

SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

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FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

As I sit here 'composing this missive' the sun is shining and real warmth is in the air – a taste of the summer to come?? Our first barbecue has been enjoyed and how good would it be to have a number of hot days and warm evenings!!!

This issue of the magazine has the most editorial pages to date. There is a new offer – advice from an Agony Aunt and we hope you will email in your questions. Stories range from the Tiggywinkles; the success of OYB and the health walks; news from the schools (including a special thought from the Primary Head's desk) and their successes; to the implications of the 3rd bridge proposal; as well as the favourites from Tom, Sandy and Zack. We hope you all noticed the Advertisers list at the back of the last issue, intended to help your search for that local specialist supplier.

The summer always brings news of many events and activities and these are listed on the Noticeboard. The most important page, as far as the future development of this village is concerned, will be the Neighbourhood Plan page. Further information about the Examiner's report will appear on our website: www.scp-ndp.co.uk ●

Diana

Diana Pearman Editor

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org



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SC SONNING COMMON
MAGAZINE

MEET THE TEAM ...



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EUROPE: IN OR OUT, WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?

AN EU DEBATE WILL TAKE PLACE IN: SONNING COMMON VILLAGE HALL, WOOD LANE, ON WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE (7 FOR 7 30PM).

Motion:

This house supports the Government's position that the UK should remain within the European Union.

Councillor Leigh Rawlins will speak for the motion and Parish Clerk Philip Collings against. Questions from the floor to follow. The debate will be chaired by parish councillors Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury and John Stoves.

The parish council is organising and funding this debate as this is a subject of considerable interest to residents. It is completely impartial with regards to the outcome. ●



From Sicily to Sonning Common!

He's a familiar sight around the village with his rubbish cart and high visibility jacket and if you've ever stopped to talk to him you might have wondered where he was from.

Our street cleaner Antonino Parisi, known as Tony, is Sicilian born and bred but moved to England in 1975 when he was in his late 20s.

In 1977 he married Mauritian-born Rosemary, whom he met when he stopped to help her with her shopping. She was living in England at the time while training to become a nurse. The pair decided to make England their home and brought up their two daughters Florence and Melissa here.

Tony has been employed by the parish council since 2009 and spends up to 20 hours a week patrolling the village centre, residential roads, skatepark and play areas on the lookout for rubbish.

Now aged 71 Tony has no plans to retire. He loves being outdoors in the fresh air. To him keeping fit means keeping going. And the work certainly seems to agree with him for he is always cheerful.

"If you sit at home you get pains in your legs and in your shoulders but if you keep moving and keep working you forget all about the aches and pains," says Tony.

Tony spends up to five weeks a year in Mauritius where he and his wife keep a second home. Rosemary is over there for up to six months a year and when Tony rolls up for his annual holiday he finds that she has a list of jobs for him to do. But that's how he likes it - always busy, never bored. ●



Local Sunsets

Every 24 hours this world of ours presents us with two remarkable solar displays, sunrise and sunset. I must confess to seeing far more of the latter from a distressing tendency to late rising, but have photographed sunsets worldwide, from a lake and from the summit of a pagoda in Burma, deep in the bush in Tanzania and Botswana, and from the roof of the temple at Dendera in the deserts of Egypt. All fascinating, but usually in cloudless skies and being in the tropics, passing very swiftly without the benefit of twilight.

Which brings me to the reason for this photo: some of the most beautiful I have ever seen have occurred here at Sonning Common. From my house in Kennylands or from the Millennium field one gets the occasional fantastic display of colours fringing the scattered cloud layer, across Kidmore End. One of my cynical friends claims this is partly due to the pollution levels and if so it is one unexpected advantage. I suppose they occur across most of England but the topography here seems to help, and render them one more benefit to living in the district. ●

Peter Dayton

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS OXFORDSHIRE CHAMPIONS!

After 3 rounds of competition, Sonning Common Primary School emerged victorious as the Oxfordshire Athletics County Champions for 2016!

The final was held at Blackbird Leys in Oxford against 9 other schools from all areas of the county.

The 30 members of the team had been training before school 3 times a week and giving up their play times and lunch

times since February, as well as coming in for extra training during the Easter holidays. So, a well-deserved victory earned by their hard work, determination and a great team effort. Well done - they made the whole school feel really proud!

The school's great local rivals Kidmore End School were second so South Oxfordshire took all the glory! ●

CHRISTINE ATKINSON



A VIEW OF MY SCHOOL

The theme for assembly this week was, 'time to reflect'.

Taking this on board myself, I realise that there is so much here at school, that we / I take for granted.

Regular Forest School sessions for all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils, and sessions for all pupils throughout the school. Breakfast and After School clubs staffed by people who work in the school and who know the children, with no limit on numbers, and hot food cooked to balance the main lunch menu. Regular swimming lessons for pupils in Years 1 through to Year 3 in our own covered swimming pool, and Year 4 through to Year 6 swim at Gillotts Leisure Centre. All of our delicious school lunches are cooked on site by Kites Kitchen with lots of choice every day.

There are so many after school clubs to cater for almost every child. From the usual sporting clubs to less well known, bridge and roller skiing, not forgetting our jazz band, glee club, art club and orchestra.

We / I must not forget our grounds as they are enormous and include our pond, an amphitheatre, two Forest School sites, a playing field, a paddock and our own Multi Use Games Area. All the staff who work here, do so because they like working with children and really want to make a difference.

All in all, the pupils who come to 'This School' are very fortunate, but I think that we are even more fortunate to have them. ●

CHRIS HIRST Head teacher SCPS

Celebrating the Queen's birthday - making soldiers

A selection of pupils have been making and decorating Guards of the Royal Household in honour of the Queen's Birthday. They will be displayed in the village hall for the time being and then will move to a new home somewhere in the village. Also in the picture is Chrissie Tilbury-Phillips and Jill Vallis. ●



Performing poetry is great fun

An impressive array of talent was on display at Sonning Common Primary School's Poetry and Performance Evening recently.

Families and teachers were entertained by 33 varied acts performed by children of all ages and in between times the school's talented jazz band, led by Dr Rupert Loader, played.

The poetry and performance competition, now an annual event, was the biggest yet with everything from music, singing and dancing to favourite poems such as The Owl and the Pussycat and some original pieces written and performed by the children.

Judges included headteacher, Chris Hirst, and Sue Tyldesley, who sponsored the Performance Poetry Award.

Freddie Jones, Erin Perkins and duo Lawrence Lewis and Blake Martin were highly commended for their performances but the trophy went to friends Michael Varnes and Archie Muncer for Vengeance in Gotham.

Michael, as Batman, and Archie, as the Joker (left) entertained the audience with a confident and humorous display. ●



Chiltern Edge School Amnesty Group win the 2016 Marsh Award for Human Rights Activism

(article by Chiltern Edge School)

This Award is run with Amnesty International UK to support activist groups in funding a proposal that will grow activism and awareness of human rights in their communities. Projects are judged according to how well they reach new and diverse audiences; how they positively impact people's understanding of human rights; and a demonstration of creativity and innovation. This is the first year that the Awards have been run in this format, having previously recognised one of the organisation's groups for their outstanding work in campaigning, awareness-raising, fundraising or education.

