

# SC

# SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE

www.sonningcommonmagazine.org

## IN THIS ISSUE



### NDP CONSULTATION - 6 WEEKS

FEEDBACK REQUIRED  
P14-17



### 2 REMARKABLE WOMEN

ANNE SYMONS AND  
JOYCE HARGREAVES  
P20



### SC VILLAGE AS IT ONCE WAS

MEMORIES OF  
OUR VILLAGE  
P24

**THE FINAL  
COUNTDOWN**

6/7 FEBRUARY 2015  
VILLAGE HALL - BE THERE

FEB / MAR 2015



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# FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

As we look forward to another new year I hope you will find something to interest you in this first edition of 2015. On these grey days if you are looking for something new to do or some company there are many opportunities on these pages for 'joining in'. Volunteers are needed in all sort of groups! If you prefer to stay home perhaps you would like to add your memories of Sonning Common to those of Cliff Pryke. Please write them down and send them to us by 1 March.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is now written and many of you visited the preview in November, so know how important it is for the future development of Sonning Common. It is moving towards its final stages with the start of the consultation period on 6 and 7 February. It is very important that everyone knows what is planned, so make sure you find out during the next six weeks and complete the feedback form.

*From the editorial team we wish you a very Happy and Healthy 2015.*



Diana Pearman Editor

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



## HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 Community News
- 8 Notice Board
- 11 Interview with ...
- 14 In Focus
- 19 Just for kids
- 25 Tom Fort
- 25 Letters
- 27 Did you know?
- 30 Parish News
- 32 Diary Dates

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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.

**SC** SONNING COMMON  
MAGAZINE

## MEET THE TEAM ...



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## THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Our Graphic designer, Kevin Taplin's best kept secret!!

Congratulations to Kevin and Amanda on their marriage on Christmas Eve 2014. The magazine committee and editorial team wish you both a long and happy life together.



## CHARITY TABLE TOP SALE



On a Friday before Christmas, a group of young people ran a table top sale in aid of the Royal Berkshire Charity. The young people had worked hard to plan their stalls and sold a range of items including second hand toys, Christmas labels, Christmas gifts, and home-grown walnuts!

The sale raised over £100! The money will go specifically towards the new children's orthopaedic out-patient department. This is a much needed facility as the current area needs improvement.

The hospital would like to say a huge thank you to all the people involved in the

sale, particularly the Snowden Family, for the original idea and the organisation. If anyone would like to donate to the charity please go to the website: <http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/get-involved/donate.htm#> and donate to charity number U357 "The Children's Fund".

We would also like young people to be involved in the design of the new facility, so if you, or your child, would like to get involved, please email [jessica.higson@royalberkshire.nhs.uk](mailto:jessica.higson@royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**JESSICA HIGSON**  
Senior Nurse for Children and Safeguarding  
Royal Berkshire Hospital

## THANK YOU... FROM SANTA



With the kind help of friends and volunteer groups and generous donations received from local people in South Oxfordshire a grand total of £3,156.91 was collected by Santa on his sleigh.

In Sonning Common - £711.70 helped by Shire Hall Rugby Club members

All money collected will be used to help charitable causes within the local community. A small amount will go to youth and eye sight preservation in areas of greatest need.

[info@lions-gwd.org.uk](mailto:info@lions-gwd.org.uk)



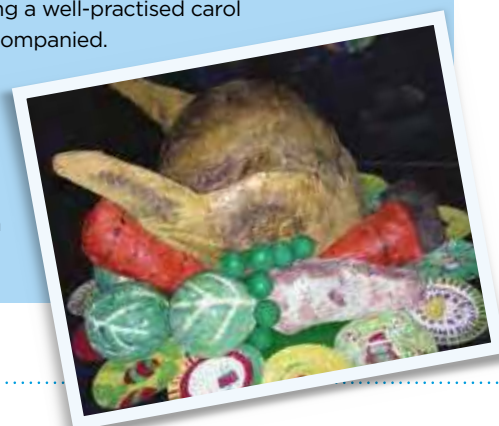
## TURKEY ART

**The Sonning Common Primary afterschool art club has been busy again!**

As a 'one off' special for Christmas the club, run by teaching assistant Mrs Steele, produced a whole Christmas dinner made from paper mache, and a lot of paint! Each child helped to make carrots, parsnips, peas, the turkey, and of course the all-important brussel sprouts!

It was displayed outside on the evening of the annual carol concert. Each year group sang a well-practised carol and the school orchestra accompanied.

Thanks to Miss Simonds, Mr Loader and the school orchestra for a lovely community event which gave us all a very Christmassy feel - along with a cup of mulled wine!



## ANOTHER SUCCESS FOR ORGANISERS OF THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This Christmas, some of the diners were attending for the seventh year in succession, but anticipation and enjoyment were none the less for that.

Chrissie Phillips Tilbury and Jill Vallis and their team of helpers put on a fine meal of roast turkey with all the trimmings, roast potatoes, Brussels, carrots and gravy; washed down with red or white wine. There was Christmas pudding or trifle to follow and coffee and mince pies to finish. And on top of all that, every diner went home bearing a jar of marmalade and a generous slice of a special "Partridge in a Pear Tree" Christmas cake. There was a very convivial atmosphere with much laughter,

cracker pulling and party popper popping among the 42 guests who made new friends and renewed old friendships.

