

april | may 2011

sonningcommon

magazine



Spring
IS IN THE AIR

Now send your articles direct by email: sonningcommonmagazine@googlemail.com

G.B. REMOVALS

House, Office & Flat moves etc.

Local Non Local

Part Load to Single item, pianos

Prompt Reliable Service

Large Van with Tail Lift

Contact: Gary – Sonning Common

T: 0118 924 2763 M: 0799 070 7125

HOUSEHOLD CLEARANCES

(REGISTERED WASTE CARRIER)

WATER SOFTENERS

M.P. SOFTENERS

Enjoy the benefits of soft water.

Top quality softeners supplied and
professionally installed.

Sales, Service, Block Salt delivered

TEL: 0118 941 0869

07967 009838 or

0118 972 3773



Outstanding Natural Beauty

Waxing

Electrolysis

Eyelash Tinting

Eyebrow Shaping

Jessica Pedicures

Jessica Manicures

Bridal Make-up

Make-up & Lessons

Aromatherapy Facials

0118 972 3157

www.chilternbeauty.co.uk

Janet Copp I.H.B.C

9 Sedgefield Close, Sonning Common

Improve your flexibility

Designed to lengthen and strengthen
the entire body through a choice of
Workshops, Massage, Classes and
One to One Personal Training

purestretch@live.co.uk
07809 448 972
www.purestretch.co.uk



SONNING COMMON PRE-SCHOOL

GROVE ROAD
SONNING COMMON
0118 972 4760

We are a happy friendly pre-school
welcoming children from 2 years
6 months, to come and learn through
play. We have a purpose built building
& extensive play garden.

Morning sessions are 9.00am - 12.00pm
Afternoon sessions are 12.00pm - 3.00pm
After School Club sessions are 3.00pm - 6.00pm



elements;
KITCHENS • INTERIORS

Visit our stunning showroom:
8b Portman Road, Reading RG30 1EA
Tel 0118 959 9919
www.elementskitchens.co.uk



Adam's Pest Control

Professional Pest Control in Sonning Common
Rats, mice, rabbits, squirrels, moles, insects, foxes.
Available 7 days a week.

BPCA Qualified and Fully Insured

Call 0118 9723709 or 0784 9342690
www.adamspestcontrol.co.uk



From “the editor



Thanks to the efforts of the Village Gardeners and their supporters we have all enjoyed a bright, flower-filled Spring.

What a difference flowers make - the village has even looked pretty in places!

In this edition, as well as the usual news and views, we have features on the village's new pre-school and more on Sonning Common's history. The Noticeboard and Diary Dates are full of details of upcoming events, so it looks like being a busy Spring all-round.

I am sad to say that I have decided to step down as editor of Sonning Common Magazine at the end of May, after the June/July edition has been put together. With my other commitments, I was finding there weren't enough hours in the day!

It really has been a pleasure editing this magazine and I am very grateful to the committee and to the wider community for all of the support and encouragement I have been given.

We are holding our annual general meeting in the village hall on Wednesday 18 May at 7.30pm. It would be great to see lots of you there to find out more about your community magazine.

Please come along - whether you are interested in getting involved with the magazine or not - and share some wine and nibbles. We want to turn the event into more of a social occasion and we promise not to ensnare you, unless, of course, you're willing to be ensnared!

Hope to see you there.

ROS VARNES Editor

Email me at:

sonningcommonmagazine@googlemail.com

ps...

Sonning Common Magazine is on sale at the village library in Grove Road for £1.50 a copy. Annual subscriptions are available for £15. Contact distribution manager Geoffrey Adams. Email: geoffrey.adams5@btopenworld.com
Phone: 0118 972 2134

Magazine contributions may be posted to: 1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9TD.

WHILE EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY OF INFORMATION PRINTED IN THIS MAGAZINE, THE EDITOR AND THE PUBLISHER CANNOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS THAT OCCUR.

Contents

2 Community news:

Gearing up for On Your Bike

Help support the youth club

6-7 The latest on the Save Our Library campaign

NHS reforms - what they mean

10 Noticeboard

14 In Focus: inside the village's new pre-school

19 Letters

20 Tom Fort

28 Diary Dates

CHAIRMAN

Graham Thomas

39 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9TD
email: grahamptomas@hotmail.com
tel: 0118 972 2598

DIARY DATES

Helen Barker

1 Walnut Close, Sonning Common, RG4 9DG
email: helen.barker@tesco.net
tel: 0118 972 1241

DISTRIBUTION

Geoffrey Adams

1 Woodlands Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9TD
email: geoffrey.adams5@btopenworld.com
tel: 0118 972 2134

ADVERTISING

John Pearman

50 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9JT
email: pearman@dial.pipex.com
tel: 0118 972 2381 / 07794 291776

COVER IMAGE -

SMILE ... IT'S SPRING by Tara Taylor

Design and artwork by:
tensevennine.
8b portman road Reading RG30 1ea
tel 07887 902 376
www.tensevennine.com



Families join together for On Your Bike

The organisers of the 5th annual On Your Bike cycle ride this weekend will be hoping the sun shines on the hundreds of cyclists set to take part.

Now the largest family cycle ride in Oxfordshire, On Your Bike has generated more than £10,000 for charity and seen over 1,700 cyclists participate since its inception in 2007.

This year's event will start from Sonning Common Primary School on Sunday 3 April at 10.30am. More than 600 people are expected to join in.



■ Participants from last year's event

Routes of 6, 12 and 20 miles will be fully marshalled and there will also be a supervised playground cycle and buggy-friendly health walk. Something for the whole family will be on offer, with a special raffle for mothers since 3 April is Mothering Sunday.

On Your Bike hosted its first ever bike sale last month where sellers and buyers traded outgrown cycles, tag-alongs and bike seats. Sonning Common Health Centre held a bike clinic where sponsors AW Cycles were on hand to offer bike safety checks and maintenance advice.

The new website, www.onyourbikesonningcommon.co.uk has had a huge number of visitors and this year, for the first time, everyone has been able to register on line.

Penny Snowden, from the organising committee, said: "This event could not take place without the enthusiasm of the organising committee and all our sponsors and volunteers. Their generosity of time and funds has guaranteed that every penny of each entry fee is donated directly to the charities along with all sponsorship monies, raffle ticket sales and proceeds from refreshments."

"This year's chosen charities are the Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice, Sonning Common Primary School and the house charities of the Chiltern Edge pupils who enter.

"The organisers wish to thank everyone who has supported this event which has now become a real cross-community activity." ■



Sue Ryder

Youth centre under threat

Every week, some 80 or so young people aged between 11 and 19 spend their evenings at the Sonning Common Youth Centre.

It gives them somewhere warm and safe to meet their friends and engage in a range of sports and leisure activities.

In the summer there are barbecues and the centre also runs outings and courses, such as paintballing and a successful photography course. It is a facility that is greatly valued by the young people, as these comments from them show:

"It is a good place to go, for the pool and the music".

"We would really miss it".

"The youth workers are really nice".

The centre is based on the Chiltern Edge School campus, in premises owned, not by the school, but by Oxfordshire County Council.

Its running costs are kept to a minimum by the fact that most of the youth workers are volunteers, giving up their time at no cost to the public purse.

A good example of David Cameron's Big Society, you might think.

But the youth centre's future is under threat, following Oxfordshire County Council's decision to withdraw funding from September 2011.

The school, facing its own budget squeeze, is in no position to take over the burden, and the centre may face closure if it cannot find the £25,000 it needs to keep going for the next three years.

Some offers of help have been forthcoming: Sonning Common Parish Council has provisionally promised £4,500 a year, and Oxfordshire County Council has provided some transitional funding, giving the centre a limited amount of breathing space to raise

alternative sources of income.

But the reality is that most of the cost will need to be met from within the community.

Sonning Common has nothing else like the centre and, if it were to close, the young people would be reduced to meeting on street corners and shopping parades - a source of concern to some residents.

How can you help? The most obvious way would be by making donations - either on a one-off or a regular basis to the Youth Centre Fund. Cheques should be sent to Chiltern Edge School, made payable to the school but clearly marked, 'Youth Centre Fund'.

You may have ideas for fund-raising - if so, please contact Rosemary Edgington at the school. Or, if you want to know more about the centre's activities, possibly with a view to helping out in some capacity, please contact Jayne Robinson on 0118 972 4418. ■

Lions fund a dragon



The local Lions club has donated funds to allow Kidmore End Primary School to buy a new, innovative role-play unit.

Reception children used the unit to make a dragon to mark the Chinese New Year.

The role-play kit can be taken apart and re-formed to create a castle, house or shop to inspire the children in role-play and communication skills.

Foundation class teachers Katie Szmaglik and Lucy Andrews said: "It is so very adaptable and can easily be changed into different shapes, be covered in fabric, decorated and played with by the children. When the weather is bad they can stay inside with this and it helps stimulate their learning."

The 19-member Goring, Woodcote & District Lions Club aims to help people and projects in the local community and raises funds for charity throughout the year.

At the same time it is part of Lions Clubs International, the largest voluntary organisation in the world with over 1.3 million members worldwide and over 18,000 members in the UK.

Every pound donated to Lions by the public goes to charity with no administration charges taken out.

To learn more (without commitment) local Lions club members would be happy to meet with anyone wishing to join or help Lions to make a difference for people in need.

Please telephone: 0845 833 9837

e-mail: info@lions-gwd.org.uk

or view the website:

www.lions-gwd.org.uk



THE SONNING COMMON SOCIETY

The Sonning Common Society is seeking help to compile a register of local trees of special interest.