Amnesty International UK has over 280 local groups in the UK which devote their time, energy and skills to campaigns, raising funds and representing Amnesty in their local communities. This Award is a way of paying tribute to these efforts. Amnesty International UK works to protect men, women and children wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

Chiltern Edge School won the Youth section of this Award for their proposal to expand the school's existing Amnesty Ambassadors Scheme, which is unique to this age group. This is a programme whereby young

'ambassadors' are trained in human rights education so that they can then deliver information sessions to their peers. With funding, the group would like to extend the project to other schools in the area, by training up more young ambassadors and teachers on human rights and giving them the resources to run the workshops. It is hoped that the expansion will have a positive impact on primary school teachers, as well as their students, and encourage

them to draw inspiration on teaching human rights from the methods that the ambassadors use.

Qamar Ayoubi, who left Chiltern Edge last summer, collected the Award on behalf the school at the recent Amnesty International AGM and spoke very highly of her experiences of being involved in Amnesty International through the school. Congratulations to everyone involved in this fantastic achievement. ●



Mental Health and young people

With the proportion of 15-16 year olds reporting that they frequently feel anxious or depressed having doubled in the past 30 years, there is an enormous need for quality assured mental health information and advice for young people. Co-created with a panel of young people who themselves have a mental health issue, the new Reading Well for Young People scheme uses book-based therapy to help them understand and manage their condition. The library has a collection of books from this scheme available for teenagers and/or their parents to borrow. ●

Rosemary Dunstan

Sonning Common Cubs celebrate 100 years of Cub Scouting



Cub Scouts are 100 years old this year and to celebrate, 1st Sonning Common are holding a 100th birthday party on Saturday 2 July between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. at the Scout and Guide Hall in Baskerville Road.

We invite all ex Wolf Cubs, Cub Scouts, or Cub Leaders who now live in the area to join us on that day for a cup of tea and a cake or biscuit.

If you have any scouting memorabilia it would be great if you could let us borrow it so that we can make a display. Failing that if you can't get it to us before then you could bring it with you on the day.

Shere Khan, who is ex 2nd Atherton in South East Lancashire and 1st Hambleton in West Lancashire, joined as a Wolf Cub 51 years ago has seen many changes to Scouting over the last half century and would love to chat to people in this area who have been a Wolf Cub or Cub Scout. He moved to this area in 2008.

We would love to see you on the day but to help with catering we would appreciate you letting us know if you can make it. You can let us know by either emailing us on groupchairs@virginmedia.com or telephone 0118 948 3223. ●

Yours in Scouting,
Penny Edwards, Akela



Wibbly, wobbly wonderful times at CLUB SC

It has been a busy spring time for Club SC. A Circus Skills evening kicked off the term, where our members were able to try their hands at juggling, plate spinning, balancing acts and stilt walking. We had a wibbly-wobbly wonderful time! A few weeks later we were treated to a break dancing session where youngsters and leaders learnt how to balance on one hand, attempted to spin on their heads and how to do the 'scissor kick'. It was a fantastic night and we were all quite surprised how basic steps are used to link a series of impressive moves.

On the crafty and IT side of things we made stop-motion films with a local artist using ipads, the technology enabled us to get quick results in one evening of work. We will be adding the films to our facebook page soon www.facebook.com/sonningcommonyouthcentre. We are hoping to buy/source the club an ipad or tablet in order to use creative

technology more often - is this something you can help with? Please get in contact if you or your business might be able to fund this, or if you have an old tablet gathering dust which we could put to good use.

beckyclubsc@hotmail.co.uk

In June a big trip is planned to Atom Trampoline Park in Reading, which has been funded by money raised from a cake sale at the Co-op. Trampoline parks are the latest craze, so needless to say the excitement is building. Catch us at the Primary School Fair on Saturday 18 June for more fundraising with a chocolate tombola. ●

Becky Jenkins
Youth Leader

Club SC are currently looking for volunteers to help on Wednesday and/or Thursday evenings. Can you help us? Just two evenings a month would help to keep the club running...

News from the library

For younger children we have storytimes every Saturday morning at 10am. Our next special storytime will be on 18 June, to celebrate Fathers' Day on 19th. There will be a craft session after the storytime, aimed at 3 - 8 year olds, and home-made cakes will be on sale.

We have Rhymetimes for the under-3s on the first and third Mondays of the month at 10 - 10.30am, run with the help of staff from the Children's Centre.

The Friends of the Library group hope to have a stall at the school summer fair, also on 18 June, to raise money for new books for the library. Please come and support them!

The theme of the Summer Reading Challenge for children this year is the 'Big Friendly Read'. It will be launched in July, and there will be special story sessions starting at 10am every Saturday morning in August. ●

Rosemary Dunstan

Village Quiz Results 2016

Many thanks to everyone who took part - 18 teams of up to six players. The lead changed throughout the quiz with the result in doubt until the final round - just how we like it! The quiz was won by previous winners The Comets comprising Trish and Steve Rockell, Chris Bickerton, Joan Lamprell and Clare and Melvyn Keen. By supporting the quiz, the bar and the raffle, £600 was raised for PTA funds. The final scores and placings were as follows:

1. **Comets 107 points**
2. **Mongoosees 104**
3. **Dead Rats' Society 103**
4. **Two Hoots 100**
5. **Book Group, Wishful Thinkers 99**
7. **There's always next year 98**
8. **P and O 97**
9. **Wild Grovers 96 and a half**
10. **Blotters 95**

Closely followed by these teams: Between the Covers, Antipenultimates, On the Tiles, Joy's team, The WI, Knights who say 'Ni', Green's Gremlins and Desperate Housewives.

Here's hoping everyone will want to take part again next year! ●

Mel White

Congratulations to the winners of the village Front Gardens Competition 2016

FIRST

Mr Roy Seccombe
Kennylands Road

SECOND

Mrs Pamela Franklin
Woodlands Road

THIRD

Mr Alan and Mrs Janice Davis
Sedgefield Road

The judges were delighted to visit so many very pretty Spring gardens and on a day of warm sunshine 31 March 2016.

Maureen Stevens



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Chiltern Edge School
'EDGE FEST'

Tues 12th July - Drama & Art evening
Weds 13th July - Dance evening
Thurs 14th July - Music & Festival evening

Students showcasing their talents
in Performing Arts
More details to be announced via
the school website.....



Saturday Adventurers' Club

A club for children ages 5 - 11 years
Games, crafts and a Bible message
Come and join in the fun on:

Saturday June 11th
Saturday July 9th

Time: 6pm - 7.30pm
Place: Sonning Common Free Church Hall
cnr. Grove Rd & Peppard Rd

Nottakwire presents "SHOWTIME".
Rodgers & Hammerstein on Broadway AND Captain
Noah and his Floating Zoo.

SC Village Hall, Wood Lane.
Friday 1st July @ 7pm and Sat. 2nd July @ 3pm.
Adults £6. Under 12, £3.
Limited Tickets on sale from 4th June at Occasions, Wood
Lane.

On entry: Lucky numbers, £1, - everyone wins a prize.
For children: Animal Names Game.
Refreshments on sale in the Interval.

We look forward to seeing you.

Squash and Racketball Club

Chiltern Edge Community Association Squash
and Racketball Club has two courts with
changing rooms and showers. It is situated on
the Chiltern Edge School site.

The annual membership is £15 and tokens
for the court lights cost £2.50 per session -
available from 'Occasions' in Sonning Common.

For full details see www.ceca.appointy.com or
e-mail giles@viney.org.