The village hall was resplendent with imaginative and colourful decorations based on the "12 days of Christmas". The designer and overseer of the project was Paul Bailey and all the component parts had been hand made as a community effort. And there were even table decorations echoing the theme.

A vote of thanks was proposed by John Stoves who praised the efforts of the volunteers and asked the guests to raise their glasses in gratitude for the 2014 lunch and certainty of the same in 2015.

JO STOVES



## Hugely successful musical at Chiltern Edge

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe is not widely known in its musical form, but The Performing Arts staff of Mrs Tottman and Mr Harte and the cast produced a really entertaining show of music, drama and dancing, with a backstage team of many, helping with sets, costumes, lighting and sound. Music teacher Miss Griffith and her students in the band produced the music each night.

The lead roles of Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy were acted out brilliantly with wonderful 'English' voices and perfect diction. The Snow Queen (boo, hiss!) and her extremely green dwarf, Mr Tumnus, Aslan and all the animals were very good, but the humour came mostly from a very funny Mr Beaver with an enormously stuffed tummy! Mrs Beaver had a wonderful singing voice which, added to the very professional dancing, made the show another hit!

The Chiltern Edge School Association ran the licensed bar during each evening with proceeds towards school projects, and a cake raffle was held for one of the house charities.

CHRISTINE ATKINSON



## AWARDS FOR HARD WORKING PUPILS



**Chiltern Edge School held their annual presentation evening in November to celebrate the great successes in the GCSE's in 2014. Prizes and special cups were awarded to pupils including two new cups this year. One is the Chris Bryson cup for netball and the other, the Martin Floyd cup for Design and Technology given in memory of Mr Floyd (DT teacher) who sadly died in 2013.**

The school were very lucky to have Debbie Beadle to present the awards who gave a very interesting and inspirational talk about her work for ECPAT UK. They are a leading children's rights organisation campaigning against child trafficking and exploitation in the UK. In particular, they focus on the protection of trafficked children and children exploited in tourism and the prevention of such crimes.

Her role involves supporting child victims of trafficking in the UK through

advocating for their rights, ensuring they are protected and running a weekly support group.

She is no stranger to a challenge and in 2011 was part of the team who became the first female crew of 5 to row 3000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean unaided. Debbie wanted to help raise awareness and prevention of the horrendous crime of modern day slavery – Human Trafficking.

*'I see young people who have been abused in the most horrific ways. Each day I am amazed and humbled by how they survive and find strength to live their lives. This challenge was nothing compared to what these children suffer'* said Debbie.

For more information about the trip and their causes please check out their website - [Rowtofreedom.com](http://Rowtofreedom.com)

CHRISTINE ATKINSON





## FOOD COLLECTION

On the 5 December for 2 hours PCSO Colin BOYES (C8853) stood outside the Co-op to collect donations to create food hampers for the most vulnerable members of our community. The response to this collection was unbelievable - five Co-Operative trolleys overflowing with non-perishable food items were filled. Members of the public had clearly read the posters publicising the event and a few had specifically driven to the collection point brandishing shopping bags filled to the brim with food. Overall the response was fantastic and clearly highlights Sonning Common's community spirit. As a result of this collection, a number of vulnerable residents residing within the village have been presented with a Christmas hamper filled with food and seasonal treats. The neighbourhood police team and the residents of Sonning Common are clearly committed to those who are in need, particularly during the festive season, which for many can be a particularly lonely time of the year.

PCSO COLIN BOYES

# THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

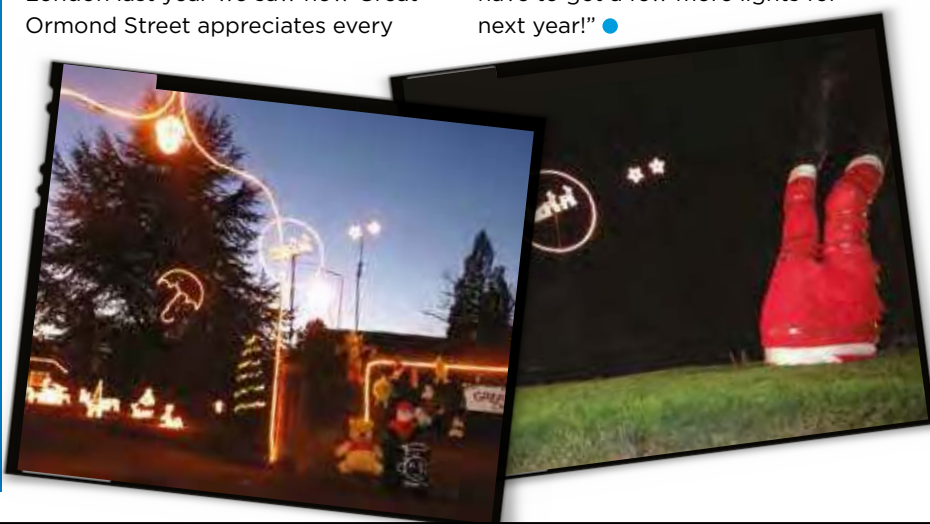
The magical Christmas lights display in John and Carole Lambourne's garden on the Kennylands Road encouraged local people to donate twice as much money to charity as last year.