The trees must be located in or near to the village and would include:

- a tree planted to celebrate a special occasion
- a local landmark
- a tree having a distinctive shape or size
- a tree of historical interest
- an unusual species

If you are aware of any trees that may be suitable, perhaps in your garden, or close to your house, please pass the details to:

Mark Richards, chairman of Sonning Common Society. Phone: 0118 972 3939.
E-mail: mark.richards62@btinternet.com



Lions Jon Solman (left) and David Freear with (L to R) George Malaperiman, Joseph Norris, Oliver McDonnell, Freddie Stewart, George Clark and Daisy Stevens from Kidmore End Primary School.

Keep it crafty!

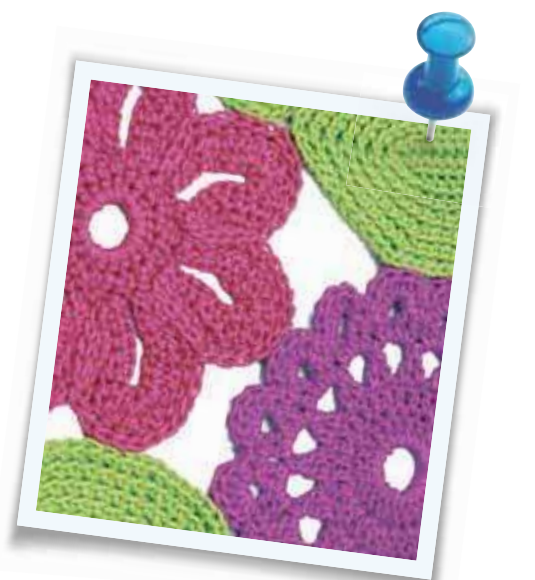
Village resident Gwen Ryan is helping to keep crafts alive in Sonning Common with the launch of a new Crafty Wednesdays' Club.

Sessions will take place in Sonning Common Village Hall every Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from 13 April.

Mrs Ryan is inviting anyone with an interest in crafts including knitting, embroidery, felt-making, crocheting, beading, braiding, lucet, weaving and spinning to join the club to help each other along with projects and patterns.


Contributions of £3 per person will be collected to cover the cost of hiring the hall and refreshments. ■

For further information contact Mrs Ryan on 07808 011887.



PICTURE FRAMING
SMALL LOCAL WORKSHOP
Work carried out for local gallery

Complete framing service
 Canvases stretched
 Mounts cut for existing frames
 Old photographs restored
 Local collection/delivery
Contact Colin Ward 0118 972 2075


Oak Grove
Garden Services

LANDSCAPING (HARD OR SOFT)
 FENCING • TURFING • PATIOS • HEDGING
 WATER FEATURES

James Watkins

'Oak Grove' • 13 Grove Road • Sonning Common • Berkshire RG4 9RH
 Telephone: 0118 972 2659


T.C. FULLER
PLUMBING & HEATING

Fully qualified and insured, local and reliable.
 Gas safe registered.
 Installation, service, maintenance and repair.
 Registered for unvented hot water & wras. Free estimates.

Tel: 0118 9724097
Mob: 07800 914 880

 
 225032 225032


From 1st April 2009 CORGI registered engineers were required to transfer to the **GAS SAFE** register

 **JJC Electrical Services Limited**
Professional Reliable and Local

Sonning Common based
Jerry Cole
 Tel: 0118 972 1110
 Mob: 0783 434 6487
 E-mail: jjcelecsltd@tiscali.co.uk
 Website: www.jjcelecsltd.co.uk

- Fault diagnosis, repair and rewires
- New installation work
- Fuseboard changes
- Lighting advice and installation
- CCTV Installation
- Gate Automation


 Approved Contractor
www.elec-sa.co.uk




Byways Dental Practice

Quality Care Dedicated Team

Byways provides friendly and professional dental care and is located in the tranquil surroundings of beautiful Checkendon village. Our services include:

- + All aspects of general dentistry
- + Teeth whitening and cosmetics
- + NHS for children & anyone in full-time education
- + Affordable payment plans
- + Flexible opening times
- + Ample free car parking

Byways Dental Practice


To book an appointment or for more information call us on 01491 680412 or email info@bywaysdental.co.uk

Main St, Checkendon, RG8 0SP Tel 01491 680412

Computer Problems?

Is your PC outdated, misbehaving, virus infected?

Fault Diagnosis, Maintenance & Upgrades,
 Data Recovery & Migration, Virus Cleaning,
 Networking, Broadband and much more.

Call Robin Piercey
 at Influential Computers on
01491 680036
 or visit www.influentialcomputers.com

GRAHAMS
MAINTENANCE



Painting, Decorating	Door & Window Fitting
Plumbing & Fitted Bathrooms	Wood & Laminate Flooring
Floor & Wall Tiling	Sheds – Supplied & Fitted
Fascias, Soffits	Garden Maintenance
Guttering, Flat Roofing	Fencing & Decking etc.

FREE ESTIMATES

0118 972 3114

Robin James
OPHTHALMIC OPTICIANS



Robin James & Partners
44 Church Street
Caversham Reading

Tel. (0118) 947 2099 (Opposite Caversham Waitrose)

- ▶ Never Knowingly Undersold!
- ▶ Best prices on Frames & Lenses
- ▶ Glaucoma testing & Diabetic screening
- ▶ Computer assisted vision examination
- ▶ Budget to Top Designer Name Frames
- ▶ Gucci Nike Calvin Klein DKNY Silhouette
- ▶ Emergency Service
- ▶ Varifocal Specialists
- ▶ Latest Contact Lens
- ▶ Over 1000 frames
- ▶ Reading's longest established Independent Opticians

Julian James BSc(Hons) MSc MCOptom
Ferdi Monterio BSc(Hons) MCOptom
Robin James FBOA FCOptom



**C. JONES
PLUMBING & HEATING**

All aspects of Plumbing & Heating work undertaken.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

TELEPHONE:
0118 972 3394
MOBILE:
0771 110 9077

WEE-COT SEATING

*Upholstery, Loose Covers,
Replacement Cushions, Chair Caning,
French Polishing & Furniture Repairs*
LIZANNE SMITH Tel: 0118 972 4560

Have you friends and relatives coming to stay for that family occasion?

Take advantage of the comfortable accommodation available at...

CHERRY GARTH
The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common
BED & BREAKFAST

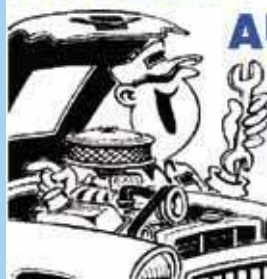
Well appointed ground floor double-bedded room with en suite.
Contact: 0118 972 2921

Kidbys
Sheds & Timber Buildings

Tel: 0118 972 33 80

Kidbys Yard, 28 Kennylands Road
Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9JT
www.kidbys.co.uk Fax: 0118 972 10 02

Mike Farina
AUTO SERVICES



SERVICING
REPAIRS & WELDING
MoT TEST ARRANGED
COMPETITIVE RATES

● **ALL MAKES OF VEHICLE UNDERTAKEN** ●

21 SEDGEWELL ROAD • SONNING COMMON
Tel: KIDMORE END 0118 972 4036

SPRUCE MAINTENANCE SERVICE

For all your property maintenance requirements including, decorating inside and out, paper hanging, wall & floor tiling, carpentry, hand painted kitchens and furniture, water damaged ceilings & Insurance work. Hedge and grass cutting services.

ROB SMITH
TEL: 0118 972 4560



VILLAGE BARBERS

0118 972 3930
24 PEPPARD ROAD
SONNING COMMON

10% OFF WITH THIS VOUCHER
CHILDREN'S PLAYROOM

CUTS - £10.00 GRADES - £8.00 CHILD CUTS £9.00
CUTS & BLOW DRY - £10.00 RESTYLE - £15.00
SENIOR CITIZEN - £7.00 BEARD TRIM £4.00



Villagers say 'no' to a DIY library service



To date around 270 local people have signed a petition to maintain county council funding for Sonning Common Library and its professional library manager.

This is in addition to the 570 letters and postcards which were handed to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) by the Friends of Sonning Common Library on 24 January.

A total of around 200 letters and emails were received in advance of the January handover by county councillor Carol Viney and John Jackson, OCC's director for social and community services.

This brings the total amount of correspondence received in support of Sonning Common's Save Our Library campaign to more than 1,000. In addition, over 200 people have joined the Save Sonning Common Library campaign on Facebook.

And in recent weeks, village resident Paul Lewis has launched a website (www.saveourlibrary.org) to support the Save Our Library campaign. The site also contains a link to the Save Oxfordshire's Libraries petition.

Ros Varnes, chair of the Friends of Sonning Common Library group, which runs the Save Our Library campaign, said: "We are very grateful to Paul for volunteering his time and expertise to set up the website. The site is full of information on campaign activities to date plus advice on how to get involved."

"If people feel strongly about the proposed closure of Sonning Common Library, they should continue to write to the county council and sign the paper petition, which is still available at the library. Public pressure can be extremely effective."

Public opposition to the proposed closure of 20 out of Oxfordshire's 43 libraries has been steadily growing since the county council announced its plans last November.

Supporters from the majority of the 20 libraries under threat, including Sonning Common, have banded together to form a new campaign group, Save Oxfordshire Libraries, and are pooling information, ideas and resources to fight the proposal.

The alliance believes that if cuts to the library service are necessary, they should be made fairly and equally across all 43 libraries in Oxfordshire.