Giles Viney

**SONNING COMMON
PRE-SCHOOL'S 50th
ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FAIR**

Come join the fun
Sonning Common Pre-school's
50th Anniversary Summer Fair
Sunday 26 June - 11 to 2pm

This year marks a half-century milestone for the pre-school,
which started as a playgroup at Kidmore End Memorial Hall
in 1966.

To celebrate the golden anniversary this summer's fair will
be bigger and better than ever before. Visitors will enjoy a
barbecue, a refreshments bar, a fully-stocked cake stand,
teas & coffees, two bouncy castles, a soft play area, an
array of trader stalls selling lovely gift items, live music, face
painting, games, tombolas and much more.

Tickets cost £1 per adult. Children under 16 are free.



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- Hog Roast & Bar
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- Silent Auction
- Kids corner
- Guess the number of balloons in the jar and much more!

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Sonning Common Primary School Summer Fair

'CARNIVAL!'

Saturday 18 June 12 - 3pm

BBQ, Bar, Entertainment from the school musicians, coconut shy, mask making and many more stalls for fun and frolics!

Sonning Common Celebrates The Queen's 90th Birthday

On Saturday 11th June in the hall & garden at Christ the King Church

Sedgewell Road

Sonning Common RG4 9TA

2.00pm - 5.00pm

FREE ENTRY!



Join us for

- Tea with scones & cakes
- Strawberries & cream
- Sale of knick-knacks, books, jigsaws, homemade cakes
- Produce, plants & preserves from Greenshoots
- Lots of free activities & games for children
- Royalty themed crafts for everyone!

Come and join the fun!



FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the FISH Volunteer Centre will be held at

Sonning Common Village Hall

THURSDAY 9 JUNE at 2 p.m.

Light lunch provided 12.30 p.m.

All are most welcome



Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury, Jill Vallis and friends invite you to join them for a

Champagne Cream Tea

To celebrate Her Majesty's 90th Birthday

SUNDAY, JUNE 12th - 2.45 for 3pm

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VILLAGE COFFEE MORNINGS

Sonning Common Village Hall

WEDNESDAY 1st JUNE 2016

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10.30 - 12.00 noon

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THIRD READING BRIDGE

LATEST NEWS AND MAP

I promised at the Annual Parish Meeting a couple of years ago that I would keep residents up to date with the unfolding saga of the proposed 'Third Reading Bridge'. Recently there have been some developments, which I would like to share with you now. Of particular interest is the detailed map I have obtained of the proposed route, and this is shown below.

To recap, for many years various Berkshire councils and enterprise groups have been campaigning vigorously for a new Thames crossing known as the 'Third Reading Bridge'. The bridge would link the end of the A329(M) in Berkshire to the junction where Caversham Park Road meets the A4155 (the main road between Henley and Reading). Some of the scheme's supporters claim the four-lane super-bridge would take 55,000 cars a day out of the centre of Reading (but to where?). Understandably, the enthusiasm of the scheme promoters is viewed with caution by many Oxfordshire residents who are concerned about the large amount of extra traffic that would be deposited on to rural roads. Looking at the map, you will see that once cars and lorries come across the bridge they will have two choices when travelling north: either via the A4155 through the

already heavily congested streets of Henley, or up Caversham Park Road to the B481 where they would travel through Sonning Common, Rotherfield Peppard and Highmoor on their way to the M40 or Oxford. Remember, HGVs are not allowed over Sonning Bridge, but no such restriction is likely to apply to the new bridge.

Historically, both Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and South Oxfordshire District Council have shared residents' concerns, but both councils last year agreed to contribute funds to what was initially publicised as a traffic modelling study. It was only recently I learned that this study was to be just a part of what is known as a 'Strategic Outline Business Case' (SOBC) proposal. This led me to raise questions about the matter with the OCC Cabinet and in

Full Council. OCC has now made it clear to the other partners in the SOBC that the council, by helping to fund this work, is not inherently supporting the scheme and will await the results before taking a position on whether to support a full business case submission for funding. This decision process will also involve further consultation with the communities the scheme could impact upon. An initial report is due this autumn – again, I will keep you updated.

Residents should consider the probability that the bridge would not only bring extra traffic to the village, but might also put pressure on Oxfordshire's land between Emmer Green and Sonning Common to help fulfil Reading's housing needs. ●

Cllr David Bartholomew



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TENTH ANNIVERSARY

ride attracts 550+ cyclists!



Hundreds of cyclists filled the roads around Sonning Common, for the tenth annual On Your Bike ride. Children as young as four cycled the six mile route with their parents and friends, while some plucky five year olds managed twelve miles.

Reading FC's former skipper, Ady Williams, was among the first riders to set off. Ady, who is now a Sports Presenter on BBC Radio Berkshire, cycled the 20 mile route. "I think a lot of people did the twenty miles. It was a beautiful morning. Fantastic scenery," said Ady, "And so many families out. There were some challenging hills and a lot of the kids were out of the saddle and really going for it, so it was great. What a brilliant idea this event is. Raising money for some great charities and it gets families out on a Sunday morning instead of everyone sitting at home looking at a computer, phone or gaming screen."

The founder of On Your Bike, Penny Snowden, also cycled twenty miles, with her daughter Sophie who she says helped get her up the hills. "It's been lovely," said Penny. "Lots and lots of old friends meeting who did the ride years ago and off they went together and more people seem to be tackling the longer rides." "When we started On Your Bike we had no idea it would become an integral part of Sonning Common's calendar. But we couldn't do it without all our riders, and our amazing sponsors who put their hands in their pockets to help or give us their time and expertise every year without fail."

This year 100% of all entry fees and monies raised in 2016 will be shared between Sonning Common Primary School, Sue Ryder and the Cardiac Care Unit at the Royal Berks. ●

Nikki Hampton



WHO IS SMITH?

Raise £2,700 for Wyfold Riding for the Disabled

A capacity crowd of 150 revellers were treated to a fantastic evening of music and entertainment on the 9 April at Shiplake Memorial Hall. The evening was organised by local covers band Who is Smith? and their partners and friends, to raise money for the RDA Wyfold. On arrival friends, family and fans were warmly welcomed and invited to enjoy a drink at The Queen Vic themed bar hosted by our very own Angie & Den, aka Caroline Gudge and Rich Lawson.

A superb meal of chilli and accompaniments was included in the ticket price, prepared by Sarah Sayer of Kites Kitchen. Table decorations were

co-ordinated by Lone Stacey and Kirsti Deacon using flowers kindly donated by Erica of Brambles Florist in Sonning Common.

The evening was hosted by MC Lee Williams and the band played a set of 22 songs lasting 1.5 hours and by the end everyone was up dancing. The evening was brought to a close by the excellent DJ Kathryn Turner playing some club classics.

Thank you to all who attended, helped with the organisation/clearing up and raising £1,250 for the RDA. Charity matched funding from Microsoft and a donation from Sopra Steria have increased that to a final magnificent total of £2,700. Thanks must also go to Greg

Muden of the Purple Turtle for donating the lager.

<http://www.wyfoldrda.org.uk>



Who is Smith are Nick Stacey, guitar and lead vocals; Sara Wright, lead vocals; Simon Hill base; Steve Schrier drums; Paul Gudge keyboard and vocals.

SCNDP

SONNING COMMON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

THE PLAN... WE ARE STILL WAITING

The final version of our Neighbourhood Development Plan has been with the Examiner since the middle of March and we were hoping to summarise the report for residents and publicise it in this edition of the magazine. It was not to be!