The Lambournes were delighted with the £1,200 raised and will go to London personally to present a cheque to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Said John: "When we went up to London last year we saw how Great Ormond Street appreciates every

little bit of help it gets so we wanted to give money to the hospital again this year.

"We are so grateful to everybody who donated to this very worthy cause. If I am still in the land of the living I will have to get a few more lights for next year!" ●



## NOTTAKWIRE'S SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO CHRISTMAS IN SONNING COMMON

Margaret and Elaine would like to thank everyone involved - singers, helpers and audiences for their support and enthusiasm for Nottakwire's Christmas Concerts in December. 63 singers performed to two full audiences and a very happy time was enjoyed by all. Special thanks go to our brilliant team of volunteer helpers : Sheila Walker, Sara/Sue Hall, Carol Viney, Jill Greenwood, Jill Grinsted, Becky Jenkins, Mike Grinsted, David McKnight, Peter Rickards and Alan Gibbon. Beautiful floral decorations were made for us by Sue Hedges.

It is always a great pleasure for our group to provide an opportunity where the local community can enjoy live music and people can spend time with friends, family, neighbours and supporters over festive refreshments. This Christmas we were grateful to Sonning Common Cooperative and Caversham Waitrose as both kindly donated delicious festive treats for the

event. After the concerts, Nottakwire was able to donate a monetary present to Club SC, to help fund catering for their Christmas parties.

In the meantime we wish everyone a very healthy and peaceful New Year. ●





## Local Mountainboarder rides to victory again

Harry Jessop, a gardener from Sonning Common has defended the crown of 1st place in the Masters (30+ category) for the second year, in the 2014 UK Mountainboard Series.

Harry scooped first place in the Masters category after gaining the most points overall from the twelve competitions.

"Despite being 34 I still feel I'm improving as a rider. After competing for many years, it is a real honour to defend the Andre La Roche memorial trophy which is dedicated to a great friend and rider who sadly is no longer with us".

For more information about mountainboarding visit [www.mountainboarding.uk.com](http://www.mountainboarding.uk.com)

# ORCHID STEALS THE SHOW

The residents and guests at Abbey Crest Care home in Sonning Common experienced a rare treat on Saturday morning, January 10th. A violin recital was given by eight year old Orchid, that gave great pleasure to all present when she performed a very varied programme of pieces and was accompanied by Sarah Porter (piano) and in one piece alongside her teacher Elizabeth Friedman.

Orchid attends Sandhills Primary School in Oxford and has been learning the violin for three and a quarter years and achieves a mature and warm tone on her one eighth sized French instrument. She played with great confidence and enthusiasm and her pieces ranged from Bach, Chapple, Seitz, Dvorak and Schumann. The pieces showed her technical range and

also her ability to connect to her very attentive audience. She played without music and was encouraged to play an encore at the end. To achieve this standard of playing Orchid practises for up to two hours daily and she also enjoys a wide range of other interests as well. It was a very joyful occasion and all performers were presented with well-earned bouquets at the end. ●

JOAN GRUMMANT



## LONGEST SERVING MEMBER OF STAFF AT SC PRIMARY RETIRES

Pat Butler retired as caretaker of Sonning Common Primary School on 31 December 2014. He became the caretaker in 1973 and is the longest serving member of staff in the history of the school. Previously he had worked at Chiltern Edge. In 1973 he was referred to as to as "young" Mr Butler in the school Managers' Minutes. Mr Johnson (Headmaster (1957 - 1977) made a case for the caretaker to live on site and this was agreed. Pat is the first and only caretaker to live in the school house. In 1990 Pat married Salvacion and after a struggle with the authorities she was able to join him (and William the dog) from the Phillipines. A 'leaving lunch' for Pat was held in the library and was attended by former colleagues and friends. Former Headteachers, Stuart Pitson and Pip Marples paid tribute to Pat's dedication to the school, its staff and pupils over more than forty years. On the 18 December Chris Hirst, current staff and governors said a sad farewell to Pat and Salvacion and presented them with gifts. Pat has been an amazing servant to the school over many years and will be greatly missed but he deserves a rest and the occasional lie-in at last! ●

MEL WHITE



## NEW CHAIRMAN FOR GARDENING CLUB

At the recent AGM of Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society, Mark Richards stood down as Chair after 6 years. His successor is John Stoves.

John thanked the Mark for all he had done during his time at the helm and he paid tribute to the hard work and generosity of members who have ensured that the club is in good health both financially and socially.

"I hope that, together, we can build on this success and with such a strong committee displaying a range of talents and skills, I feel sure the club will move forward and continue to serve gardeners and villagers well into the 21st century".

He concluded by saying he is "particularly looking forward to the trialling of the Spring Show in its new, more central location" in Sonning Common Village Hall.