The alliance has also written to the county council to say that a substantial majority of the 20 threatened libraries are opposed to bidding for funding to create a do-it-yourself library service, as the county council has recommended.

The county council is due to launch a three-month public consultation on the future of Oxfordshire's libraries in April, the details of which have not yet been announced. In mid-February councillors voted through a budget to include cuts of £2 million to the library service over the next four years.

Councillor Keith Mitchell, the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, said: "The Big Society Fund is available for bids and will remain open for quite some time. At the same time, the council will undertake a consultation with an open mind about options for the future of libraries with no decision to be taken until the summer."

"We will work as closely as possible with communities to create positive outcomes despite the reduced financial circumstances across the public sector in the UK."

What are your views on Sonning Common Library? Please write to the editor.

Letters about Sonning Common Library should be addressed to:

COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT
Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford
OX1 1ND

(If people would like to drop them off at the library in Grove Road, the Friends group will count them before forwarding them to the county council).

Email the Friends of Sonning Common Library at foscl@gmail.com

New season, new cricket pavilion

The 2011 season at Kidmore End Cricket Club should be very exciting with the opportunity to play in front of a brand new pavilion at Gallowstree Common.

Outdoor training for junior cricketers will begin on Mondays and Tuesdays as soon as the weather and work on the new pavilion allows.

The cricket club provides quality cricket for nearly 200 youngsters but relies heavily on parental help.

Any enquiries about junior cricket should be directed to Mark New: newm001@rbwm.org or 0118 948 1606 Or Cameron Livingstone-Smith: cls@livingstone-s.freeserve.co.uk.

THE SEASON AHEAD

The club season will begin on 16 April when Kidmore End 1st XI will visit Wokingham.

Morrant Thames Valley League matches begin on 7 May, with the 1st XI playing away against Falkland 2nds. The 2nd XI is at

home to Windsor 3rds, while the 3rd XI plays Cove 5ths away.

Thames Valley League matches have a new start time of 1pm this season.

Thames and Chilterns Sunday Competition matches begin on 15 May, when the 1st XI will be away at Windsor, starting at 2pm.

A full schedule of Saturday afternoon league matches at Gallowstree Common are available at: www.kidmoreend.play-cricket.com



Our new National Health Service



By JOHN PEARMAN

In January of this year the coalition Government launched the biggest restructuring of the NHS since 1948.

After a flurry of media attention the NHS reforms are now very much back page news, but behind the scenes the work is progressing to implement the Government's plans.

The White Paper – Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS - published in July 2010 sets out the Government's long-term vision which it hopes will be achieved by:

- putting patients at the heart of the NHS
- driving up quality and improving outcomes
- empowering local organisations and professionals
- cutting bureaucracy and improving efficiency

In order to shift decision-making as close as possible to patients, power and responsibility for commissioning services will be devolved

to local consortia of GP practices. The Health Secretary, Andrew Lansley, wants to give far more power and financial responsibility to doctors while making hospitals independent of state control, and this, he insists, will make the NHS more streamlined.

But what will it mean for us, the patients?

Some concerns have been expressed about the new reforms, particularly in giving GPs yet more duties. There are also fears from some commentators that the reforms are just a cover for the privatisation of the health service, with NHS hospitals competing with private companies for contracts handed out by GPs.

In reply, supporters of the reforms say that with rising costs and an ageing population with more chronic health problems, radical change is inevitable for the NHS to survive.

However, the basic principles of the NHS - a universal system, free at the point of use, funded by general taxation - will not change. ■

GPs to manage health services

From 2013 GPs are going to have a much bigger say in the way that the NHS is run.

Groups of GPs will have the responsibility for organising healthcare for their areas. These commissioning consortia will hold budgets for the provision of care by hospitals and other providers.

They will relate closely with social care, agree strategy, implement Government directives and drive up quality within the NHS.

They will seek views from the public and be held accountable to the population through Health and Wellbeing Boards run by the county councils. It is a big task. Consortia will replace primary care trusts.

Early Pathfinder Consortia have already been formed and the Oxfordshire group is the largest in England, covering 640,000 patients, split into six localities. The organisation has to be big enough to engage successfully with the big hospital trusts and Oxfordshire County Council,

but the localities have to be small enough to truly reflect local needs.

The press loves to criticise NHS bureaucracy but the reality is that our system spends only five per cent on management. That's the lowest in the developed world: the US spends 20 per cent.

Some would argue that the NHS needs more management, not less. There are always opportunities to make savings but as people live longer and as medical treatments become more expensive, we will have to look at doing some things differently, or not at all, if we are going to balance the books.

We will need to do this in partnership with our patients so that difficult decisions are made in a fair and open way. The interesting thing will be whether central Government does what it says and lets GP consortia and local people set the priorities they want. ■

Dr Andrew Burnett



Wine, nibbles, talk

Interested in finding out more about Sonning Common Magazine? Then come along to our annual general meeting next month.

The magazine's AGM will take place in the village hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 May.

If free wine and nibbles aren't enough to tempt you, then perhaps a talk by our columnist, local author Tom Fort, will be.

Tom will speak about his recent experience of making his first (and probably last!) television programme for the BBC at the age of 60, all about the A303, which passes Stonehenge. Fans of Tom's column will appreciate his own, particular brand of humour!

Developments on the magazine over the past year and future plans will be discussed at the AGM. And there will be an opportunity to learn more about the magazine's production process.

We particularly hope that our advertisers, without whom the magazine would not exist, will join us.

After several years as chairman, I am stepping down. Our editor, Ros Varnes, is also stepping down at the end of May due to family commitments. Craig Henderson, our secretary, is also leaving. So, there will be several vacancies on the committee.

But please come along - whether you are interested in volunteering to support the magazine or not. It will be a good opportunity to meet the committee and to find out more about the part our magazine plays in community life. ■

GRAHAM P THOMAS
Chairman

SONNING COMMON HEALTH CENTRE

The magazine is grateful to Sonning Common Health Centre for supplying this article which first appeared in the latest recent health centre newsletter.

Jack 'N Gill

Dry Carpet Cleaning

We offer you a Safe and Reliable way to clean your carpets.

Suitable for all types of carpets and rugs.

For a free quote call:

Daytime:

07900 907059

Evening:

01491 680569

www.jackngill.co.uk



01491 682412

07808 162985



Established Before 1879

**TOMALIN
AND SON**

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
INDEPENDENT FAMILY RUN FUNERAL SERVICE

ANDERSON HOUSE

38 READING ROAD • HENLEY-ON-THAMES

Telephone: 01491 573370



Pre-paid Funeral Plans
GOLDEN CHARTER

E. T. Sheppard

**MONUMENTAL
MASON**
SINCE 1940

Brochures on request or visit our Showroom at:

36 Reading Road • Henley-On-Thames

Telephone: 01491 574644

**YOUR NEW LOCAL
MoT TEST STATION**
EST 1998

**HENNELL VEHICLE
SERVICES**




- MOT TESTING
- SERVICING & REPAIRS
- ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS
- VEHICLE AIR CONDITIONING
- LASER FOUR WHEEL ALIGNMENT

BOOK YOUR MoT NOW

Tel: 01491 628866

www.hennellvehicleservices.co.uk

Unit 19 Greys Green Business Centre
Rotherfield Greys, Henley-on-Thames
Oxon RG9 4QG



BISHOPSWOOD
DAY NURSERY & PRE-SCHOOL

Situated in 2 acres of beautiful
Oxfordshire countryside,
we cater for children aged
6 weeks to 5 years.

Bishopswood Day Nursery & Pre-School
Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common
Nr Reading, Oxfordshire RG4 9BT

0118 9722 196 bishopswood@googlemail.com
www.bishopswoodnursery.co.uk

OFSTED reg no. EY273422



Functional Physio



Sonning Common Health Centre
Chartered Physiotherapists
Jo Pereira MCSP
Catherine Matthews MCSP

Flexible appointments
Clinic: 01189 722 745
www.functionalphysio.co.uk

Back pain
Neck pain
Sports injuries
RSI
Joint pain
Sprains
Strains
Headache
Pre/Post op
Pre/Post natal
Pilates

FLORIDA - GOLFING & THEME PARK HOLIDAYS



5 Bed/4 Bath Luxury Villa,
two lounges, south facing pool.

Disney, Theme Parks and
Harry Potter 15 minutes.

Contact Clive/Geraldine

cliveandgerry@btinternet.com

or phone 0118 972 3243

Brochure available.

www.magicdaysvillaorlando.com



Property Maintenance
Building, Decorating & Cleaning Services

- Office Cleaning
- Painting & Decorating
- New Kitchens
- New Bathrooms
- Wall & Floor Tiling
- Plumbing & Heating
- Alterations & Renovations
- Carpet Cleaning

One Stop Property Maintenance
T: 0118 972 3644 • M: 07770 607876
E: info@osprms.co.uk • www.osprms.co.uk

VILLAGE YARNS & OCCASIONS

For Knitting Yarns, Sewing bits & bobs

All Your Dry Cleaning, Shoe Repairs

And Alterations

tel 0118 9723358

Greeting Cards, Party Items

Balloons, Banners & Bows

Gifts for Friends & Family

Now **TOGETHER at OCCASIONS** in Wood lane, Sonning Common

Family Hairdressing
In the comfort of your own home

Ring Maureen on:
0118 972 1074

Fully qualified in all aspects of hairdressing

Stafford & Son

Local Garden & Building
Maintenance Services



Offering services in all aspects of garden and grounds maintenance, be it large or small.

Interior and exterior building maintenance, including gutter repairs and clearing.

