCERN OR *age celebration?*

By JOHN PEARMAN



Let's start with a riddle - what does Sonning Common have in common with Christchurch, a town on the south coast of England? Here's a few clues; when the local cinema in Christchurch advertises films starring Judi Dench or Maggie Smith it is booked many weeks in advance; a Christchurch estate agent called 'Only Bungalows' does very good business; the local weekly market does a bustling trade in cotton nighties and comfortable shoes and Christchurch can boast a large cohort of volunteers for various good causes.

So the answer- well 37% of Christchurch's residents are aged over 60 and for Sonning Common it's a close 36% (this compares with 28% for South Oxfordshire and 26% for England as a whole). The similarity with Christchurch probably ends there since for one thing Sonning Common is at least 50 miles from any coastline but probably more importantly Christchurch's current population of nearly 48,000 dwarfs our own compliment of around 3,800 residents. So this 'bulge' at the top end of the demographic will have more local effect in Christchurch than in our own community.

When we read articles or watch news reports about our ageing population it is often portrayed on a national scale as a problem. Arguments for this usually centre on a stereotype of older people as being frailer and sicker than younger people and so increasing numbers will put a strain on health service and care provision. Likewise increasing numbers of older people receiving state pension income will place even greater demands on the public purse. Stories warning about the consequences of ageing have become quite commonplace in the media with the view that older people are a major source of economic problems. One statistic often quoted is the Dependency Ratio, which is the number of people over the state pension age for every 1,000 people of working age. If the current working patterns continue this ratio is likely to increase:

- in 1971 the ratio was 280 per 1000
- in 2009 the ratio increased to 314 per 1000
- by 2032 the ratio will become 349 even with implementation of higher state pension ages

(The use of the word 'dependency' here with its implication of 'reliance on' is interesting in itself)

No one doubts the statistics and that population ageing has been driven by three factors; the 'boom' in babies in the years following World War II (1945-1960), the subsequent decline in the birth rate following that period and then the increase in longevity thanks to increasing prosperity and advances in medical science. However, one does get the feeling that it sometimes suits politicians and other 'powers that be' to exaggerate the economic effect of an ageing population.

Also if the fact that we are living longer and healthier lives is a problem then it's surely the best kind of problem to have and one to be celebrated. Recent studies have predicted that 1 in 3 babies born in 2013 is expected to live to celebrate their 100th birthday.

Maybe the economic arguments for an ageing population problem have been overplayed as well. The impact of an ageing population on health and social care services is actually hard to predict. It may lead to increased costs or the growing number of older people may create new economic and social opportunities. Certainly this is the case in Christchurch and similar towns where the spending power of its senior citizens



*For age is opportunity no less  
Than youth itself, though in another dress.  
And as the evening twilight fades away  
The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.*

HENRY WORDSWORTH LONGFELLOW 'Morituri Salutamus'



has provided a boon. Generally there is a lot of 'wealth' and a lot of spending by older age groups and many older people are retiring later and contributing to the national economy with entrepreneurial skills. During the financial crisis fulltime employment fell for every age group except the over 65s. Younger retired people particularly have reasonable amounts of money and a good deal of leisure time and are therefore good consumers, the rise of the 'silver surfer', older people who surf the internet is one well know trend.

Then there is the social dimension. Older citizens have a wealth of experience and expertise which can be channelled to the benefit of the population as a whole. Sonning Common is fortunate to have a number of community volunteering opportunities where older people no longer in paid employment can give their time, effort and personal skills to sustain or improve community ventures. The current generation of retirees bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience and provide a large part of the volunteering cohort in Sonning Common. A recent example was the call for volunteers to assist in staffing the library following the decision by

the County Council to cut staffing budgets in selected libraries across the County. That decision was certainly contentious but the call for volunteers saw a response of over 50 residents to the initial meeting. Other well-known groups who operate on a volunteer staffing basis include The FISH Volunteer Centre, the Sonning Common Lunch Club, The Village Gardeners, Green Gym, NT Volunteers at Grey's Court and other smaller community based ventures all rely on the involvement of retired residents for their operation - not forgetting the organising committee of this magazine. In strictly economic terms volunteering on a national scale has been calculated as having a 'hidden' value in excess of £10 billion per annum.

Another aspect often overlooked is child care. Many retired grandparents are now fulfilling child caring roles for their grandchildren as the cost of child care rises. This very valuable role can strengthen the extended family and allows parents to continue working and contributing to the economy.