In the meantime, the Parish Council, the NDP Working Party and residents have been given an unpleasant surprise by the SODC Planning Officer's recommendation of approval for Bewley Homes most recent application (P15/S4257/FUL) for 65 homes on Lea Meadow (SON 9). Until recently SODC's Core Strategy policies and the availability of a 5-year minimum of land supply was preventing large housing developments being agreed before 2017.

So what has changed?

- SODC's 2012 Core Strategy divided the district into 2 housing areas - 'Didcot' and 'the Rest of the District' (RoD)
- The Oxfordshire SHMA (a collective study on housing need by all the district councils in Oxfordshire) was still an emerging piece of evidence.

Currently in SODC there is enough land for development with imminent planning permission in RoD and around 8 - 9 years of supply exists. In Didcot, however, there exists less than 4 years supply.

What is the consequence of the above?

- A number of planning appeal inspectors have rejected the policy of dividing the district into two housing areas. As so many more houses were planned for Didcot than RoD, the maths means - when combined together - there exists less than 5 years supply of available land for building.
- Those planning inspectors also said SODC should be using the SHMA housing numbers as our target - not the numbers in our 2012 Core Strategy. This might mean a much larger number of homes for Sonning Common.

Implications for Sonning Common and Lea Meadow

The dilemma is that the Bewley homes application does not accord with the policies in our Neighbourhood Plan. The fear of the NDPWP is that if they are allowed to build, ignoring many of the policies then other developers could argue that they do not need to

comply. The Parish Council have set out a number of objections to the Bewley application and on the 18 May, together with the NDP these representatives will speak against the granting of planning permission for Lea Meadow, at the SODC Planning Committee meeting!

What next?

We have always believed, and said many times to our residents at various consultations, that the Core Strategy and available 5-year land supply will protect us against unwanted development until 2017. It now looks as if our belief and trust has been misplaced.

It may be that the Examiner's recommendations will require us to change some of our policies and allocations. Any changes we have to make will be publicised on our website.

Despite the difficulties caused by the delay to the approval of the Plan and the SON 9 application we will still be in a good position when it is agreed by residents at referendum. Our Neighbourhood Plan will give us protection and a clear set of policies for Developers to follow and to build on the sites that have been allocated. ●

Barrie Greenwood Chairman NDPWP

THE QUEEN'S 90TH

By **DIANA PEARMAN**

On this momentous occasion and as the country celebrates the Queen's long reign, it is important that this issue of the magazine makes reference to this special occasion. As every magazine appears to have chosen to publish a multitude of photographs of the Queen throughout her long life I thought it would be interesting to take a different angle. These are the key medical milestones that have been achieved during her reign.

1926

Queen Elizabeth II is born
Queen Elizabeth II was born Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on April 21, 1926, in London.

1927

Vaccine: Tuberculosis
First injected vaccine for tuberculosis is made available to the public.

1928

Penicillin discovered
Scottish bacteriologist Sir Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin.

1945

Vaccine: Influenza
Vaccine for influenza is made available to the public.

1954

Smoking linked to lung cancer
Sir Richard Doll establishes a clear link between smoking and lung cancer.

1955

Vaccine: Polio
Vaccine for polio is made available to the public.

1960

The first UK kidney transplant
An Edinburgh doctor, Michael Woodruff, performs the first UK transplant involving an identical set of twins.

1961

The contraceptive pill
The contraceptive pill is made widely available and is hailed as a breakthrough of the 20th century.

1968

First heart transplant
First NHS transplant. A 45-year-old man becomes the first Briton to have a heart transplant on 3 May.

1972

CT Scans introduced
Computer tomography scans start to revolutionise the way doctors examine the body.

1974

Vaccine: Chicken Pox
The first vaccine for chicken pox is developed.

1977

Vaccine: Pneumonia
Vaccine for pneumonia is made available to the public.

1981

Vaccine: Hepatitis B
First vaccine for Hepatitis B is made available to the public.

1986

AIDS health campaign
Government launches public health campaign to educate people about the threat of AIDS as a result of HIV.

1995

Vaccine: Hepatitis A
Vaccine for hepatitis A is made available to the public.

1996

Dolly the sheep
Dolly the sheep becomes the first mammal cloned from an adult cell.

This is based on a web page produced by Benenden Personal Healthcare

BIRTHDAY



1948

NHS is born

The NHS is created out of a long-held ideal that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth.

1952

Prescription charges introduced
Charges of one shilling are introduced for prescriptions.

1953

DNA discovered

Scientists James Watson & Francis Crick publish the first article describing the structure of DNA.

1953

Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II
Coronated on June 2nd following the death of her father George VI on February 6th 1952.

1962

The first hip replacement

First full hip replacement is carried out by Professor John Charnley in Wrightington Hospital.

1963

Vaccine: Measles

Measles vaccine is made available to the public.

1967

Vaccine: Mumps

Vaccine for mumps is made available to the public.

1967

The Abortion Act

The Abortion Act is introduced by Liberal MP David Steel and is passed on a free vote, becoming law in 1968.

1978

First test tube baby born

First test-tube baby is born in the U.K. Louise Brown is the world's first baby to be born as a result of in-vitro fertilisation.

1978

Vaccine: Epidemic Meningitis

Vaccine against epidemic meningitis is synthesised.

1980

World Health Organisation
WHO announces smallpox is eradicated.

1980

The first keyhole surgery took place

A surgeon uses a telescopic rod with fibre optic cable to remove a gall bladder.

2000

First draft of human genome

First draft of human genome is announced; the finalised version is released three years later.

2007

Scientific discovery

Scientists discover how to use human skin cells to create embryonic stem cells.

2008

Vaccine: Human Papillomavirus
HPV vaccination programme. Cervical cancer vaccination is introduced for teenage girls.

2016

Queen Elizabeth II's 90th Birthday
April 21st



MR AND MRS TIGGYWINKLE are thriving in Sonning Common

By BARBARA & GONZALO PEREZ

Just after our last article appeared, one of our neighbours brought in to us a small Hedgehog who had become entangled in some plastic garden netting. After it was untangled we put it in a covered cardboard box with some food and water and left it to recover from its ordeal. When it got dark it was put into a hedgehog house and he then continued to feed each evening.

As it neared Autumn expecting the Hedgehogs would soon hibernate, we purchased another hedgehog house hoping that one or more would use it during the winter months. However, in the middle of October a very tiny Hoglet came with the much larger ones, which we were afraid would not survive the winter. We sought advice from Tiggywinkles who advised us to weigh it, and if it weighed less than 500 grams it would not survive. They suggested that we try to find someone locally (e-mail addresses provided) who would take it in and keep it fed, watered and awake during the winter months, in an environment where the temperature remained at a steady 65 degrees.

Later that evening the larger Hedgehogs were accompanied by not one but three little ones. They were each weighed and their weight ranged between 200-230 grams. We made a decision to try to keep them ourselves making a rather splendid living/sleeping winter quarters with

insulated board, and space to accommodate it in the garden shed. We continued to feed, water and clean their home each day, where they gained weight. However, the smallest one became sick and started to lose weight, was brought indoors but sadly died after three days.