General handyman "man with van" services. All jobs considered at competitive rates.

Andrew Stafford

Call: 01491 642191

Mob: 07899980137



Spring into learning

The new Spring into Summer and Lifestyle Learning brochures from Oxfordshire Adult Learning are out now.

You can pick up a copy from Sonning Common Library and other local outlets. View the wide range of courses online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/adultlearning or call 0118 972 3362 or 0845 351 0646 for more details.

Workshops coming up on Saturday 14 May are Experimental Gilding, Life Drawing Under Theatre Lighting and Can't Draw, Will Draw.



Big Sing day for charity

Nottakwire Singers will be raising the roof of the village hall at their first Big Sing charity day on 14 May.

There will be a variety of live music throughout the day. Sonning Common Primary school children will be among the groups performing and the day will end with a Sound of Music singalong!

The programme will be shown on the back of entry passes, which are available from Occasions, in Wood Lane, Nottakwire members or at the door on the day.

Passes will cost £2.50 per adult and £1 per child, aged 10 or under, and will allow for re-entry to the hall throughout the day. Light refreshments will be on sale all day, between musical sessions and there will be a raffle.

The event will run from 10am - 4.30pm to raise money for the local community responders team who operate under the auspices of the South Central Ambulance Service.

Come to tea?

Sonning Common will be having its own celebration on the day that Prince William marries Kate with a special tea party in the village hall.

The party, to celebrate village and community life, will take place on the Royal wedding day on Friday 29 April at 3.30pm.

Tickets, at £3 a head, will be on sale at Occasions in Wood Lane from 1 April.

The organisers - Sue Frayling-Cork, Carole Lewis, Jill Vallis, Chrissie Phillips-Tilbury and Susan Rusman - are hoping their traditional cream teas and homemade cakes will be impossible to resist!



Guides to re-open

The 1st Peppard Guides group is to re-open on 9 May. It is being re-started by Jo Waugh and Merryn Ough, both of whom have a lot of Guiding experience and enthusiasm. The group will run on Monday nights from 7-8.15pm (venue to be confirmed).

Guides is open to girls aged 10-14. If you would like your daughter to join or go on the waiting list, please email Jo at squirreljo@yahoo.ie



Girlguiding

FREE SPRING CONCERT

All Saints' Church, Peppard, is holding a free Spring concert on Saturday 14 May at 7.30pm.

It will feature a programme of songs by Brahms, Schumann, Montsalvatge and Gershwin on the themes of life and love.

Mezzo Marion Olsen will perform along with Nigel Foster on the piano.

A retiring collection will be made for Christian Aid.



Visits to London for adult students

The Reading branch of the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) will be mounting an interesting and varied mixture of courses, starting in May.

Val Pretlove will be presenting a seven-week course which explores Soho, to include three visits to this lively area of London. Val will also be running a course which looks at Bloomsbury, home to many fine squares and museums.

Art history and architecture again feature in the summer programme, along with music. The WEA is marking the centenary of the death of composer Gustav Mahler with a seven-week course led by Gwyn Parry-Jones and an evening meeting at Randolph College.

There will also be day schools on the Ballet Russes in England, Below Stairs in the English Country House and the Mastery of Space.

Copies of the summer brochure are available from the WEA website or from WEA Reading, 27 Derby Road, Reading, RG4 5HE. Phone: 0118 946 4137.



CHILTERN PLAYERS

THE TRIALS OF LIVING TOGETHER

Chiltern Players' Spring production is Living Together, the second in Alan Ayckbourn's acclaimed Norman Conquests trilogy.

It follows on and overlaps with the action from the first play, Table Manners, and depicts the same six characters over the same weekend in different parts of the house.

Annie's brother Reg with his wife Sarah have come to spend the weekend at Annie's so she can go away for a couple of days as respite from caring for their demanding mother.

But her intended weekend lover is not, as expected, amiable but boring vet Tom. Instead, he is larger-than-life, sex-on-legs Norman, her sister Ruth's husband. When Annie calls their trip off, Norman decides to stay on at the house and gets roaring drunk.

What follows is an entertaining but perceptive insight into family dynamics and relationships told with Ayckbourn's signature wit and humour, at times almost bordering on farce.

Performances take place at 8pm, from Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 April, at Peppard War Memorial Hall, Gallowstree Road, Rotherfield Peppard. Tickets are £8 and available from Occasions, Wood Lane, Sonning Common or from 0118 972 2201.

CAROL EVANS



TWO MUSICAL ERAS CONVERGE

South Chiltern Choral Society is offering people the rare opportunity to hear two very different works at its Spring concert.

The choir will perform Beethoven's 'Mass in C', written in 1807 and 'Gloria' by Karl Jenkins, which was first performed at the Royal Albert Hall last year. The setting will be the magnificent Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne College.

The choral society will be joined by four young soloists from the Royal Academy of Music, accompanied by the South Chiltern Orchestra under their conductor, Gwyn Arch.

The concert will take place on 16 April at 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Linda Rumble on 0118 9543193, priced £12 or £6 for under-18s. For further information see the choir's website: southchilternchoralsociety.org.uk



**New Seasons
Herbs**

Original Gifts

Maze Open

**Daisy's Coffee
Shop**

Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9NJ.
Tel - 0118 972 4220 Daisy's - 0118 972 3652
Open 7 days a week 9.30am to 5pm

COLLINS, DRYLAND & THOROWGOOD LLP SOLICITORS

announce that as from 4th October 2010

Mrs Wendy Holmes will be working from our office at
12 Hart Street Henley-on-Thames RG9 2AU

Telephone: 01491 572323
email: wendyholmes@collins-dryland.co.uk



www.avialandscapes.co.uk

- Design and Build • Maintenance • Brickwork
- Patios • Decking • Water Features • Irrigation
- Fencing • Plant Supply.

T: 01189 722 181 E: tony@avialandscapes.co.uk

HEAPS



Home Electrics And Plumbing Services
HEAPS OF SKILL • HEAPS OF HELP • HEAPS OF ADVICE

Lights to New Wiring-Sinks to Kitchens-Taps to New
Bathrooms and **HEAPS** more.

Put your feet up and let us take the strain of your
household problems.

No callout charges and a free, no obligation quotation.

01491 831 213 - 07785 393 499
heaps499@btinternet.com

BROOK HOUSE FURNITURE BARN

ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD



LIVE

DINE

SLEEP

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
MONDAY-FRIDAY 10-4, SATURDAY 10-5, SUNDAY 11-4

UNITS 3-4 MANOR FARM, ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD, OXON RG9 5LA
WWW.BROOKHOUSEFURNITUREBARN.COM
01491 410098/ 628984



T'ai chi for Health

Kidmore End War Memorial Hall
Reades Lane, Sonning Common

Tuesday 9.30-10.30
During term time

Chen style Tai chi in a friendly informal class
Improve your stamina, balance,
strength & co-ordination

For further information
please ring Debbie on 07802 347943
www.debbiepage.org

PEPPARD BUILDING SUPPLIES

Telephone: Kidmore End 0118 972 2028

EVERYTHING FOR THE HANDYMAN & BUILDER

**Bishopsland Farm • Peppard Road
Dunsden • RG4 9NR**

SONNING COMMON VILLAGE HALL

Available for hire for Parties, Meetings, Events etc.
Fully equipped kitchen – Public Address System
– Disabled Toilet Facilities –
Side room can be hired separately.
Tables & Chairs available for hire.
Commercial rates by negotiation.

Please Contact:

Penny Harvey – 0118 972 3779

www.sonningcommonvillagehall.btik.com

David Shailes

PLUMBERS & DECORATORS

- Bathroom Suites, Toilets, Basins
- Showers, Radiators and Repairs
- Full Interior &
- Exterior Decorating
- Wallpapering

**10% DISCOUNT OFFERED
WITH THIS ADVERT**

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
Tel: 0118 934 5029 Mob: 07708 602442
email: david.shailes@ukf.net

HELPLINE LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Landscaping - Design, Construction, Garden make over
Groundwork - Clearance, Footings, Drainage, Grading
Timber work - Gateways, Decking, Arches, Pergola, Gazebo
Fencing - Panel, Close Board, Wire mesh, Stock fence
Gardening - Mowing, Weeding, Pruning, Clearance
Tree work - Felling, Lopping, Pruning, Clearance
Driveways - Gravel, Paved, Brick, Concrete
Ponds - Water features, Ponds, Rills
Patios - Slab, Stone, Pavers, Brick
Log's for sale - Cut and split to size

Based in Sonning Common

Tel / Fax: 0118 9721342

Email: chriscolbeck@btinternet.com

Autumn Leaf

Computer Frustrations?

**Friendly local help with PC problems,
upgrades, wireless,
broadband and networking.**

Free advice, reasonable rates.

Call David on 07980 129364

or e-mail:

help@computerfrustrations.co.uk



£10.00 OFF

your next **MoT** on
production of this voucher



As Reading's longest established Vauxhall dealer, we offer unrivalled levels of customer service and great value for money. In stock, we have the best selection of new and used Vauxhalls in the area and can guarantee they will not be beaten on price or choice.