The Women's Royal Voluntary Service has estimated that after deduction of the costs of pensions, welfare and health care the over-65s make a net contribution to

the UK economy of £40 billion through tax payments, spending power, donations to charities and volunteering and that doesn't include the child care factor!

An ageing population certainly does impact on society as a whole but overall it is a positive impact and older people are a benefit rather than a burden to the economy and society as a whole and the local community. No doubt in time the baby boomers will start to ail and it is predicted that no one else alive today is likely to have such a rich retirement but while the 'bulge' remains the benefits of living longer will outweigh additional health and social costs of population ageing.

Those of you who are old enough to remember the French entertainer Maurice Chevalier may recall one of his sayings (as well as thanking heaven for little girls) which has some relevance to this article.

**'Old age is not so bad when you consider the alternative'.**



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# Just for kids

JUST FOR KIDS

## HI! IT'S ZACK HERE.

I hope you all enjoyed your half term and I hope you got tons and tons of sweets from Halloween. I didn't go trick or treating but I still had a great time. Now I'm really looking forward to Christmas. Are you? Why don't you email me to tell me what you like most about the Christmas holidays?

My email address is [junioreditor@sonningcommonmagazine.com](mailto:junioreditor@sonningcommonmagazine.com)

See you in 2015! **ZACK**



## MY TIP

### IN THE NETHER

My Minecraft tip today is all about being in the nether. The first tip is bring a sword – the best one to bring is iron or one with the blast protection enchantment. Before you enter, bring full iron armor and put all your valuables in a chest. (If you like hunting, bring a bow and some arrows.) Make sure to bring tons of food, saplings, mud and cobblestones. Once you're in the nether, make a house and cover the portal in cobblestone so nothing breaks it. **DON'T PLACE A BED!** If you place a bed it explodes because there is no night in the nether. After that plant some trees to make you feel at home and also get a 10% chance for animals to spawn. **Watch out for monsters!** ●



## FILM REVIEW

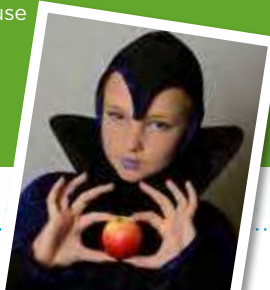
### The Book of Life

I recently saw a film called The Book of Life. It's about a Mexican celebration called The Day of the Dead. The main characters are two boys who love the same girl. Who will win the girl? And why have two gods had a wager picking one boy each and saying that boy will get married to that girl? I really love this film and think it's the best one I have seen yet. Definitely worth 5 stars (it even made me smile 5 times 😊😊😊😊😊) if you see it, I will hope you enjoy it as much as I did. ●



## SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

My sister and I, and lots of our friends from the local area, are doing lots of rehearsals for Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. I hope you will come and see it. Henley Children's Theatre does a pantomime every year, and it is always really fun and really funny. It isn't like any Snow White panto you've seen before because my teacher's dad writes the script so there are lots and lots of jokes and only children are in it. It's at the Kenton Theatre from 31st December to 4th January 2015. ●



## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY WORDSEARCH

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# PERSONAL FAMILY MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR ONE FOR KING AND COUNTRY ON A BICYCLE!

By **ROBERT LOBLEY**



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For most of my generation our fathers were survivors of First World War (the war to end all wars as it was known) and many had amazing tales to tell. My father always claimed to have served in all three services, the navy, the army and the newly formed air corps. In fact he was not in the navy, but as he was educated at the Royal Navy College, Greenwich he claimed that to be his naval service. He always said that in the army he was in a cycling regiment which the family had always viewed with some scepticism but this has proved to be absolutely correct.

By the beginning of the twentieth century cycling had become the rage, and Le Tour de France was started in 1903 with great success. The Army began to look at the bicycle's military potential. During the Boer war army cyclists had been used successfully for reconnaissance and scouting. By 1914 some people argued the bicycle could be used for moving large numbers of men very quickly. The cycle could

support and act as an alternative to the mounted cavalry. The bicycle was cheaper, did not need feeding and could be stacked up in trains for easy transport. It was also, when laid down, almost completely impervious to rifle fire. At the beginning of the war units were recruited, equipped and formed. A cycle drill book was published and cycle warfare practice began in earnest.