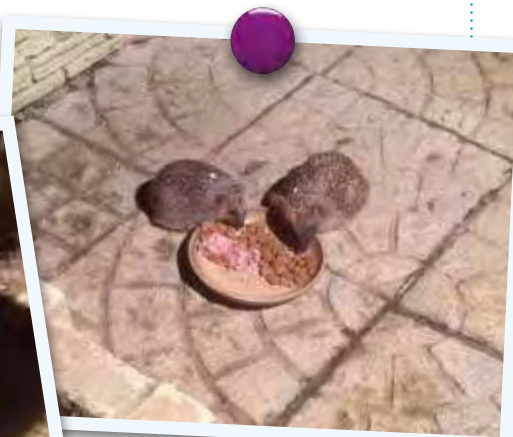
The other two continued to thrive and when they reached 600 grams in weight (mid-January) they were each put into a Hedgehog house and took up residence outside in a safe place behind the garage from where they could not escape.

By the end of January, they had both hibernated in the same house together, surrounded with copious amounts of dried leaves and straw. As I write this in April, they have both woken from their hibernation and gained a little more weight (they lost quite a bit during hibernation). They will be released into the back garden to fend for themselves, with a little help from us of course.

You may wonder what has become of the larger Hedgehogs? On the 8th February, yes it was still very frosty, a single Hedgehog appeared on our back patio to be fed and watered. Each evening since, often accompanied by one or two

others, they each have their fill of food and water and return several times during the evening/night until the dishes are clean. We have a camera which records their movements. The pictures taken are viewed by friends and family alike (although we're sure they think we are a little crazy to go to so much trouble).

Hedgehogs are very much in decline, and a T.V. programme suggested that if more people made a few small alterations to their garden fences like putting a few holes at the base, the Hedgehog population could wander at will and maybe not get killed on the roads as so often happens. It would be such a shame if they died out completely. Hedgehogs are an asset to the garden as they eat garden pests such as slugs and snails, if you are lucky enough to have them visit they are such a delight and in our case give us a lot of entertainment. We hope some of you will consider making the garden more Hedgehog friendly and get as much enjoyment as we clearly do. ●



HEALTH WALKS A 20 YEAR CELEBRATION

By JOAN GRUMMANT



On Sunday 24 April over one hundred people assembled at Sonning Common Village Hall to take part in two walks followed by afternoon tea, cake and Prosecco. It was a great occasion and the enthusiasm and sense of fun was tangible.

At 2.15 two walks began. One walk of just over 3 miles followed the path of the first walk ever taken by health walkers and the other was a shorter walk of just over a mile. Walkers were enthusiasts of all ages and there was even a baby carried along on someone's back. Many people had been walkers from the beginning of the scheme and there was much discussion about the changes that had happened in twenty years. This ranged from the health and social benefits involved as well as the importance of the dedicated leaders that enable the scheme to function so effectively. As well as benefitting from exercise, it was obvious that many friendships had been forged and the activities were fun as well as purposeful.

After the walks all the participants assembled at the Village Hall for afternoon tea and Doctor William Bird, an ex GP from the Sonning Common Health Centre

and founder of the walks, gave a speech that recalled how the walk began as a means of improving the health of diabetic patients and gradually developed into an organisation that has grown nationwide and beyond. He acknowledged the great debt he owed to Val Lunn who helped organise the walks and also to the group of leaders who have been such a wonderful support. Val Lunn then spoke about the pleasures and difficulties she encountered at the beginning of setting up the programme including dealing with foot and mouth disease and the importance of including warm up activities at the beginning of each walk and stretching at the end. There are now ten walks happening every week and they are free as well as being friendly and accessible to all.

Dr Tess Harris, a GP from the Sonning Common Practice, then followed up with a speech describing her work with PACE and also about how fortunate she felt to be able to carry on her research with such a supportive community and practice. This was followed by Dr Bird and Val Lunn cutting a magnificent celebratory cake that had been made and decorated

by Susan Russman. There was also a very successful raffle. Huge thanks must be given to the organisers of this event. Their hard work and dedication was evident in the planning and care that made this such a joyous and happy occasion, as well as a reminder to everyone that 'every step counts' in the search for good health and well-being. ●



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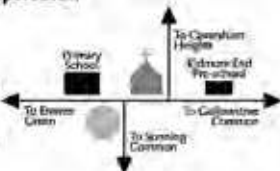
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Parish news

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GROVE ROAD TRAFFIC PLAN

Plans are being drawn up to improve traffic flows in Grove Road at school drop-off and pick-up times.

The move follows consultation between Mark Bell, the local Police Community Support Officer, Sonning Common Primary School and the parish council.

Three sections of 20m single yellow lines - to prevent cars from parking and waiting - are due to be installed along

the side of the road, opposite the school, and double yellow lines at the Grove Road/Lea Road junction.

Traffic restrictions will be in place during peak school-related hours only.

The new traffic plan, being drawn up by the Oxfordshire County Council's Highways department, will be circulated to Grove Road residents prior to its introduction.

The parish council has agreed to contribute £4,500 towards the project.



PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Three new picnic benches have been installed at the play areas in Lea Road, Baskerville Road and Churchill Crescent.

"The parish council wanted to improve the play areas by providing somewhere comfortable for parents and children to sit to have picnics and socialise," explained deputy parish clerk Ros Varnes.

The flat swings in the Baskerville Road play area have been replaced recently and two new metal bins ordered for the Lea Road play area. Monthly inspections of all three play areas are arranged by the parish council and a professional play equipment inspector will be conducting an annual inspection of the play areas shortly.

Please report any issues or damaged equipment to the Parish Office on 0118 972 3616.

LANDSCAPING GRANT FOR THE SKATEPARK

The parish council has successfully applied for a grant towards the landscaping of Sonning Common Skatepark and providing new bins for the skatepark and village centre.

It is planned to build up the earth banks around the edge of the skatepark, where some sinkage has occurred, and fit grass matting next to the concrete edge to protect and reinforce the ground.

A 45m long by 1m high chain link fence is due to be installed next to the public footpath and two new footpaths will be constructed across the site. Two new metal bins have been ordered.

In addition, the parish council is planning to replace the plastic bins in the village centre with larger capacity metal bins and fit new bins next to the Wood Lane bus stops. South Oxfordshire District Council has agreed to fund half of the projects' costs.

ALLOTMENTS FOR RENT

If you are a keen gardener the parish council has one or two allotments available for renting for just £30 a year and a £30 refundable deposit.

The council leases a total of 44 allotments, including some half and quarter plots, off the Horsepond Road near Gallowstree Common.

A full allotment measures 18m by 9m; a water supply is provided; and the fences and grassed areas outside the allotments are maintained by the parish council.



INTERNAL AUDIT

An independent auditor has completed a satisfactory internal audit of the parish council's accounts.

TOM FORT PHONE

As I write this, I am still trying to come to terms with a numbing disaster.

But first I have to go back ten or twelve years. I was walking with a friend beside a river in Wales, and he was talking to his wife on his mobile when the instrument slipped from his grasp and fell into the water. I was on the point of exploding with hilarity when I realised that he was profoundly upset and shaken by the loss.

At that time I didn't have a mobile and was pretty contemptuous of them and the addiction they promoted in otherwise sane and sensible people. Eventually I was pressured into getting one – a £19 Nokia which my children treated as a joke but which was good enough for my limited needs.

It was a reliable machine – it even came back to life after being dropped into a urinal (don't ask!) and washed under a tap. But then I went on a trip on which I needed access to email and the internet, so I upgraded to a Smartphone. My children were amazed at how cutting edge I had suddenly become – even though I never mastered more than a hundredth of the functions.