**SERVICING
LOCAL CARS
FOR OVER
50 YEARS**

Sonning Common Vauxhall

Sonning Common Garage Ltd

0118 972 2021

www.sonningcommonvauxhall.com

BONNER LOCKSMITHS

INSURANCE APPROVED

**DOORS & WINDOW LOCKS SUPPLIED & FITTED,
CHANGED OR UPGRADED (BS3621)**

**DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL PREMISES
DIGITAL LOCKS • BARS**

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

ALL AREAS COVERED

01491 680216



CRESTWELL HOUSE

CALL OUT SERVICE

FULL MEMBER
OF BRITISH
LOCKSMITH
INSTITUTE

Beech Lane, RG8 0PX • Woodcote Nr. Reading
PROPRIETOR: S. J. BONNER



THE ANSWER TO A prayer



For a building that nearly-never-was, Sonning Common's new pre-school is something of a triumph for our community.

After months of meticulous planning, the drama and dismay of the building grant being suspended, the fight to get it reinstated and the relief at seeing the construction work finally get underway meant an emotional roller-coaster ride for everyone involved.

Now the children are due to move into the new building after Easter and they are getting really excited.

Sonning Common Pre-school is just £3,000 short of its fund-raising total of £12,000 to equip and furnish the new building, thanks to the continued efforts of the pre-school's fund-raising team and the on-going support of the local community.

Pre-school manager Clare Saunders said: "I want to say a huge thank you to the fund-raising team and to the committee who have done an amazing job. Also, to the local businesses and organisations which have

been so generous. This has been one of the hardest times in which to fund-raise.

"I am also extremely grateful to all of the staff, the parents, and, of course, the children who have coped so well with the extremely cramped conditions in the old library building in Grove Road, which has been our temporary home since last November."

The old pre-school building, just off Grove Road, was demolished last year after the £450,000 grant from Oxfordshire County Council for the new build was reinstated.

The new cedar-clad pre-school has a 60-year lifespan to ensure it can provide a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment for village children for generations to come.

The building is bright and airy with floor-to-ceiling windows and no stairs, so will be suitable for disabled children. It will include plenty of toilets - five in total, including an accessible toilet - so no more 'holding on'!

The kitchen forms part of the classroom so the children will be able to get involved with preparing snacks and there is also a great new, messy play area, sure to be popular.

Outside, a fantastic new garden has been designed, thanks to the voluntary efforts of Jess Sarson, landscape architect and mother of pre-school twins Sophie and Charlotte.

It will contain a covered terrace for play, vegetable beds, a large grassed area, sandpit and wooden playhouse. Part of the garden will be dedicated to the memory of Kate Luckett, who ran the pre-school for many years.

In coming weeks the pre-school team will be setting up the kitchen, installing new furniture and generally equipping the pre-school with toys and learning materials. Said manager Clare: "It will be so lovely to have new furniture and not to have to make do with our tatty, old stuff that was well past its sell-by date!"

Thirty children can now be accommodated at each play session. For further information contact the pre-school on 0118 972 4760 or see www.sonningcommonpreschool.co.uk

Sonning Common Pre-school Garden Design



Forthcoming fund-raising events to mention:

FAMILY RACE NIGHT

Saturday 7 May, 6.30pm, Sonning Common Primary School main hall

BOOGIE BOUNCE & BBQ

Sunday 12 June, 12pm, Sonning Common Pre-School

A PRE-SCHOOL OPEN DAY

is scheduled for Saturday 16 April at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP:

- The old pre-school being demolished

OPPOSITE PAGE MIDDLE FROM L-R:

- Dexter Hampton, aged 3, in the new pre-school
- The interior of the new pre-school
- The new cedar-clad pre-school

THIS PAGE TOP:

- The plan for the pre-school garden



**EVERYTHING
IN THE GARDEN**

Established 1985
Now in Stoke Row

*All types of design, construction,
maintenance and improvements.*

Tel: 01491 641311
Mob: 07810 112411

Guitar Lessons For Beginners

*Electric/Acoustic
Contemporary Music*

Contact Ed Fort:
07949 352663



High quality education and child care under the Early years foundation stage (EYFS) for children 4 months to 5 years

- *Good OFSTED report*
- *Pre-school sessions available*
- *Open all year, Monday to Friday, 7am to 7pm*
- *Flexible hours*
- *Early years education grants available*
- *Curriculum includes French, Music & Movement and Thames Valley Gym*
- *Small friendly and personal care in Sonning Common*

For further information, please ask for the manager on 0118 972 4783, or visit our website.

www.alphabetdaynurseries.com
 emails: info@alphabetdaynurseries.com

TradeMarkTM

**WINDOWS + DOORS + CONSERVATORIES
FASCIA + SOFFITS + GUTTERING + CLADDING**

Use your Local Installer with 25 years experience

**For a FREE quotation
Call Mike Dockree on
07785928190 or 0118 972 4376**

All window and door installations carry a 10 year guarantee and the finished product is independently inspected with all certificates



**WINDOWS + DOORS + CONSERVATORIES
FASCIA + SOFFITS + GUTTERING + CLADDING**

CAVERSHAM AERIAL SERVICES



0118 967 3596

**Digital TV aerials, Sky, Sky HD, Freesat and freeview
DAB & FM aerials**

14 Odiham Avenue RG4 6PU

Cavershamaerials@gmail.com
www.caversham-aerials.co.uk



TexturePLUS
Free Estimates

**Interior & Exterior Decorating
Plastering, Artexing, & Coving
Solving Artex problems/Floor & wall Tiling
Kitchens, Bathrooms, and P Certified Electrician**

COMPLETE HOME IMPROVEMENTS

**CBT Registered /30 Years Experience /NHBC Awarded
Adrian Brown**

Tel: 0118 9721442/Sonning Common/Mobile: 07880 542363
Email: textureplus.adrian@btopenworld.com
Website: www.textureplus.co.uk

PET COUNTRY SUPPLIES

We stock all types of

- ✓ Animal Feed
- ✓ Frozen Meat
- ✓ Farm Feeds

We Stock Products for

- ✓ Animal Well Being
- ✓ Wild Birds
- ✓ Ponds
- ✓ Farm Animals
- ✓ Domestic Animals
- ✓ Wild life
- ✓ Toys and Beds

We have been trading in the village for over 40 years
 We have old fashioned friendly Service
 We can't stock everything but we can get most things for your pet!
 We deliver free on orders over £25.00
COME AND SEE US !!

You may be surprised that we sell

Free Range Eggs

The weather is getting warmer (if not soon)
 So don't forget

Pond Food

43a Wood Lane
 Sonning Common RG4 9SJ
0118 9723495
 Email: interestedin@petcountrysupplies.co.uk
www.petcountrysupplies.co.uk
 OpenMon to Sat 9.am to 5pm
 Closed ...1pm weds
 Closed all day Sunday and Bank Hols

Photos to treasure

When your hobby becomes your livelihood it must make for a very satisfying job.

Always a keen photographer, Tara Taylor decided to launch her own limited photography company from her home in Emmer Green in 2005.

Since then she has built up a strong reputation locally, particularly for taking portraits, but can turn her hand to anything from school photos and weddings to corporate head shots and commercial events.

Some of Tara's food photos from a restaurant shoot in Bray were recently published in Hello! magazine.

Said Tara: "I love taking photographs. It's great when you can see you've got the right shot through the camera. Clients don't always understand what I'm doing until they see the photos!

"I most enjoy doing family and wedding photographs - I seem to have infinite patience with other people's children - and it's lovely to be able to put together beautiful albums for people to treasure."

Tara is always on the look-out for suitable backdrops for her atmospheric images - old buildings, graffiti walls, woods and flower-filled fields are among her favourite settings.

Using natural light is always rewarding but Tara has a full range of portable studio equipment and lights which she can set up anywhere to suit individual commissions.

Not one to be complacent, Tara regularly undertakes refresher training to add to her City and Guilds qualifications. That way she stays up-to-date with the latest photography techniques. She has worked with some of the country's top social photographers, who usually take pictures at various celebrity events.



See what she can do for you at:

Tara Taylor Photography
0118 947 4963

tara@tarataylor.com
www.tarataylor.com

**TARA TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHY**



Woods & Langton

PURPOSE MADE HARDWOOD & SOFTWOOD JOINERY

- BARS ➤ DOORS ➤ SASHES
- WINDOWS ➤ WORK TOPS ➤ STAIRCASES
- MOULDINGS ➤ CONSERVATORIES

MILLEY LANE • HARE HATCH
READING • BERKSHIRE RG10 9TH
TEL / FAX
0118 940 4948
e-mail: sales@woodslangton.go-plus.net
Website: www.woodsandlangtonjoiners.co.uk

MEMBER OF THE GUILD OF MASTER CRAFTSMEN

MEB'S Decorplus

Free Estimates

Maryella Brown

General Buildings Contractor

Decorating to Complete Home Improvements
Sonning Common

Tel: 0118 9721442 or Mobile: 07920 092875

Email: mebs.decorplus@btopenworld.com

Website: www.mebsdecorplus.co.uk



DK Builders

20 Years Experience
Brickwork - Extensions
Garden Walls - Patios
.....and much more
Call Daren on 07951 736745
for a **FREE ESTIMATE**

Foster Interiors

The Local Soft Furnisher

CURTAINS

UPHOLSTERY & LOOSE COVERS

Made to the highest standards
from an extensive range of fabrics
brought to your home.

Complete fitting and advisory service.
Curtains hung and dressed, ensuring complete
satisfaction - Most competitive prices

Telephone: 01491 680291

for reliable and personal service



Ian's Valeting Service

FAST • FRIENDLY • RELIABLE

FULL VALET SMALL CAR £30

FULL VALET LARGE CAR £40

Will pick up and return spotless
inside and out

Call

07597 081927

Contracts

Garden

Time to improve your front or back
garden?