The best known regiment was the Hunts Cyclists (so named as they were recruited in Huntingdon) and who even had a mounted military band! Early in the war it was thought that there would be a break through the German lines and a dash for Berlin, with the cavalry leading the charge followed by mounted cyclists and motor transport. England was scoured for horses which were shipped to France. Many have seen the wonderful but poignant play War Horse and know what happened.

There was no breakthrough, the war stagnated, trenches were dug across France and Belgium, and despite the continual bombardment the lines

hardly moved. Decisions were taken, the cavalry were dismounted and the cyclists were withdrawn. Many were sent to the trenches without horses or cycles, to fight and die in the mud.

My father was lucky he was moved to the air corps and spent the rest of the war receiving and testing Bristol Fighters from the Bristol aeroplane works. He said the test consisted of looping the loop, flying under Clifton Suspension Bridge and machine gunning a pond! If they survived the test the planes were then flown to France.

He lost his front teeth when a plane hit a bump on an emergency landing on the way to France; other than that he survived WW1 unscathed.

Although cycles were almost completely abandoned by the army, I have friends who attended Sandhurst for officer training some time ago, and they remember doing the WW1 cycle drill on the same old military bicycles that the college still retained for instruction purposes. ●



# THE EXTRA HOUR

By PAUL GUDGE

**This year is a bit of a first for me. Rather than languishing in bed, I am using the extra hour that the change from BST to GMT has given me to do something constructive and am writing an article for the local magazine!**

On Saturday 25 October a bunch of us from the village organised a music event in the Peppard War Memorial Hall. The focus of the evening was a performance by local band 'Who Is Smith?' as well as some acoustic music from individuals. Revellers were treated to a fantastic meal (thanks to Sarah Sayer for her wonderful food and help during the evening) and washed down with drinks from the bar run for one night only, by 'Angie and Den' from the Queen Vic in Eastenders!

The evening was a sell out and raised over £1400 which is to be split between Sue Ryder Care Home in Nettlebed and Riding for Disabled in Wyfold. I would like to thank everybody who came along on the night and helped to make it such a success.

I am a late comer to live performance and it is only in the last four years that I have had the courage to get up on the stage. It all started with a request from a friend for myself and Nick Stacey (guitar and vocals) to perform at his birthday - I ended up sharing a piano with Tom Robinson of 2-4-6-8- Motorway

fame. This led to entering open mike events with friend and lead singer Sara Wright and we are starting to perform in local pubs. The line-up of the band was completed when Graham Day joined us on bass & vocals and Steve Schrier became our drum monkey.

One of my real pleasures was when I was asked to organise a music event for youngsters on the Sunday of the Sonning Common Primary School Centenary Celebrations in 2013. I was overwhelmed at the depth and breadth of musical talent in the village and I am really touched that people are still talking about it, in a good way!

It is a great source of encouragement to see the number of musicians that we have in the village, and even more exciting is the number of talented youngsters that want to get on stage and perform

## What's next?

I am hoping to repeat the success of the last two years by organising an open mike event for youngsters between Christmas and New Year in the Sonning Common village hall. The provisional date is Sunday 28 December (to be confirmed). Please let me know if you or your children are interested in performing, or if you would like to book Who is Smith? for birthdays, weddings or other occasions. ●

**[gudgesmith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gudgesmith@hotmail.co.uk)**

## What did you do with your extra hour?





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# RIVER DEEP, MOUNTAIN HIGH

By CHRISTINE ATKINSON

SEB BROWN WAS LAST SEEN ON THESE PAGES WET AND COVERED IN MUD AFTER TAKING PART IN A 'TOUGH MUDDERS' CHALLENGE. SEB HAS ALSO RUN THE LONDON MARATHON, AND RAISED MONEY FOR CHARITY ALONG THE WAY. THIS YEAR HE DECIDED TO CLIMB THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN AFRICA, MT KILIMANJARO!

A team from his workplace took the challenge on and gave themselves a target to raise £12,000 for charity. The charity they are raising vital funds for is a local one that may have touched some of you.

Babies in Buscot Support (BIBs) is a registered charity that supports babies and their families in the special care baby unit (Buscot Ward) at the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. The committee and the supporters are all parents/carers of ex-Buscot babies who have been through the experience of having a premature, or full term but ill, baby.

The team are hoping to contribute towards a new incubator for the ward.

The climb was quite a challenge, but after 5 nights camping on the way up to a height of just under 6,000m, the team made it at sunrise! The images of the sky at night on the way up, and the stunning views from the top on the morning of the final ascent made the training and long walk well worth it.