I don't think I ever became addicted – I never walked into a lamppost while looking at it, for instance. And as I almost never had it on – a source of occasional tension between me and my dear wife – it wasn't a big part of my life.

Then, on Thursday night – in a state of alcoholic befuddlement (again, please don't ask) I managed to leave it in an Uber car which I thought I had ordered

but hadn't (ditto about asking). I found I was immediately panic-stricken – I couldn't even tell anyone what had happened. And all those numbers – how would I ever speak to anyone ever again?

I realised then, with shame, that I was like everyone else – a slave to the damned mobile! ●



On Your Bike!! Participant parking on Grove Road

As a resident of Grove Road we received a request from Sonning Common Primary School not to park any cars on Grove Road on Sunday morning 24 April to facilitate the cyclists coming from the school. As the majority of residents have private driveways (with gates which are closed frequently to stop the parents turning on our driveways) we were very disappointed to see participants arriving from around 9.30am and parking the whole length of Grove Road making it very difficult for residents to leave their properties. When you purchase a property near a school you accept the disruption during Term time, Mondays to Fridays, having to endure this on a Sunday as well is not acceptable. Why were we asked not to park on the road when the participants were not? ●

NICOLA PHILLIPS, 41A Grove Road



Will do better next year!

We are very sorry that Mrs Phillips was inconvenienced by inconsiderate parking in Grove Road on the morning of On Your Bike 2016. We would prefer that everyone cycled to the event but some families travelled a long way to take part.

Our pre-ride information always asks participants not to park in Grove Road and we also make sure the school car park is available for this purpose.

Next year, as part of its support for the event, the Health Centre will make its car park available on the day, to provide additional space and we will investigate using cones and notices to keep Grove Road as clear as possible. ●

THE ON YOUR BIKE TEAM

Just for kids

JUST FOR KIDS

HI GUYS!

Zack here and today I am going to talk about a range of different things! From gaming and food festivals, to the coolest game yet and one film-based Wordsearch! So let's jump right in!

ZACK



SLITHER.IO



Possibly the craziest game yet, Slither.io could have just beaten the awesomeness of Agar.io!

The basic idea of the game is to become the biggest thing (like agar.io) with a twist!

1. You're a snake
2. You have to consume the others and then eat the bits they collect instead of eating all of them the second they die
3. To kill them you have to run in front of them!

This all would make 100% sense if you had played the game!

There are lots of things to help you out in the game as well as a lot of tips and skills to learn. The top skill I know is the coil. To do it, find someone smaller than you and speed around them, creating a circle. If you continue to move in, the snake in the middle will have no choice but to die then you can quite simply eat what they drop and move along to the next victim. Enjoy! ●

INSOMNIA GAMING FESTIVAL

Insomnia is the UK's biggest gaming festival and the greatest place ever for people who



enjoy playing console games. At least I think it is, I haven't been yet but I'm going in August and I'm really excited. It's filled top to bottom with games and special Youtuber guests such as DanTDM. There are also lots of prizes to be won. Check out the website of insomnia www.insomniagamingfestival.com and you'll understand the awesomeness! I will report back after I have been. ●

GIMP



Gimp is calling out to everyone who likes to draw. This computer app allows the owner to create and edit pictures - you can even make cards. I can't say much as I am still quite new to it, but get in contact with me if you give it a go. I hope you enjoy it!

THE MAPLEDURHAM FOOD FESTIVAL

On Bank Holiday Monday, I went to the Mapledurham Food Festival. It was filled with pizzas, scones, sweets, fudge, and even churros with chocolate sauce - I enjoyed scoffing every single one! The best thing was a bar called 'The Double Decker Bus' which was (you've guessed it) a Double Decker Bus! Pizza is my favourite food and, if it wasn't for my brother stealing two slices, I would have eaten a WHOLE one. In fact, I love pizza so much that for pudding I ate a pizza shaped sweet! Be sure to check this place out next year and fill your face with wonderful things. ●



THE JUNGLE BOOK

The Jungle Book film recently came out and has rocked the cinema! I have created a little word search on it. It's a great film and, although I found it cheesy at one point, I would recommend it to everyone.

Enjoy!

B	I	E	R	I	F	M	D	C	S	O	P	V	S	Y
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davis tate

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* Comments from Davis Tate clients on www.allagents.co.uk

If you have instructed another agent on a sole agency and/or sole selling rights basis, the terms of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions. However asking us to visit is FREE.

ALL PROPERTY MATTERS

UP THE BEANSTALK AGAIN!

Chiltern Players latest offering, **Up the Beanstalk Again** by Alan Marshall played to receptive audiences at Peppard Memorial Hall on April 14, 15 and 16. A comedy with plenty of pathos the play centred on a one-time classical actor, Laurence, now reduced to playing pantomime dames and his stormy relationship with his dresser, Angela, also an ex Shakespearean actress.

The play was presented to a high acting standard with both leading roles, Ian Miles and Helen Goodwin giving strong performances.

They were well supported by other cast members whose characters were enjoying far more wealth and success as Hollywood actors (Alastair Reed) and pantomime cows (Cathy and Tom Brabben) than Laurence himself. Into the mix throw a continuity girl (Charlotte Broadbent) whose grandfather worked

with Laurence and a stage doorkeeper (James Peedell) who is sweet on Angela. All gave convincing performances.

Thanks to Maggie Stokes' strong direction, Players worked as a team providing pace and good comic continuity. A colourful set, skilful lighting and a plentiful bar all contributed to an evening of great entertainment.

The Players will be presenting a festival play at Abingdon and Wallingford in June, performing in August for charity at a pub near you and bringing you Alan Ayckbourn's Season's Greetings in November.

If you want to read drama for fun join us at the Butchers Arms, no charge but please use the bar frequently! 8pm on a Wednesday. Visit our website www.chilternplayers.co.uk for up to date news or find us on Facebook or Twitter ●



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Whether it is improving services today, or helping to shape them for tomorrow, Healthwatch Oxfordshire is all about enabling local voices to influence the delivery and design of local health and social care in our county. Not just for the people who use them now, but for anyone who might need to in future.

To find out more about Healthwatch Oxfordshire, please visit our website, www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

Contact us on 01865 520 520 or email hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

You can also follow us on Twitter @HealthwatchOxon and find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/HealthwatchOxfordshire

healthwatch
Oxfordshire

ONLINE BUDGETING TOOL AVAILABLE FROM CITIZENS ADVICE

Citizens Advice has developed a simple online questionnaire which can help you to understand what you're earning and spending, and where you might be able to cut costs.

The tool, which is quick and easy to use, is accessible at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money/budgeting/budgeting/work-out-your-budget/> In order to get started, you need your most recent bank statements, payslips, bills and receipts. However, you can also use rough figures if you just want a general idea of your position.

We are here to help everyone, of all ages and from all backgrounds. If money is tight, Citizens Advice can look into your situation. For further help, call Adviceline on 03444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. Locations and opening hours of our offices in south Oxfordshire can be found on www.ca-ox.org.uk

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Fraudsters are targeting members of the public who are expecting to make a payment for property repairs. The fraudsters, via email, will purport to be a tradesman who has recently completed work at the property and use a similar email address to that of the genuine tradesman. They will ask for funds to be transferred via bank transfer and once payment is made the victims of the fraud soon realise they have been deceived when the genuine tradesman requests payment for their services.