For more information [www.cehs.info](http://www.cehs.info) or contact John 0118 972 3420

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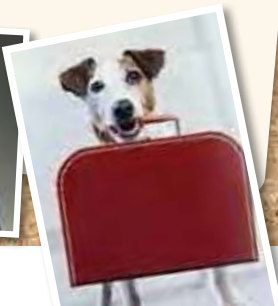
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# ADAM NEGUS

# FIRST RESPONDER TO

# MEDICAL DISTRESS

By ROS VARNES

## In times of medical trauma and distress help is near at hand in Sonning Common.

The village is fortunate to have a small unit of three volunteers who are trained to respond to 999 calls made from within the community.

Our community First Responders team - made up of Adam Negus and Phil Oldroyd, from Sonning Common, and Chris Brook, from Kidmore End - is an important back-up to the South Central Ambulance Service.

Because the First Responders are based within the community they can respond to 999 calls within minutes, provide immediate first aid and try to keep patients calm while they wait for an ambulance.

Adam Negus, of Elm Court, has been volunteering for this valuable and challenging role, which is part of a national scheme, for the past four years.

His quickest response time was one minute - the patient hadn't even got off the phone before he arrived! - and most calls are responded to within eight minutes.

He says: "I have been to a variety of calls. Most of them have been fairly minor things like falls and cuts and bruises but a few have been life and death situations like cardiac arrests.

"Much of the training we receive is about how to deal with different

scenarios, how to approach patients, talk to them and support them until the paramedics arrive.

"People are usually very relieved to see us because we wear NHS uniforms and look official although we have to explain that we are volunteers, not paramedics."

Adam can attend anything up to 15 calls per month, and, generally, volunteers for two days a week as a First Responder. When he is on call he carries in his car an NHS-provided kit, which includes a defibrillator, resuscitation pump, oxygen and medical aspirin.

For the rest of the time he works in the Herb Farm café and volunteers at Sonning Common Youth Club two evenings a week and at the village library during the summer. He has also served as a hospital radio volunteer at the Royal Berkshire Hospital for 20 years.

Adam explains: "I enjoy being a First Responder. It is great to give something back to the community and I also get to have new experiences and deal with different medical conditions."

"To qualify as a First Responder I had two weekends-worth of initial training and now have top-up training every six months after which I am re-certified. We run through different scenarios like how to help a six-week-old baby who has stopped breathing or how to handle a warehouse worker who has suffered a cardiac arrest."

"I have a training and liaison officer who provides me with training and on-going support and can arrange counselling for me, if necessary."

"We are only a small unit in Sonning Common and Kidmore End and we are always keen to have more people to join us."

To find out more see: [www.scas.nhs.uk/howdoivolunteer.ashx](http://www.scas.nhs.uk/howdoivolunteer.ashx). Or email: [cfr@scas.nhs.uk](mailto:cfr@scas.nhs.uk) ●



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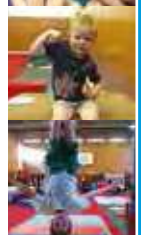
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# THE NDP IS NOT JUST ABOUT NEW HOMES...

By **DIANA PEARMAN**

Sonning Common's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is not just about the allocation of sites for new homes. Many residents are aware of this necessity but may not also realise that there are some other priorities, as well.

These priorities have been developed from the views of people who live in the village, originally from information collected for the Community Plan in 2010 and also from NDP organised meetings and surveys. From all of this data a number of concerns and deficit needs have been identified.

- **Village Centre to be retained and enhanced**
- **Inconsiderate parking in the centre to be challenged**
- **Speeding traffic on Kennylands and Peppard Roads to be curbed**
- **Need to ensure the bus route can manoeuvre through Wood Lane**
- **Low level of recreation facilities requires land for sport and recreation**
- **Smaller homes required to re-align the housing stock**
- **Rural nature of the village to be maintained**
- **The allocation of homes should be across a number of sites**

The allocation of 138 homes to Sonning Common remains a requirement arising from SODC's Core Strategy and this must be achieved. But since the Core

Strategy was agreed in 2012 there has been a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) which has identified that Oxfordshire should take many more homes. Some of these will need to be built in Sonning Common but as yet we do not know how many. We have been advised to ensure there are reserve sites for these extra homes which we have estimated to be another 50. Therefore, as can be seen on the map in the middle pages of the magazine, the number of potentially allocated homes adds up to 190.

Another requirement is to allocate land for business development. This has been done at the site off Kennylands Road where there is a piece of land next to Kidby's Yard. The other site is at the Herb Centre which could be further developed to include offices or light industrial units in the future.

There have been many challenges facing the working party over the 3 years. The most recent ones are the 2 planning applications submitted by Bewley Homes on SON 9, Lea Meadow, and by T A Fisher on SON 5, Kennylands Paddock. SON 9 is one of the sites included in the NDP for development but SON 5 is currently not. There are a number of reasons why SON 5 was not selected, based on information collected by residents who did surveys of the site (none of whom live next to SON 5). It is a back land site that would extend the housing line out towards Kidmore End. More crucially, if the new building line were extended from SON 5 onto SON 6 then the likelihood of SC being joined and absorbed into Reading becomes a

possibility. Residents have said they do not want this to happen and that they want to remain a separate village and in Oxfordshire.

Lea Meadow, SON 9 is accepted by residents as a suitable site for housing but not in the numbers proposed by the developer. The application from Bewley envisages 82 homes, 35 more than the number allocated by the NDP working party. Bewley also seems intent on pushing ahead with their application without waiting for the NDP to be finalised and the referendum held. Some residents in the village think this would be a good idea because if 82 were built on SON 9 there would only be 48 left for other sites, so fewer householders would need to have new homes near them.