The team are almost at their target, so if you would like to help Bibs please see the links below.

The fundraising team site is here <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/MidstreamKilimanjaroChallenge>

Have a read more about the charity here [www.bibs.org.uk](http://www.bibs.org.uk)





# TOM FORT VEG

*Having recently taken delivery of a mountain of dark and delightful horse manure, I thought you might be interested in hearing how my fruit-and-veg season went. What do you mean, you're not interested? Too bad. We grow-your-own types have to bore someone.*

Of course, the whole business makes no rational sense whatever. It demands hours of back-breaking labour, considerable spending on slug pellets, ant powder and other weaponry, not to mention the latest seeds and a battery of growth promoters. And when the crop finally appears – IF it appears – it bears little or no resemblance to the sleek and regular produce sold by those who know what they're doing and get paid for it.

Twisted carrots, emaciated leeks, blackened beans, apples riddled with grub holes, bolted / bitter lettuce, chard

with stalks like tree branches – this is the harvest we lay before the family, then we look injured when they suggest it might be better to get down to Waitrose.

Actually, it hasn't been as desperate as that. This year's warmth and reasonable rainfall did wonders. The carrots were almost as carrots should be, the climbing beans climbed and beaned, the gooseberries grew fat and avoided being scoffed by blackbirds. The courgettes (two delicious Italian varieties) were astonishingly abundant, so much so that I had to face down a family rebellion against them.

Less successful were the leeks, which are distinctly on the thin side, and what was intended to be next spring's purple-sprouting broccoli, which has succumbed to mass attack by caterpillars. The second sowing of lettuces germinated,

then vanished as if it had never been.

The raspberries failed to respond to my warnings as to their conduct, and I intend to replace half of them as a punishment.

A familiar tale, then: trials, tribulations, and just enough triumph to ensure that I will inevitably go through the same rituals next year. Now, anyone want a beetroot or two? ●



## Library news

By ROSEMARY GUNSTAN

I'd like to remind people that the library (in case they hadn't realised), is now running as a volunteer supported community library. This means that there is only ever one member of staff on duty, and customers are being encouraged to use the self-service machines as much as possible, to avoid queues (and stress!) at the counter.

**It is very important to remember to bring your library card with you!**

The volunteers are still learning the ropes, so please be patient with them, and with the staff, as they are all doing their best to cope with the situation they find themselves in. And if you can avoid coming in at about 3.15pm on a school day, please do so....

If you'd like some help with learning how to use a computer, or want to improve your computer skills, we can find a volunteer partner to assist you, at a time to suit you – just ask the library staff.

### Storytimes

**10 am every Saturday**

**'Special' storytime 20 December**

**Christmas stories and crafts - home-made cakes for sale**

### Seasonal refreshments

**I'd also like to invite everyone to visit the library**

**Friday 19 December**

**2pm to 5pm.**

**THE LIBRARY WILL CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS ON MONDAY 22 DECEMBER AT 5PM, AND OPEN AGAIN IN THE NEW YEAR ON FRIDAY 2 JANUARY AT 9AM**



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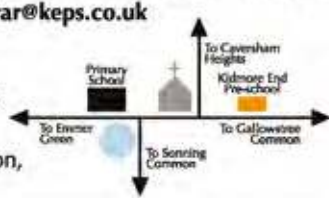
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Tuesdays Mornings (term-time only) 09:30 – 10:30 in Kidmore End War Memorial Hall  
Call Debbie on 07802 347 943 or see [www.debbiepage.org](http://www.debbiepage.org)





## DID YOU KNOW?

THERE'S A GARDENING CLUB  
IN SONNING COMMON?

**It goes by the imposing name of Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society but it is a friendly group of people who enjoy growing things (be they show quality dahlias or just a few plants for a window box), looking at other people's gardens and getting together to chat.**

The club was formed back in 1958 and meets each month. During the winter months there is a programme of garden related talks and demonstrations which are held in Peppard Memorial Hall and are open to non-members. In summer there are outings to various gardens and an annual summer social and a regular newsletter is published throughout the year in order to keep members up to date. The highlights of the club's year are the Spring and Autumn Shows (run in accordance with Royal Horticultural Society guidelines). These shows have been an integral part of village life since 1978 and enable experienced gardeners, novice

gardeners and children to exhibit their fruit, vegetables, flower arranging, cookery, handicrafts and photography. The club is also responsible for administering the Spring and Summer Front Gardens Competition.