Rely on our experience to deliver
stunning results and a service to match

0118 9469121

Turf, Decking, Pergolas, Log Stores
Walls, Fences, Patios, Bin Stores, Drives and Paths

Unit 1 Southview Park, Caversham, Reading, Berks, RG4 5AF

Email: Sales@gardencontracts.co.uk

For fencing on-line visit www.fencestore.co.uk

For garden buildings on-line visit www.shedstore.co.uk



OBITUARY: MARY OSERS

Former magazine editor dies

Mary Osers, who died on 11 February this year, aged 92, was the editor of Sonning Common Magazine from 1979 to 1981. She was then chair of the magazine committee until 1989.

While she was living at Lashbrook House, Shiplake, Mary always enjoyed reading the magazine to catch up with village news and she marvelled at its glossy content and front cover.

In her early days as editor, the magazine was produced by roneo machine - a particularly messy process - and later printed by an industrial therapy unit in Caversham. ■

EWALD OSERS
Reades Lane



Pictured are the members of the 1987 committee in Sonning Common Village Hall.

FROM LEFT: John Townsend, treasurer, Graham Damp, advertising, Dick Denning, distribution, Petra North, vice-chair, Mary Osers, chair, Tom North and Julie Colson, editor.

In-store music is really irritating

Initially I was pleased that Somerfield had been taken over by the Co-operative Society.

I was impressed with what had been done in terms of increasing the floor space, expanding the range of goods available (such as the in-store bakery) and so on.

However, now I only go into the store when I unexpectedly run out of items such as milk.

I find the noise from the in-store Co-op radio station very disruptive; I very much dislike the screaming pop music and the announcements about Co-op offers make it difficult to concentrate. Frankly, I can't wait to get out.

I wonder if other Sonning Common residents feel the same way? I know from conversations I have had in the shop that other customers share my point of view, but how widespread the feeling is, I can't say. ■

GRAHAM P THOMAS
Woodlands Road

The Co-operative responds:

Many of our customers have given us positive feedback with regards to our in-store radio, saying that it creates a pleasant and relaxing shopping environment.

As a community retailer the views of local residents are very important to us. We do appreciate Mr Thomas' comments and will certainly take them into account should the in-store radio be reviewed.

The **co-operative**

Needed: building materials for children

I wonder if any local builders or DIY enthusiasts have any resources the children from Sonning Common Pre-School could use for construction play in the garden?

We are looking for drain pipes, guttering, tyres and planks. All of these things are great for the children's development; creative play, physical development, social skills and problem solving.

If anyone has anything suitable they can drop it off at the pre-school in Grove Road, or call the pre-school on 0118 972 4760 to arrange collection. ■

Thank you.

JO LAWSON
Sonning Common Pre-school



Tom Fort

FACIAL HAIR

I had a beard once. Fortunately, no photographic evidence of it survives, but I do not think it was a becoming affair.

It grew in angry red clumps connected by stretches of thin stubble, and I remember that it itched a great deal.

I grew it in the summer of 1971 when on a trip to Turkey and Iran with two university pals. When I got back after two months without having had any contact with my family beyond the occasional

airmail letter – no mobiles or email then – I was greeted at the front door by my grandmother.

"Darling, it's wonderful to see you. You will have that shaved off tomorrow, won't you?" she said, with a loving smile. And I did, of course, because in those days even rebellious students did what their grannies told them.

At about the same time my eldest brother, who is much hairier than me, grew a Solzhenitsyn beard (as sported by the celebrated Russian novelist), which jutted out luxuriantly below a clean-shaved mouth and upper lip.

He did so purely with the aim of annoying our mother and our stuffy elderly relatives. When they and everyone else got used to it, he got bored and hacked it off.

There are still plenty of beards around. One of my favourites is attached to the friendly features of Mick in the world's finest shop, Heath and Watkins. I expect there must have been a time when he didn't have it, but I find it impossible to picture him clean-shaven.

Moustaches, on the other hand, have become a threatened species, except when grown for charity when they generally



do not last long. They are like hitchhikers – they used to be everywhere many years ago, and then they just disappeared.

Maybe we need a campaign for the Preservation of Moustaches. I wonder if the Lottery Fund would consider a grant. ■

 **Andrew Page Oak**
for everything oak

Oak framed garages and outbuildings to enhance your property. Garden rooms, oak furniture and joinery, all made to your exact requirements.
Oak timber for builders and DIY



info@andrewpageoak.co.uk 01491 828207
www.andrewpageoak.co.uk

wood lane dentistry 

Vik Chugani BDS MFDS RCSEdin MSc
Richard McQuillan BDS

- Your local family friendly practice
- Routine general dentistry
- Affordable dental plans with Denplan
- Children seen on the NHS
- Tooth whitening
- Cosmetic dentistry and Implants
- Ample free parking

Now taking on new patients
Saturday and evening appointments available
HAPPY HEALTHY SMILES ...



 **Denplan**
All that's smart is dental care

Wood Lane Sonning Common Reading Berkshire RG4 9SJ
www.woodlanedentistry.co.uk Telephone 0118 9722626

John Abbey
Painter & Decorator



0118 924 2552
58 Wood Lane
Sonning Common



ROOFING SERVICES

A GORDON
Specialist in Slating,
Tiling and Flat Roofs
All work guaranteed



Advanced Level
City & Guilds



Telephone:
01491 576 463

EASTER CHURCH SERVICES

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH,
SONNING COMMON

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
CHURCH, KIDMORE END

SUNDAY, 10 APRIL

Annual Parochial Church Meeting, following the 10am service at Christ the King

GOOD FRIDAY, 22 APRIL

The day of the Crucifixion. The Procession of Witness will start from Christ the King car park at 10am

Good Friday Service of Meditation, with music, at St John's, 2pm

EASTER DAY, 24 APRIL

Eucharist at Christ the King, 9.30am

Sung Eucharist at St John's, 11am

Our clergy and members wish all readers a Happy Easter.

NEIL SCOTT

(on behalf of the Parochial Church Council)

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
ROTHERFIELD PEPPARD

GOOD FRIDAY, 22 APRIL

Morning Prayer and Litany, 10am

Devotional Hour, 2pm

EASTER DAY, 24 APRIL

Holy Communion, 9am

Sung Eucharist, 10.30am

Festal Evensong, 6.30pm

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH, SONNING
COMMON

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

Friday evenings, Stations of the Cross and Meditation, 7pm

Sunday evenings, Adoration and Benediction, 5pm

SATURDAY, 16 APRIL

Vigil Mass, 5.30pm

PALM SUNDAY, 17 APRIL

Masses at 9am and 10.30am

MONDAY, 18 APRIL

Service of Reconciliation, 7pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 21 APRIL

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm - 10pm

GOOD FRIDAY, 22 APRIL

Walk of Witness from Christ the King, Sedgewell Road, 10am

Stations of the Cross, 11am

Solemn Liturgy, 3pm

EASTER SATURDAY, 23 APRIL

Vigil and First Mass of Easter, 9pm

EASTER SUNDAY, 24 APRIL

Masses at 9am and 10.30am

SPRINGWATER CHURCH,
PEPPARD COMMON

THURSDAY, 21 APRIL

Quiet time of contemplation on the eve of Good Friday, 8pm

EASTER SUNDAY, 24 APRIL

Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, 10.30am

Services every Sunday at 10.30am

For more information please call 0118 972 4519 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings

FOR A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN

Choose from our wide range of quality garden services: design and landscaping, plants and maintenance. We tailor-make our service for you.

For a free, no-obligation visit and written estimate from RHS qualified staff, call 01844 279430 or

e-mail: info@brannfordgardens.co.uk

Full details at: www.brannfordgardens.co.uk



CHIROPODY HOME VISITS

For professional treatment & advice
contact

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST
Heidi Snookes-Owen

Bsc, DpodM, SRCh, MChS
HPC Registered

0118 924 2677

CERAMIC WALL & FLOOR TILING

Adhesive / Grout / Trims Supplied
Floor Levelling & Plastering
Free Estimates & Advice

Call Mick 0118 901 1777 / Mobile: 07841 586003

A. SIMMONITE

INTERIOR & EXTERIOR • PAINTERS & DECORATORS
GUTTER CLEANING or REPLACEMENT SERVICE
GENERAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE
FREE ESTIMATES
FAST • EFFICIENT & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
PRIVATE & COMMERCIAL WORK UNDERTAKEN

Tel: 0118 972 2667



A child's first steps into education within a caring environment

We are a small, friendly pre-school caring for children from 2 years 6 months to 5 years in a beautiful village setting. Various sessions available.

We are OFSTED inspected and registered for Early Years Funding.

For more information, please call Louise on 0118 924 2740

Registered Charity number 104-6030
The Parish Rooms, Wood Lane, Kidmore End, Reading, RG4 9BB.

HEATH & WATKINS

**HARDWARE, PAINT, TOOLS, GARDEN ACCESSORIES, BEDDING PLANTS
AND SHRUBS, PRE-PACKED COAL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

**MAIN AGENTS FOR SUTTONS SEEDS.
SHEARS HOLLOW-GROUND & SHARPENED.
ALL TYPES OF KEYS CUT.**

CYCLE SPARES & REPAIRS & EVERYTHING ELECTRICAL

**41A WOOD LANE, SONNING COMMON
☎ KIDMORE END 0118 972 2107**

Mr FixiT

Repairs & Maintenance for almost anything!

All building maintenance and repairs, interior / exterior.
Decorating, Floor / Wall Tiling, Plumbing, Electrical,
Woodwork, Glazing.

Specialist Paint Effects and sympathetic restoration
for older properties.