Unfortunately it does not quite work like this and there is a need to look at the bigger picture to understand why.

This government's policy is to re-kindle the housing market and the planning laws are now strongly in favour of development. They are requiring many of the counties close to London to increase their housing allocations.

Some of you will be Daily Mail readers and in November an article was published which highlighted the building development taking place across large parts of southern England. One of the places chosen, Buntingford, a village in Hertfordshire, bears a strong resemblance to Sonning Common, as can be seen on the map. Currently it has the same population but is likely to double in size, if the developers have their way! ●



The Chairman of the Buntingford Chamber of Commerce said "A district plan should have been in place but until then, it is carte blanche for developers. We were told to expect 500 houses, but now we are getting around 1,500".

This Buntingford scenario of extensive housing development in all of the fields that surround their village could happen here in Sonning Common. The NDP, if it is agreed at referendum, could provide the protection needed against over-development.

Even with the potential increase in homes to 190, the Health Centre, schools and Dental surgery are all confident that the fairly small increase in population could be accommodated.



# THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

## FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE PLAN COMMENCES

After many, many hours of work and consultation, the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Working Party has completed the plan. Sonning Common's plan will be on display at the village hall on the following days and times.

**FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2015**  
6 – 9pm

**SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2015**  
10 – 3pm

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2015**  
6 – 9 pm

If you are unable to view the plan at the above times and need to see a hard copy then it will be available in the NDP office on any Monday morning from 9 February 10 to 12noon. Please phone the Parish Clerk to make an appointment - 0118 972 3616.

The plan will also be available on the website [www.scpn-ndp.co.uk](http://www.scpn-ndp.co.uk)

Whether you view it at the hall or on the website, feedback (representation) forms will be available for you to complete and email, or post through the door of the village hall. Most importantly, on the website there

will be copies of all the back ground evidence and documentation compiled by the working party, residents and consultants that have informed the whole process. And the write up of the final plan.

If you wish to examine the background evidence and do not have a computer then you can do so at the Parish Office.

The formal consultation process will last for six weeks until **FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2015**.

After the six week consultation with residents the feedback (representation) forms from residents, neighbouring parish councils, landowners, SODC and statutory consultees will be examined and amendments made.

When this process is completed the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan will be presented to the Examiner.

Finally it will go to a referendum, possibly in September 2015. If more than 51% of the people who live in the Neighbourhood area vote YES then it will become a legal document. ●

**The PLAN will change before it goes to referendum due to;**

- **Consultation feedback from residents**
- **SODC requirements**
- **Examiner amendments**

### Bishopswood Middle Field/Memorial Hall Field SON 2/3

**Homes:** 50

**Status:** Allocated site, subject to approval by Chilterns Conservation Board and contract to be signed by Linden Homes for SON 3 to transfer to Parish Council for recreation Phase one build

### Chiltern Edge Top SON 15a

**Homes:** 37

**Status:** Reserve site, subject to DFE approval for sale of land

**Phase:** First reserve if additional number of homes required by SHMA

### Kennylands Infill SON 6

**Homes:** 26

**Status:** Allocated site Agreement to be signed with Land agents Phase one build

### Kennylands Paddock SON 5

**Homes:** 20

**Status:** Possible reserve site

**Developer:** T A Fisher

Current application for 30 homes with SODC

NDP negotiating to remove part of the site in order to retain the settlement line and to prevent further development towards Reading.