Like so many other clubs we are looking to recruit new active members in order to ensure the continuation of a thriving club well into the 21st century. The fact that gardening is one of the most popular pastimes gives us the confidence to believe that this is an achievable objective.

If you're interested in joining us or finding out more, please take a look at our website: [www.cehs.info](http://www.cehs.info) or have a chat with our Chairman, Mark - 0118 972 3939 or just come along to our next talk.

**Membership fees 2015 - £6 per adult, children under 16 free ●**

Jo Stoves

TRADITIONAL CLOG DANCING  
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ROYALS

A NEW CLUB IS SETTING UP IN THE VILLAGE. NORTH WEST CLOG DANCING IS A TRADITIONAL TYPE OF 'MORRIS DANCING' ORIGINATING FROM THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND.

If you have never seen North West Dancing before then you should know it is a dance of high energy and precision!

The North West Clog Team in the Thames Valley is seeking female dancers and musicians to join them. It doesn't matter if you have never danced before as it will all be taught to you. Please do get in touch.

The younger generation are welcome too! Especially girls from about 7+ then bring them along too.

Dance sessions are held on Wednesdays at Sonning Common Primary School main hall from 7.00 till 8.30.

It's a great laugh and very good for all round fitness ... so do come along and give it a go.

For further information please contact Mandy on 07867785632, or just turn up at any session.

## HEALTH WALKS



With winter upon us it's good to wrap up warm and get out into the beautiful local countryside for a brisk walk. The Health Walks timetable continues through the winter, whatever the weather (unless it's snow, when we might have to cancel the walk because roads are closed) with a programme of walks to suit all levels of fitness. After a short break for Christmas and New Year the walks continue into 2014 with different starting places and new routes.

Join us to walk off your Christmas pudding!

The timetable is available from the library, the Health Centre and the Herb Farm, or on the website at [www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable](http://www.sonningcommonhealthwalks.co.uk/timetable).

**If you'd like to talk to someone about the health walks, phone Colin Davies on (0118) 972 2527 ●**

Rosemary Dunstan

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## A FISHY (CHICKEN) TALE...

One hot sunny day back in the summer, a colleague from FISH called asking if I had any spare eggs. As I was going to the fridge to have a look, she looked startled and said "Barbara, you don't usually let your chickens into the house, do you?" "Of course not I replied." "Well I've just seen a black hen walk along the hall and go into the sitting room."

There sitting on the fireside rug was a black chicken looking very pleased with herself, and making little clucking noises! "The thing is", I said "she is not mine - it's my neighbours, but how did she get in the back door is shut"! We both looked at each other and laughed and laughed because that chicken had found its way into the sitting rooms through the CAT FLAP. How's that for a story and quite true. Straight from the horse's mouth or perhaps I should say the chicken's mouth. ●

BARBARA BUTLER

## COULD WE BE GOOD NEIGHBOURS?



Now we are coming to the end of the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness we come to the season of leaves on pavements and road edges. Leaves, when wet and decomposing, make the pavements slippery and walking very uncomfortable, especially on slopes. Sedgewell Road is particularly difficult at this time of year. While the trees certainly improve the attractiveness of the village for all, is it too much to expect the owners of trees that line the edge of roads to clear the leaves from the pavement regularly in late autumn? I realise some occupiers may be too infirm to do this, but surely a neighbour could do it for them.

GEOFFREY ADAMS

## FOR THE VILLAGE GARDENERS, BRITAIN IN BLOOM HAS COME AND GONE!

We were awarded a silver award with only two points off a silver gilt. After a lot of thought I have decided that I will not organise our inclusion next year. For me very personally the remit that the judges required was a long way from what I think the Village Gardeners is about. I believe that we exist as a sociable group of people who meet twice a month to improve and maintain our village and as much of its environs as we can realistically manage. We are essentially a "hands on" group. But it seems that the judges want much more than this.

Although they had many constructive and pleasant things to say "Good use of unusual plants in difficult areas making a great impression, phone box attractive centre piece, excellent wild life garden at the primary school, great effort in keeping weed free areas, wide range of volunteers of all ages; we were marked very low on management of street furniture and hard landscaping and the need to make greater efforts to persuade

councils or private landlords to repair damaged kerbs. We should also start village competitions for best front gardens (we had told them verbally and in writing that this was already happening) run competitions for best businesses, pubs, shops and offices and obtain more media coverage.