Kitchens, Bathrooms and Conservatories refurbished.

Landscaping, Patios, Water Features, Fencing,
Hedge and Tree Cutting.

Sheds and outbuildings repairs and maintenance

No Call-Out Fee and Free Estimates

07752 759908

Red Kite Electrical



Domestic Electrical & Solar Power

Find out more at: www.redkiteelectrical.co.uk

Call a locally based electrician.
No job too small. Free estimates.

Phone: 0118 907 6342

Mob: 0788 2737402

Email: sparks@redkiteelectrical.co.uk

17 Burnham Rise, Emmer Green

City & Guilds qualified
NAPIT Part P approved



BathroomBliss for beautiful bathrooms

Fully managed bathroom installation service including design
and fitting. From a small cloakroom to a wonderful wet room.

With over 25 years experience you can rest assured your new
bathroom will be installed to the highest standard.

- **FULL PLUMBING**
- **WALL TILING**
- **FLOOR TILING**
- **WATER SOFTENERS**
- **UNDERFLOOR HEATING**

**Supply and Fit
Installation Only**

Domestic or Commercial

**0118 972 3956
07515 168 902**

cm-brown@hotmail.co.uk

BY ROS VARNES

WHO SAYS FISH don't need bicycles?



When Sonning Common sculptor Daren Greenhow heard that when a client first met his wife she was sporting a badge saying, 'Women need men like fish need bicycles', he knew the ideal present for her 40th birthday - a fish on a bicycle!

Most of Daren's ideas for his steel sculptures come about through commissions and one idea often leads to another.

Recent work has included a Scotsman bearing a sword and shield, made largely from bicycle components - the intended centrepiece for the foyer of The Clansman Scottish ferry.

He also specialises in eagles, dragonflies, even dinosaurs and currently has a model of a velociraptor in his garden!

Daren, a former scientist, became a professional sculptor seven-and-a-half years ago. He now sculpts full-time from his home in Old Copse Gardens and exhibits at art galleries and

shows all around the country, including Wisley RHS Gardens.

Most of his artworks are made from old bicycle parts but he has also been known to raid the kitchen for various utensils, even taking the sword from his household's own suit of armour for his clansman model.

Daren buys most of his bikes from the Sue Ryder Hospice at Nettlebed - bikes which are beyond repair and unsuitable for resale. So, Daren benefits from recycling a steady supply of old bikes while the hospice does not have to pay to have them disposed of.

Friends often leave bikes on his driveway, so there is no shortage of new material to work with. However, local children have been known to perch in trees behind his house and ask for bikes they like the look of - Daren rarely refuses them.

Daren used to develop insecticides for ICI near Bracknell and likens building sculptures to building molecules.

"Being a sculptor is similar to being a chemist," he says. "I used to put atoms together to

build molecules. Now I put parts of old bikes together to build 3-D models.

"Working in sculpture is definitely more satisfying. At the end of each day I feel a real sense of achievement because I can see that I have made something - although being a sculptor doesn't pay as well as being a scientist."

As a child, Daren enjoyed making models before graduating to working on old cars as a hobby. But even then he would take a saloon car and turn it into a convertible, so the urge was always there to create something new from the original form. ■

**From 7 to 15 May Daren will be exhibiting some of his work at The Quern's Gallery, Path Hill, near Gallowtree Common, as part of the Oxfordshire Artweeks Festival. He and 34 of his fellow artists will be displaying a wide variety of indoor and outdoor work for sale.*

For further information please see: www.querns-fine-art.com. Or visit Daren's website at: www.darengreenhow.com



TOP FROM L-R:

- A fish on a bicycle
- Daren's stock of old bikes ready to be refashioned
- Daren's recent clansman sculpture.

ABOVE:

- Sculptor Daren Greenhow



Baskerville Road £450,000

Detached older style property set on a good size established plot and offering excellent potential subject to the usual consents.

For more information on our full range of properties or to book a **free valuation** of your home, please contact us on

01189 24 25 26

Email info@beville.co.uk



Peppard Road £400,000

Immaculately presented four bedroom detached home, offering good size accommodation, with enclosed rear garden.



Beech Rise £329,950

Extended two bedroom detached bungalow set in a quiet location on the edge of the village, with a secluded back garden.



Blounts Court Road £400,000

Single storey bay fronted Victorian residence built in 1882, situated on a sought after road and backing on to woodland.



Appletree Close £270,000

Two bedroom semi detached bungalow, presented in good order and set in a quiet cul de sac within easy walking of village amenities.

Time 4 Pilates 

**Want to look and feel great!!
Try Pilates – controlled, yet gentle exercise**

**Classes in Sonning Common area
Including Ante and Post Natal**

**Mondays / Tuesdays / Thursdays
Beginners and Intermediates
Max 12 in Group (6 in Pregnancy classes)
Private sessions also available**

Christine Brook – Member of Body Control Pilates® Association
Ring 07789 717017 or email chris@time4pilates.co.uk
Website at www.time4pilates.co.uk

**CURTAINS,
BLINDS, PELMETS,
TIE BACKS ETC.**

**ALL AT COMPETITIVE
PRICES**

**CALL CAROLINE ON
0118 954 2448
OR
0781 561 0007**

**AUSTIN
HARRIS**

V.H.S.

**T.V. & VIDEO
RENTAL**

**RADIO & T.V.
SALES / SERVICES**

**REPAIRS TO
DOMESTIC APPLIANCES**

KIDMORE END 0118 972 3098





Lords and masters OF THE PAST

After the common land disappeared with the enclosures of the early 19th century, the scattered families of Sonning Common continued to work on local farms. Until the end of the century little changed.

Who owned the land they worked on mattered little; agricultural labourers were beholden to the farmer who rented the land. But who were these remote and important landowners?

All through the 19th century the land was in the hands of very few families. Robert Palmer (not the biscuit man) was the lord of the manor of Sonning. This included Sonning Common, as the poor heathland at the north of the parish. He also owned the

woodland of New Copse and Bird in Hand wood.

In 1841 Blounts Court is recorded as having been owned by Charles Elsee. His estate included a number of fields to the south of Wood Lane (where Grove Road now runs), also Reddish Manor and adjoining land.

This land was later bought by the Baskervilles of Crowsley Park. They became the most important land holders in Sonning Common, owning most of the land that was not held by Bishopswood Farm.

The family lived as prosperous hunting and shooting country gentry during the Victorian era. John Baskerville made an inventory of his wine cellar on 5 March 1877 which ran as follows:

64 bottles port, 264 Madeira, 56 Langoa claret, 6 best claret,

10 pints Langoa claret, 79 Marsala, about 36 dozen in cask, 50 champagne, 57 light claret, 37 pints light claret, 72 Paudiac, 21 sherry, 2 sherry, 18 brandy ... !!!!

At the beginning of the 20th century the Baskervilles gradually sold off their land with Red House Manor finally being sold in 1927. Grove Road was created and houses began to be built along it in the late 19th century.

Baskerville Road was laid down. Houses were built in Kennylands Road, Woodlands Road and along Peppard Road.

Developers came on the scene. William Fisher of Caversham sold land to Arthur Janes who set his mark on Sonning Common. He built numerous houses in the village instantly recognisable by their solid red brick frontages with a door in the middle and pleasing proportions (viz Wood Lane, Sedgewell Road).

This was the period when Sonning Common began to grow and resemble the village we know today. The grip of the landowners was gradually loosened. Villagers came from all sorts of backgrounds, now hardly anyone would have called themselves agricultural labourers.

There was only one other landowner in the village. Bishopswood Farm was independently owned and farmed by one family. The farm originally belonged to James Atkyns Wright of Crowsley Park and in 1820 the Holland family were its tenants.

However, in 1822, James' widow gave William Holland £4,000 to buy the 200-acre mixed farm. This was said to have been one of the first farm mortgages ever given and the Holland family farmed the land until 1880.

During the century they diversified into fruit, growing cherries, apples, berries and nuts. When Thomas Holland died the farm then passed to William Saunders, his son-in-law, who ran it until the land was sold to John Elwell in 1917.

Bishopswood Farm has remained a substantial unit to this day, surviving the decline of the old landowners.

JILL KENDAL

Jill's next article will explore the village's early commercial history ...



Jill Kendal, from Gallowstree Common, is an amateur local historian and the author of a booklet about Sonning Common in the 19th century entitled, *A Little World Apart*. She taught at Sonning Common Primary School until 1994 and is involved with many local organisations.

John Taylor (Ewelme) Limited

- ◆ BOILER & RANGE COOKER SERVICE ENGINEERS ◆
 - ◆ GENERAL PLUMBING ◆
 - ◆ OIL TANK REPLACEMENT ◆
 - ◆ INSTALLATION OF COMPLETE CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEMS ◆
- ◆ OUTSIDE GROUND WORKS ◆ DRAINAGE ◆
- ◆ ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION SERVICES ◆



Office: 01491 833538

Mobile: 07968 897983



- Fully qualified (Part P reg) electrician
- Plumbing • Kitchens and bathrooms
- Landscaping and fencing

0118 947 7738

07717 295679

www.eastonpropertycare.co.uk

SHARP BUILDING SERVICES

The local builder for all your building work:

**EXTENSIONS
ALTERATIONS
REPAIRS
TILING**

Phone Steve on:

07887 986446 / 01189 724880

Sonning Common Pet Care

At Home Pet Care

when you are on holiday or at work

Cats

Daily visits to clean, feed and pamper

Small Pets

Home visits to care for your Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, etc

Dog Walking

Regular or occasional walks

Puppy Visits

To feed, play, toilet break and clean up

Please call Alison for further information

Tel 0118 9722948 / 07787 114536



Abbeycrest Nursing Home

Essex Way, Kennylands Road

Sonning Common Reading RG4 9RG Telephone: Reading 0118 972 4414

Full Medical *NURSING CARE* – 24 Hours a day *QUALIFIED* and *VERY CARING* Staff.