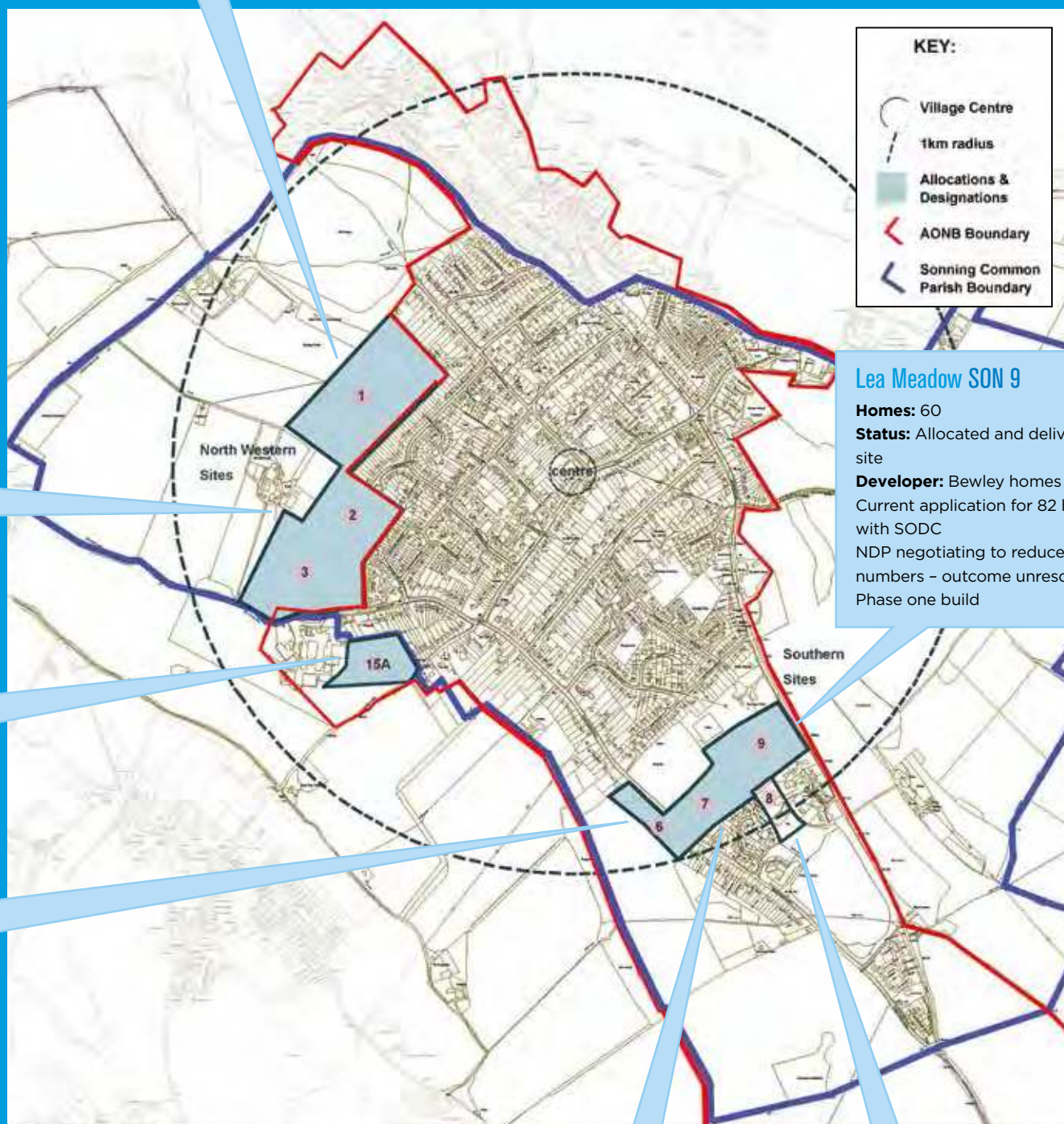


# SCNDP

SONNING COMMON  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## Old Copse Field SON 1

Designated as Local green space



### KEY:

Village Centre

1km radius

Allocations & Designations

AONB Boundary

Sonning Common Parish Boundary

## Lea Meadow SON 9

**Homes:** 60

**Status:** Allocated and deliverable site

**Developer:** Bewley homes  
Current application for 82 homes with SODC  
NDP negotiating to reduce numbers – outcome unresolved  
Phase one build

## Hagpits Orchard SON 7a

**Homes:** 5 (some self-build)

**Status:** Reserve site  
Phase two build if required by SHMA numbers

## Hagpits House SON 7

**Homes:** 25

**Status:** Reserve site  
Phase two build if required by SHMA numbers

## Kennylands Gym SON 8

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## HI! IT'S ZACK HERE.

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and got everything you wished for. I loved all my gifts and have had a great Christmas. I would have told you my best present but I can't, as I will never be able to choose. Now we can look forward to Easter and some chocolate.

Write to me at [junioreditor@sonningcommonmagazine.com](mailto:junioreditor@sonningcommonmagazine.com)

**ZACK**



**MY TIP**



### DOWNLOAD MODS

My Minecraft tip this time is how to download mods (on computers). First, download the newest version of Forge (type in google Minecraft Forge.) Once Forge is downloaded, go to Planet Minecraft mods and pick any mod with your update. Wait for it to download, then open up the Minecraft launcher and click edit profile. After, click Open Game Dir, then click mods. Put your chosen mod in and start minecraft. Hope it works for you. ●

## FILM REVIEW

### Paddington Bear

Paddington Bear is the best film ever, filled with great jokes and mind boggling adventures. I loved how the bears looked and I laughed at every joke. It's about a bear who needs to go to London. His name is Paddington. He is very cheeky and is also very clumsy. I won't tell any more as it will ruin it. Definitely deserves five stars.



### PADDINGTON BEAR

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# TWO EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN

## ANNE SYMONS



Anne Symons died at Sue Ryder Hospice at Nettlebed on Friday 28 November 2014 after a long and difficult journey over this last year, dealing with a diagnosis of terminal cancer. Anne's family and friends want to say a huge thank-you for Sue Ryder and their caring staff, along with Sonning Common Health Centre, and especially Dr Drury who gave Anne a huge amount of love and care. Corinne Smith, Graham Foulis Brown and Susan Cooper also deserve a special mention for their support and guidance.

Anne had a fascinating and varied career in the Foreign Office in London, working also in Dusseldorf, Lagos and Stockholm. She had a very enjoyable social life in London and was usually to be found getting involved in many fund raising events for charity and was frequently elected as Chairperson to various committees. After leaving the Foreign Office, Anne worked for Sir Geoffrey Finsberg M.P and then for various heads of companies, including the Chairman of Woolworths, her family used to pull her leg about being 'the wonder of Woolworths'. On moving to Reading Anne worked for

The Sports Council until she retired.