This takes the group into areas of administration and bureaucracy that I am not prepared to undertake. We have learned a lot from taking part in the competition and it has opened our eyes to work on various previously untouched areas such as the Co-op car park, the fence at the pet shop, wild flower planting in two areas in Woodlands Road and of course we shall continue in our efforts which many residents are so complimentary about. This is not to say that we won't enter Britain in Bloom again.

It just won't be me organising it!

CHRISSIE PHILLIPS-TILBURY

## Congratulations ...

on yet another very interesting and vibrant edition (Oct/Nov) of the Sonning Common Magazine. Frankly, I do not know how the team achieve this time after time, but it happens.

I wonder whether there is a national competition for village magazines. If so, I think there is a 'gold' out there for the taking. I am sure the whole village is grateful to you all for your hard work and expertise.

DOUGLAS KEDGE



# Parish news

The content of this page is the sole responsibility of, and is paid for by, Sonning Common Parish Council

## GRATEFUL FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

**We have become aware of some criticism of an increase in the Sonning Common Parish Council precept and would like to make comment on behalf of Sonning Common Community Youth Club, Club SC.**

We have just completed our third year as a community youth facility. We open 50 weeks per year, two nights per week, excluding only the Christmas holiday period, and our total membership is 97. The club receives crucial support from the parish council, that has a very clear vision of its role, which is to distribute the money collected from the precept for the benefit and wellbeing of the village.

While the council needs to hold a contingency and reserve fund over and

above the designated precept monies for unforeseen events and emergencies, all precept money is used for the benefit of the residents.

When Oxfordshire County Council withdrew funding from our local youth club in August 2011, it was the parish council which stepped in to save the facility for our young people.

Club SC has become a wonderfully successful youth club for one of the largest villages in South Oxfordshire. It has committed volunteers, both at the youth club itself and in its management committee.

However, without the council's wholehearted financial support and commitment we could not exist.

Indeed, the council has increased its

grant to Club SC incrementally from £4,500 in 2011 to £8,000. In the next financial year this will increase to £10,000.

The basic cost of running Club SC, employing a youth leader and a youth support worker, plus insurance, upkeep of premises, occupational material for the young people and full affiliation to Oxfordshire Youth, which supports many of our services and events, is £14,500 per year.

It is clear that without the council's commitment to the young people, Club SC could not continue.

Yours faithfully,

**Management committee, Club SC  
Sonning Common**

Published in the Henley Standard.



## RUBBISH BINS

**Rubbish bins throughout the village are emptied once per week by Biffa Waste Services. Bins in Wood Lane, in the village centre, should be emptied twice a week. If bins are full by Thursday please report these to Biffa on 0300 0610 610.**

## COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY

**The parish council would like your views on how we communicate with you. What do you think of our website? Does it have the information you want? Would you like to receive news via social media? What do you think of this page in the magazine?**

The Parish Council is running a communications survey until 15 December 2014.

Please tell us how we can best communicate with you.

To complete the survey see our website:

**[www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk)**

or contact the Parish Office. **T: 0118 972 3616.**

**Thank you.**

Sonning Common Parish Council  
Parish Office, Village Hall, Wood Lane, Sonning Common RG4 9SL  
T: 0118 972 3616

E: [clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk) (Philip Collings)  
deputyclerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk (Ros Varnes)  
W: [www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk)



# Church *news*



## From Christ the King Church, Sonning Common and St John the Baptist, Kidmore End

### Wednesday 3 December 9.30am

Little Lambs St John's for an informal service and messy fun.

### Friday 19 December at 7.30pm

Our Service of Carols and Readings at St John's is your chance to enjoy the magical atmosphere of a candlelit church and to have a good old sing of your favourite carols.

### St John's on Sunday 7 December at 4.30 and Christ the King on Christmas Eve at 4.30

**Christingle services** featuring a lighted candle set in an orange, representing Christ, Light of the World at St John's on

### Sunday 7 December at 4.30 and Christ the King on Christmas Eve at 4.30

Very popular event - take your orange away - all donations are to the Children's Society for disadvantaged children and teenagers

### Saturday 24 January

Church Choir Festival - Henley watch for details!