PROTECT YOURSELF:

- Always check the email address is exactly the same as previous correspondence with the genuine contact.
- For any request of payment via email verify the validity of the request with a phone call to the person who carried out the work.
- Check the email for spelling and grammar as these signs can indicate that the email is not genuine.
- Payments via bank transfer offer no financial protection; consider using alternative methods such as a credit card or PayPal which offer some protection and avenue for recompense.

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud you can report it online at: http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or by telephone on: 0300 123 2040

Henley Philatelic Society

The society celebrates its' 50th Anniversary in June, a milestone in the history of this active club, and we look forward to many more years of interesting and enjoyable collecting. June is also when meetings finish for the summer break until September when new and present members will be welcomed for an interesting year of meetings on stamps and other collectable postal items. Do put the date in your diary!

Wednesday 8 June – Members of Southampton PS visit us to show some of their collections

Wednesday 22 June – President's evening celebrating our 50th Anniversary

Meetings will re-commence on Wednesday 14 September with 'Latest Acquisitions' up to 9 pages from members, at Bix Village Hall at 7.45 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome. Further details can be obtained by phoning 01491 681739 or on our website: - www.henleyphilatelic.org.uk



COOKS CORNER

By SANDY ONOFRIO

GARLIC BREAD KNOTS (makes 24)

300g pizza dough 80 ml olive oil
6 tbsps chopped garlic 4 tbsps grated parmesan
3 tbsps chopped parsley 1 tspn crushed chilli flakes
1 tspn salt

Preheat oven to 200/Gas 6. Lightly grease a baking tray. Roll out pizza dough to a 10"x16" rectangle. Cut the sheet into ¾" parallel strips and then cut these strips in half. Tie each strip into a knot and place close together on prepared tray. Bake until golden (approx. 20 minutes). Remove from oven and whilst still warm drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with all the other ingredients. Serve immediately ●



ITALIAN BRUSCHETTA (serves 4)

4 baguette/crusty bread slices 2 cloves garlic, peeled
2 tomatoes, chopped Salt
8 fresh basil leaves (chopped) 2 tbsps olive oil

Place bread on a tray and toast under the grill on both sides. While still warm rub one side of each slice with the clove of garlic, add chopped tomatoes, sprinkle of salt and the basil. Drizzle with olive oil and serve. ●



ROASTED TOMATO PASTA SAUCE (serves 8)

2kg tomatoes, halved 125ml olive oil
1 tbsps salt 1 tbsps cracked black pepper
1 clove garlic 1 handful chillies (whole)
balsamic vinegar, to taste sugar, to taste

Preheat oven to 200/Gas 6. Mix the oil, salt, pepper, garlic, chillies and vinegar in a large baking dish. Add the tomatoes, coat in the mixture and then arrange with the cut side up. Sprinkle with the sugar and bake for 1 hour. Puree into a sauce, re-heat and use as required. ●



HOMEMADE PASTA (serves 8)

300g plain flour pinch of salt
2 eggs, beaten 100 ml semi skimmed milk
1 tbspn butter

Stir together the flour and salt, add the beaten egg, milk and butter. Knead until smooth (5 minutes) cover bowl and let rest for 10 mins. Roll out thinly on a floured surface and cut into chosen shapes/lengths. Air dry before cooking. Use a large pot of boiling & salted water, pasta is ready when it floats back to the top. ●



NEW RECRUITS WANTED. CAN YOU HELP SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

By Hannah Rice

The Chiltern Edge Community Association (CECA), a charitable trust formed in 1979, is operated by a management committee drawn from local organisations and individuals. In 1980 the officers secured a loan from a local benefactor to build two squash courts on the school site.

The CECA's principal sources of income are from the Chiltern Edge Squash Club, which still operates as an independent organisation, and Johnson Matthey who have generously supported the CECA since its inception. Since 1995, when outstanding debts and loans were repaid, donations/bursaries have been made to a variety

of local organisations and individuals. Recipients have included Club SC, the Skatepark, Nottakwire, scouts, guides, playgroups, SCAMPS, village halls, and, not least, young people wishing to carry out sporting activities or travel (for social development). Clearly, this list is extensive but not exclusive.

Current representatives of CECA include the Parish Council, Johnson Matthey, FISH and Club SC. Only one founder member is remaining today. The management committee needs to recruit new faces with innovative ideas, so if you are interested in the local community as a representative of a village organisation or as an individual and would like to help support it, then

CECA would like to welcome you. There is much scope for new areas to focus on, not least, the possible opportunity to interact closely with the proposed leisure and recreational facilities, as part of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan. The committee meets two or three times a year to consider grant applications. Come and join, and share in giving this neighbourhood an exciting future.

If you would like any additional information, please contact Alan Gibbon (Hon Treasurer) at alan@agcons.co.uk, alternatively please visit the Chiltern Edge Squash Club website: <http://www.cesquash.byethost5.com/Index.html>

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AGONY AUNT

This is a new column that we hope will be popular with our readers and all questions will receive an automated response. Your letters will be treated with the utmost confidence. If your letter is chosen for publication you will receive a response via email and then it will appear in the next issue of the magazine. If there are a number of letters received it will not be possible to respond to them all, but we would like to thank you very much for taking the time to write in.

Below is one example of the type of response that would be published

My daughter is friends with two other girls but they often leave her out and won't let her play. The girls' mothers lay the blame at my daughter's feet. I'm a single parent and do not have the benefit of a husband supporting me and backing me up. How can I resolve this as my daughter is often in tears after school and shouldn't be shouldering all of the blame?

Dear Reader,

I am very sorry to hear that your daughter is having difficulties with her friends. May I start by suggesting, if you haven't already done so, that you find a quiet time to talk to your daughter and ask her where she thinks the problems lie and whether she feels she is doing everything she can to be a good friend to them?

Unfortunately as we all know, sometimes two's company and three can be a crowd! If these girls are just not willing to include your daughter, would it not be best for her to try and find a different group of friends? Friendships can be challenging for everyone at times, but often things like insecurity and jealousy are the cause.

Making sure your daughter understands the importance of being a good and loyal friend herself and rising above any unkind behaviour that she may come across, will lead her in good stead to develop the kind of friendships she wants and in turn then deserves.

In future these will be genuine questions raised by readers and are answered to the best of the agony aunt's ability. She is a volunteer who has lived in the village for some years. Her life experience (including working with children and adults of all ages) and particularly her empathy with people who have problems, has led her to wish to help our readers.

Any action taken by the questioner is entirely at his or her risk and the magazine accepts no responsibility for the result of any action taken.

Is something troubling you? Getting you down? Here's a chance to get your worries off your chest. If you are having difficulties with relationships, family, work, school or any aspect of your life, help is at hand. Send in your questions to:

agonyaunt@sonningcommonmagazine.org

Church *news*

With some of our St Michael's friends participating, our well-supported Lent Course [Ashes to Fire], led by the Revd Susan, proved to be an excellent preparation for Easter; and both our churches were full, on Easter Day, for the celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ.

Three Benefice Lent Lunches proved to be very successful. Organised by Sue Nickson [Christ the King], Ann Butler-

Smith [All Saints'] and Jenny Macgregor [St John's], each of the lunches at Christ the King was followed by a talk on behalf of a charity – one very local, one with a wider remit and one overseas.