For more than thirty years Anne played a huge part in the life of Sonning Common. She became chairperson of several organisations including the local branch of Cruse Bereavement Care. She joined the Oxford Rural Community Council board (ORCC) in 1999 retiring only last year. As an active member of the Village Halls advisory group she operated at local and national meetings and was known as 'an informed and wise delegate who had her feet on the ground'. Her village halls expertise led her to advise on project grant applications with the OXON/Berks Grants Panel. She became an ORCC Quality Champion, developing her skills in performance improvement, ensuring that every aspect of the standards were covered and woe betide any that were not covered! At various times she was a volunteer with the Sonning Common Care Scheme, FISH volunteer centre, Health Walks and appeared on local TV and radio, being interviewed on several occasions in connection with the walks. She has arranged a 'kissing gate' in her memory on the 'round walk' near her home, a special favorite of Anne's and one that she felt everyone should be able to

enjoy, not only those fit enough to climb over a stile. She was a key member of the group who completed the Community Plan in 2010, was briefly a member of the NDP working party and then the Traffic Task group, undertaking a parking survey in the village centre. She worked tirelessly for the benefit of the community of Sonning Common.

Care for others was the continuous thread throughout Anne's life. She expected high standards of herself as well as others and was meticulous in everything she did. The Bishop of Dorchester recently presented Anne with the Certificate and Seal of St Birinus after recommendation by Rector Canon Graham Foulis Brown in recognition of the caring work she had done for the people of the Benefice. Anne was very proud of this special award. The seal of the order was always next to her in the Hospice along with a little hand cross given to her by the Chaplain at Sue Ryder. Anne was a special person who right to the end of her life tried to show care and understanding towards others. One of the last things she said was 'I am trying to show by example a good way to die'. A celebration of her life was held at Dorchester Abbey in January 2015. ●





# JOYCE HARGREAVES

By CHRISTINE ATKINSON

## 'JOYCES'

Joyce Hargreaves was one of those people that everyone knew in Sonning Common. She moved to the village in 1964 (when I was born!) with her husband Stan and three children.

She was very quickly involved in the primary school PTA and was part of the team that raised the funding for the school swimming pool that is still benefitting many children in the local area – including my own.

Joyce, her husband, and her friend Pauline started a cub pack in the village which they ran for 20 years. Her energy and enthusiasm was stifled by her own ill health and the unfortunate death of her husband during the 80's, and her life was literally saved by a liver transplant in 1988. This gave her a new lease of life and she became a member of many groups in the village and local community including the Sonning Common Society, parish council, WI, Millennium Green Trust and FISH.

One activity that people may not know about, was that she was on the Sonning

Common Magazine committee for many years.

### **This contribution from Judy Pitson tells us the tale of Joyce's long involvement...**

'When Jill Kendal was Editor Joyce was one of the proof readers. There were sometimes as many as ten or twelve of us, gathered in Jill's sitting room, each one reading every page!

Dick Denning retired from the Committee in 2002 and Joyce took over the important job of distribution which Dick had been doing since the 1980s. This involved considerable commitment every other month to take delivery from the printers and to store the boxes of magazines before they were counted and stacked in bundles for the deliverers.

They were delivered to her house in Rowan Close and, when Joyce telephoned to say the magazines had arrived, I and sometimes other helpers (although there was not enough room for many) would go round to help count them out into piles all over her dining table.

There would be a labelled bundle for each deliverer which was then put into boxes for the five main distributors to

collect when Joyce had telephoned to say they were ready.

It was a smooth operation thanks to Joyce's organisation and her many lists – over 60 people were involved in delivering the Magazine to the village. This procedure usually took us an afternoon with, of course, a welcome break for a cup of tea and a chat!

When Joyce moved to Essex Way she did not have room to store the boxes of magazines and so they were delivered to my house where Joyce continued to organise the collection and distribution until October 2007 when she decided to resign from the committee and Geoff Adams took over the distribution.

She always gave the same enthusiastic commitment to this job as she gave to every task she undertook and her contribution to those years of the Magazine will always be hugely appreciated by us all.'

Joyce will be remembered for her lifelong dedication to the village and we should remember that there are still lots of 'Joyces' volunteering for all those roles in our community.

Thankyou to all the 'Joyces'! ●



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# RECOLLECTIONS OF A RESIDENT

By CLIFFORD A. PRYKE

How does one start to write one's memories of a village you have lived in for 75 years? I am not sure, but here goes ...

I started life in Gallowstree Common, then off to Emmer Green and when I was 5 years old to Woodlands Road. It was at this time that Dad did his time in the army after his brother died at Dunkirk.

I started school at the old Congregational church where the village hall is now. Mrs Clayton was our teacher at that time. It was then promotion to the 'big school' in Grove Road. I was there until I was 15 and on the whole it was an enjoyable experience, even though I had the cane from the Headmaster, Mr Forder, for sneezing in class - BAD LAD?

When I left school I had to earn a living, my father was a builder so it was only natural to work for him. I served a 5 year apprenticeship as a bricklayer and carried on until I retired in 2000.