### 18 to 25 January

Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Visit the church website on [www.lambandflag.org](http://www.lambandflag.org)

## SERVICES

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER - 4.30  
CHRISTINGLE, ST JOHN'S

FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER - 7.30  
CANDLELIT CAROLS AND READINGS, ST JOHN'S

WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER - 4.30  
CHRISTINGLE, CHRIST THE KING, SEDGEWELL RD, SC

CHRISTMAS DAY - 9.30  
FAMILY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS, CHRIST THE KING  
10.30  
FAMILY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS, ST JOHN'S

## St Michael's Catholic Church Advent and Christmas 2014

**Whether you are new to the area and have not found us yet, or an old friend we have not seen for a while, we invite you to join us as we prepare for Christmas and the celebration of Jesus' birth. You are very welcome to come along to as few or as many events as you wish.**

### Monday 1 December 7.30-8.30pm

Advent reflection. A time for quiet prayer and reflection during this busy season.

### Sunday 7 December 5.30pm

Carol Concert. Pangbourne Silver Band and St Michael's Choir  
Adults £5 children free. Refreshments in the hall.

### Monday 8 December 7.30pm

Mass to Celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

### Wednesday 10 December. 8.00pm

Talk by Fr Paul: 'Emmanuel: God-with-us' in the church hall.

### Saturday 13 December 10.00-12.30pm

Christmas Flower Arranging Workshop church hall. Call Christine Bussell on 0118 972 2106

### Monday 15 December 7.30-8.30pm

Advent reflection. Another opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection.

### Wednesday 17 December 8.00pm

Talk by Fr Paul: 'Word Made Flesh: Jesus as both son of David and Lord' in the church hall.

### Monday 22 December 7.30pm

Service of Reconciliation.

### Wednesday 24 December 6.00pm

Christmas Mass for families with young children.

**8.30pm.** Christmas carols & readings followed by 'Midnight' Mass at 9.00pm

### Thursday 25 December 10.30am

Christmas Day Mass.

We look forward to welcoming you this Christmas season

Fr Paul Rowan, Deacon Francis, Deacon Brian and the Community of St Michael's.

[www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk](http://www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk)

# DECEMBER 2014

TUESDAY 9	Royal British Legion Women's Section - Christmas party - Batten House	2 - 3.30pm
TUESDAY 9 - THURSDAY 11	Chiltern Edge Christmas Performance - The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe Chiltern Edge School	7.00pm
TUESDAY 9	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - AGM. All members welcome Peppard Memorial Hall	7.15pm
THURSDAY 11	Sonning Common Women's Institute - Christmas party with magic show by Alan McGurk - Village Hall	7.30pm
FRIDAY 12	Nottakwire Christmas Concert - Village Hall	5pm
FRIDAY 12	LIONS - Santa in the Village	7-9pm
SATURDAY 13	Primary Cross Country Challenge - Chiltern Edge School	from 10am
SATURDAY 13	Nottakwire Christmas Concert - Village Hall	2pm
MONDAY 15	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
MONDAY 15	LIONS - Santa in the Village	7-9pm
THURSDAY 25	Christmas Day lunch - Village Hall	12.30pm
SATURDAY 20	South Chiltern Choral Society - Ceremony of Carols	7.30pm
SUNDAY 21	South Chiltern Choral Society - Ceremony of Carols	2.00pm

# JANUARY 2015

TUESDAY 13	Royal British Legion Women's Section - Meeting - All welcome	2 - 3.30pm
TUESDAY 13	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - "The Garden in Winter" - talk by Richard Bisgrove - Peppard Memorial Hall	7.30pm
THURSDAY 15	Sonning Common Women's Institute - "Beekeeping" - talk by Rob Nickless. Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm
MONDAY 15	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm

**The FISH Volunteer Centre** runs regular shopping trips to Tesco in Henley every Monday morning and to Henley Waitrose, Henley Farmers Market, Morrisons in Reading and Reading Town Centre every month.

The programme of shopping and leisure trips for each month is published and distributed on 20th of the preceding month and bookings are taken from that date. Copies of the programme are available the FISH Volunteer Centre, Sonning Common Library, the Christian Community Action shop, Pet Country Supplies and on request from Carson's Chemist.

Details of all minibus trips can also be found on the FISH website [www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk](http://www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk). For more information and to book any trip call **0118 972 3986** any weekday between 09.30 and 11.30 a.m. •





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# Doggy Dips

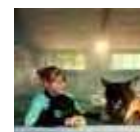
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