In April Francis Brewitt-Taylor led St John's church choir in a lovely concert featuring an eclectic mix of folk songs and devotional music. There were solos, duets and instrumental pieces with tea and cake to follow.

There will be a special service on Sunday 12 June at St John the Baptist church at 11 to celebrate the Queen's official birthday. This follows a celebratory tea at Christ the King church on 11 June at 2 pm. All welcome!

In the meantime a successor to Father Graham has still not been appointed and prayers continue that the right person will be found very soon! ●

CHARITIES BENEFIT FROM 'SOUPER' LENT LUNCHES AT CHRIST THE KING HALL

A small team of us, from All Saint's Church Peppard, St John's Church Kidmore End and Christ the King Church Sonning Common got together to provide home - made soup lunches on three Mondays in Lent. At each lunch a presentation was given about a charity and an opportunity to give a donation to that charity. We were delighted by the response and the generosity of those who came. The first lunch supported the Ways and Means Trust (also known as Greenshoots) based on Peppard Common which provides horticultural therapy to adults with learning difficulties. We will

be handing £200 in donations to them. The second lunch was attended by more people and we will be handing £250 to the Salvation Army. Even more people came to the third lunch, we could only just find enough space to sit them all down! The presentation was about the Home of Hope Orphanage in Malawi and an amazing £400 will be on its way there.

So a really big 'thank you' to all of you who came and supported us and the charities. ●

SUE NICKSON



HOME VISITS

A NEW VENTURE BY THE FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE

While FISH provides an excellent service getting people out and about, we are acutely aware that there are many people who, due to old age and/or infirmity, are unable to easily leave their homes, and who spend a great deal of time alone.

In response to this, and to complement our community transport services, FISH is pleased to announce its new Home Visits service. Our volunteers will be visiting people in their homes on a regular basis for a chat, and maybe even a cup of tea!

In order to enable us to make this service as comprehensive as we would like, we will need more volunteers.

If you can spare an hour or so on a regular basis, and would like to help out, our Visiting Co-ordinator would love to hear from you.

We welcome people of any age. You don't need to be able to drive - it's possible that there will be someone within walking distance of your home who would be pleased to receive a visit from you. As with all FISH volunteers, you will need to be 'Police Checked'.

If you'd like to volunteer to be a Home Visitor, please contact the FISH office, who will put you in touch with our Co-ordinator. She will be able to explain all about the scheme, and find out a little bit about you, so that she can match you with someone of similar interests.



And if you are reading this and are confined to your home on your own and would like to receive a visitor, please get in touch with the FISH office - hopefully we will be able to introduce you to a regular visitor very soon.

The FISH office can be contacted by phone 0118 972 3986 or email office@fishvolunteercentre.co.uk

We look forward to hearing from you.

FRED NICKSON

Chairman, FISH Volunteer Centre

THE HOLIDAY CLUB @ CHILTERN EDGE DIARY DATES

Monday 25 July – Friday 19 August 2016
8.30 am – 3.30 pm or 5.30 pm



The Holiday Club @ Chiltern Edge continues to grow from strength to strength as evidenced by the following quote from our most recent Ofsted inspection:

“Children clearly enjoy their time at this friendly and welcoming club. All staff are enthusiastic, motivated and work effectively as a team to ensure each child is valued, included and respected. Children access a

suitable range of resources, activities and outings which enable them to continue to learn and develop in a fun environment.”

In 2013, Ofsted graded the Early Years provision as ‘Outstanding’

The popular club offers a childcare solution for working parents, the chance to widen your child's friendship group, or simply the opportunity for your child to enjoy some new and

varied activities including cookery, dance and drama, fun science, forest fun, multi-sports, art and crafts.

Costs:

Daily rate

8.30 am – 3.30 pm, £30

Chill out session

3.30 pm – 5.30 pm, £8

Please email kmalcolm@chilternedge.oxon.sch.uk or contact the school on 0118 972 1500 for an application form.

DIARY DATES

JUNE

Wednesday 1 - 10:30 - 12:00
Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects. Village Hall

Sunday 5 - 10:00 - 16:00
Felt makers get together. Bring lunch and a project to work on. Village Hall

Monday 6 - 14:00 - 15:30
Royal British Legion Women's Section - Bring & Buy. Batten House

Sunday 12 - 14:45
Queen's birthday Tea. Village Hall

Monday 13 - 14:30
FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

20:00
Sonning Common Parish Council. Village Hall

Thursday 16 - 11:30
FISH - Pub lunch

19:30
Sonning Common Women's Institute - "William Morris (Lord Nuffield)", a talk by Tony Boffin. Visitors welcome. Village Hall

Sunday 19 - 10:00 - 16:30
Wallingford model railway exhibition
Wallingford school OX10 8HH

Thursday 23 - 09:00
FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

Saturday 25 - 11:00 - 14:00
Kidmore End pre-school summer fete. Kidmore End primary school

Sunday 26 - 11:00 - 14:00
Sonning Common pre-school fair

JULY

Friday 1 - 19:00
Nottakwire concert "Showtime". Village Hall

Saturday 2 - 15:00
Nottakwire concert "Showtime" Village Hall

Sunday 3 - 10:00 - 16:00
Felt makers get together. Bring lunch and a project to work on. Village Hall

Monday 11 - 14:30
FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

20:00
Sonning Common Parish Council. Village Hall

Thursday 21
FISH - Pub lunch

19:30
Sonning Common Women's Institute - "Beekeeping", a talk by Rob Nickless. Visitors welcome. Village Hall

Wednesday 27 - 10:30 - 12:00
Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects. Village Hall

Thursday 28 - 09:00
FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

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Curtains, Blinds, Pelmetts,	14	Sonning Common Pre-School	2
David Walker Decorator	22	Spruce Property Maintenance Service	14
Davis Tate Estate Agency	26	Studio One (Pilates, Matwork & Yoga)	8
DK Builders	12	T C Fuller Plumbing & Heating	12
E H Hamley & Son (Builders & Decorators)	12	Tai Chi Classes	Back
Elements (Kitchens & Interiors)	2	Tandoori Connoisseur	35
Family Hairdressing	12	Tereena Hartin Personal Trainer	Back
Family Mediation	26	TexturePlus (Interior & Exterior Decorating)	30
Functional Physio	Back	Time 4 Pilates	9
Girl Power (Electrician)	14	Tomalin and Son Funeral Directors	Back
Graham Blake Soft Furnishings	14	TradeMark (Windows, Doors, Conservatories)	26
Grahams Maintenance	30	TV Aerial Services	12
Gunning Plumbing	12	Village Barbers	9
Heights Tree Care	14	Wee-Cot Seating	26
Henley Glazing & Window Centre Ltd	35	Westwood Massage and Beauty	35
Influential Computers	8	Wood Lane Dentistry	2
Jefferies Consultancy Services Ltd	26		
Just Brickwork & Pointing	35		

The FISH Volunteer Centre runs regular door-to-door 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. The monthly programme of trips is posted on noticeboards in both Peppard and Sonning Common.

Details of all minibus trips can also be found on the FISH website 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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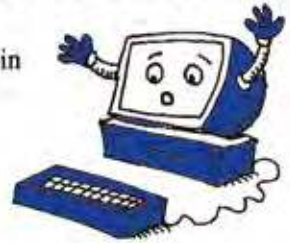
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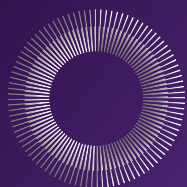
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