Long Term and Holiday Stays – Subject to Availability.

A superbly equipped, centrally heated home with Nurse Call, colour T.V.s etc. in all bedrooms, lounges, etc.

Abbeycrest has 14 single and double bedrooms to give a maximum of 24 beds.

When you really care about the tender loving care your loved ones deserve please contact:

MATRON TELEPHONE: 0118 972 4414 or call in and visit us.

Please make enquiries re. Staff Vacancies to: the Matron on Reading 0118 972 4414

CARPET FITTER

Fitted Carpets & Vinyl Specialist

Underlays & Fixings Supplied

Re-Adaptions & Restretches

Measuring, Estimating & Planning

Carpets ★ Vinyl ★ Amtico ★ Kamdean

25 YEARS EXPERIENCE

MICHAEL HODGSON

TEL: 0118 901 1777 / MOB: 07841 586003

THAMES VALLEY GYMNASTICS CLUB

Bird Wood Court

Peppard Road

Sonning Common

(Registered Charity No. 1062939)



- ◆ Modern Gymnastics facility with "state of the art" equipment and dance studio
- ◆ Elite/Competitive squad coaching to Regional/National levels
- ◆ General Gymnastics classes for Boys/Girls – all ages/abilities
- ◆ Pre-School programmes
- ◆ Ballet Classes
- ◆ Play Gym for the Under 5s (Tuesday & Thursday a.m.)
- ◆ Gym Birthday Parties
- ◆ Room for hire

For further information, please call in or telephone
Kevin Cassidy, Club Manager, on 0118 972 4401



Dean & Milward

Insurance brokers & financial advisers

3 Market Place Mews Henley-on-Thames

Tel: 01491 578259 Fax: 01491 410597

Motor Insurance

It really is worthwhile asking us for a quote

Instant
COVER

Professional
SERVICE

Save
MONEY



Computer Problems?

Free quote, no fix no fee, no call out charge

Over 200 happy customers in
Sonning Common.

Milo and Michael Harper



Milo Technical Support
22 Sedgewell Road

0118 972 4905

bespoke kitchens

OPTIPLAN

The South's Premier Kitchen Manufacturer

We have moved to our new
larger improved showroom at:

Wyevale Hare Hatch
Garden Centre
Bath Road
Hare Hatch
Twyford
Berkshire RG10 9SW

Telephone: 0118 940 6600

Fax: 0118 940 6622

Email:
henley@optiplankitchens.co.uk

Website:
www.optiplankitchens.co.uk

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Saturday
9:00am – 5:00pm

Sundays & Bank Holidays
by appointment only

- 13 Full displays
contemporary and traditional
- Displays featuring
Granite, Caesarstone, Solid
Wood and Laminate Worktops
- De Dietrich Appliance centre
- Bosch Appliance centre



- Manufacturer and Retailer – **No Middle Men!**
- Bring in your own Measurements for an
on-the-spot Quote
- Project Managed Installation Service
- **20 Year** Guarantee on Furniture

- Quality Kitchens from £3,000 to £30,000
- Kitchens Handmade to **Any** Size or Colour
- Granite and Corian Worktop Specialists
- Factory Visits Welcome

Over 17,000 satisfied customers in this area
established 1984

Afternoon	FRIDAY 1 Nottakwire practice Village Hall 9.30/9.45am	SATURDAY 2 Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society Spring Show Chiltern Edge School 2.30 - 4.30pm	MONDAY 4 FISH - Garden centre visit 1.30pm	THURSDAY 7 Sonning Common Society - An introduction to bats by Tony Vetta Sonning Common Library 7.30pm
	FRIDAY 8 British Legion - Tea dance Village Hall 2 - 4pm	FRIDAY 15 Nottakwire practice Village Hall 9.30/9.45am	SUNDAY 17 Peppard Bowls Club - open afternoon Peppard Memorial Hall 2.30pm	MONDAY 18 Sonning Common Parish Council Village Hall 7.30pm
	THURSDAY 21 FISH - Pub lunch 11.30am	THURSDAY 21 Sonning Common Women's Institute - Wood Sculptures by Pat Main Village Hall 7.30pm	MONDAY 25 Sonning Common Society - Easter walk Village Hall 10am	WEDNESDAY 27 Nottakwire practice Village Hall 9.30/9.45am
	WEDNESDAY 27 Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - Winning water gardens by John Negus Chiltern Edge School 7.30pm	MONDAY 2 Sonning Common Society - Spring walk Village Hall 10am	MONDAY 2 FISH - Garden centre visit 1.30pm	FRIDAY 6 British Legion - Tea dance Village Hall 2 - 4pm
	SATURDAY 7 Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - Table top sale Village Hall 9.30am	FRIDAY 13 Nottakwire practice Village Hall All day	SATURDAY 14 Big Sing Day by Nottakwire Village Hall All day	MONDAY 16 Sonning Common Parish Council Village Hall 7.30pm
	THURSDAY 19 FISH - Pub lunch 11.30am	FRIDAY 20 British Legion - Tea dance Village Hall 2 - 4pm	SATURDAY 21 Kidmore End School Association - Spring fair and village day Kidmore End School 2 - 5pm	FRIDAY 27 Nottakwire practice Village Hall 9.45am
Morning				

FISH runs regular shopping trips to Tesco in Henley and Henley and Reading town centres. For more information and to book call 0118 972 3986. ■



Orchard Lodge RESIDENTIAL CARE

36 Baskerville Road
Sonning Common

0118 972 2582

*We specialise in caring for
Alzheimer/dementia residents.*
Day care facilities are also available.

Fed Up With Call Centres

Barrs Insurance

Mark & Helen Richards
Your Local Insurance Brokers
For The Unusual & The Usual
Let Us Take Care Of Your Insurance

- House & Contents • Business • Liabilities
- Travel • Landlords • Professional Indemnity
- Horse • Shops • Sickness / Accident
- Commercial / Unusual Vehicle

If It's Not listed We Still Can Help
All Types Of Insurance Enquiries Welcome

0118 924 2603

mail: info@barrs-insurances.co.uk

www.barrs-insurance.co.uk

Unit 2, Kidby's Yard, Kennylands Road, Sonning Common RG4 9JT

HENLEY GLAZING AND WINDOW CENTRE LIMITED

Incorporating



01491 629901

Glass Supply, Glazing Service,
Mirrors, Shelves, Tabletops,
Sealed Units, Lead Lights,
Locks, Secondary Glazing,
Shower Screens



FENSA
Registered Company



0118 9419210

Suppliers and Installers of:

UPVC, Aluminium and
Timber Windows
Doors and Conservatories
Fascias, Soffits and Guttering

Workshop: Unit 12, Manor Farm, Peppard Common, Henley-on-Thames RG9 5LA
Fax: 01491 629904 Email: henleyglazingwindow@yahoo.co.uk

TANDOORI

Connoisseur

21 Wood Lane
Sonning Common
0118 972 3104 / 972 1054

*Come & Experience authentic
Tandoori & Bengali Cuisine*

- ★ Fully Air-Conditioned
- ★ Large Groups Catered For
- ★ Open 7 Days a Week

TAKE-AWAY MENU

We Guarantee Prompt Service on All Orders

S J HINTON Carpenter & Joiner

All carpentry work undertaken
MDF built-in furniture a speciality
Quality craftsmanship

Telephone Steve on: **0118 972 3602**
Mobile: **07887 653866**

Sonning Common Beauty

12 Newfield Road Telephone 0118 972 3059

www.sonningcommonbeauty.co.uk

- MANICURE • PEDICURE • ORGANIC FACIALS
- MD FORMULATIONS GLYCOLIC PEELS
- WAXING • LASH AND BROW TREATMENTS
- SPRAY TANNING • MAKE-UP • MASSAGE
- BRIDAL HOLIDAY AND MUM-TO-BE PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Gift Vouchers Available
Some reduced price treatments available each
week please ring to check availability

EDS School of Motoring

0118 972 3349 / 0794 057 9018

edsschoolofmotoring@yahoo.co.uk



**Creating
good safe
drivers
for life**



noble intentions
landscape garden design

Professional
advice, design &
planting for your
garden.

Call Gail Noble
on 0118 972 3214
www.noble-intentions.com



Weddings

Funerals

Hand-Tied Gift Bouquets



National & International Deliveries

Fully Qualified Florist

Free Local Delivery

42 Wood Lane • Sonning Common • RG4 9SL
0118 972 1240 0777 179 0916

We turn feelings into flowers

Pressed for Time



Laundry Services

Get rid of the Ironing
Have it collected, professionally ironed,
beautifully wrapped and delivered back
to your door without having to lift a
finger.

We also offer
Dry Cleaning
Shirt Laundering Service
Service Washing
Repairs & Alterations

House Cleaning

Regular & One-Off Cleans
Spring Cleans
Move-in and /or Move-out Cleans
End of Tenancy Cleans
After Party Cleans
Carpet & Curtain Cleaning

Free in-home Estimates
Secure Key Holding
Pet Friendly
Environmentally Friendly Products
Fully Insured. References Available

43 Wood Lane, Sonning Common
Reading RG4 9SJ
0118 9723355