So what went on during those years? The soldiers up Woodlands Road, they appeared overnight and left the same way, but they were exciting times for us 'nippers'. The bomb that dropped behind where I lived caused no damage

just a big hole in the field. The American troops at Kingwood. We always got chewing gum from them. They also had a rubbish tip along Reade's Lane, a massive pit where they tipped all matter of rubbish which we kids used to sort through. There was of course Peppard Memorial Hall where many activities took place, dances and social evenings. I took part in a Scout Gang Show. During the late 40's and early 50's we had film shows on Monday evenings, two houses. You had the serial first followed by the main feature film. These were always well attended. Two other activities that were popular, the scouts run by Fred Harris and the Youth Club by Fred Richens, both at Peppard Congregational Hall.

My father owned the field where Beech Rise is now situated. Before it was built on he rented it out to Peppard Chest hospital. They farmed it and various crops were grown. All went well until the cows were introduced. They caused chaos, breaking through fences, doing much damage to people's gardens. The field finished as a pig farm until it was built on in the late 1950's, early 60's.

Of course we had unmade roads up until the mid-1950's, these included Woodlands, Baskerville and Newfield Roads as well as half of Shiplake Bottom.

As people say, we are very lucky to have so many facilities in the village to look

after our needs (pity about the bank); a second to none Health centre; Village Gardeners to give floral displays; a super library to keep our minds agile and two choirs to keep our vocal chords in tune.

That will do, as I am bound to have made mistakes, sorry folks if I have. Please can someone else come up with memories? Or I could go on and on ... ●





# TOM FORT EMBARRASSING

Before Christmas we went to Oxford to have supper with friends. They had moved to a street where visitors required a parking permit, which I volunteered to go and get. I was told the number of the house and the door was opened by a youth whom I greeted politely, before marching in and demanding the permit in a loud voice.

My first reaction on seeing our hostess was that she had changed her hair colour very radically. Our host, too, looked very different from when I had last seen him – so different, in fact, that I realised it wasn't him at all. It dawned on me, slowly and painfully, that I was in the wrong house.

A week or so later, I'm ashamed to confess, I embarrassed myself again. The occasion was a lunch in London, a

convivial – too convivial – lunch. I had champagne, then red wine, then more red wine, then I know not what.

I eventually left a low drinking dive for Piccadilly Circus tube station at a gallop, fell over after a collision with another pedestrian, got the train from Paddington, fell asleep standing up – which takes some doing, believe me – and stumbled off the bus in Sonning Common.

Safe on the sofa at home, I veered between sleep and half-consciousness. There was cricket on the TV and I couldn't understand why the cricketers kept on changing their clothes until I worked out that I had been watching a succession of games from different countries over several hours.

At one point I went up the stairs, which seemed extraordinarily steep and

uneven, while eating a piece of pork pie, and stumbled and cracked my elbow on the banisters. All in all, it was a sorry display, which has severely undermined my authority – never great – in the household.

So my only New Year's resolution is to attend to my dignity, or I fear I won't have any left. ●



## Strange Fruit

**I have an unexplained mystery. Why is it, I wonder, that the behaviour of some people is worse than that of the animals they walk?**

Why, I wonder, do they go to the trouble of collecting the defaecation of their pet only to hang the same (now waterproof, in a plastic bag) in a bush, where others can only be offended by such ugliness?

To further explain the mystery I wondered if perhaps it was left over from potty training – a reluctance to flush away the remains? But I thought again, perhaps not. Whoever does this disgusting thing is supposed to be grown up by now.

We are fortunate here in Sonning Common. We have woods and trees for walks for our animals that others might envy. It beggars belief that there are some who would despoil what we have, with such lazy and appalling selfishness.

**YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE. TAKE IT HOME.**

B J LAUGHER  
Baskerville Road

## BECOME A PAL

One of my pet hates is litter. I am always picking it up and I am disturbed that despite our entry in B in B residents are still not taking responsibility for picking up litter hence the above title.

People against litter. The rules are quite simple. You agree to pick up ONE piece of litter a week and you ask a friend to do the same. If the friend agrees they ask a friend and so it goes on. All they do is email me to become a PAL and away we go.

One piece of litter a week is possible for any one?

CHRISSIE



## Drains the problem continues – complaining to OCC may help?

I'm writing to complain about the appalling state of our road drains.

I live near Blounts Court Road and walking down to the news agents or the garage requires waders or a canoe!

Every drain is blocked with mud and leaves. There are puddles the size of lakes at Shiplake Bottom and Sedgewell Road. Even light rainfall just rolls over the drains and lies at the bottom of the hill.

I have lived here for 18yrs and I have only seen these drains cleared once!

MICK THOMPSON

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# THE CRAFT OF FELTING IN SONNING COMMON



**Gwen Ryan, a Sonning Common resident, retired four years ago and went to a workshop run by the Weavers Guild in Oxford on felting. She made a bag, and was immediately hooked by this old and interesting craft. Since then, it has become her mission to spread the word to others, and she joined the International Feltmakers Association whose meetings were so far away that she decided to set up monthly Felt Makers Get Togethers in Sonning Common Village Hall – as well as Exhibition Days. Her enthusiasm and passion is evident in her exhibited work but also in her encouragement to all interested parties including young children.**

Felt is a non-woven fabric formed when sheep's wool is subjected to a combination of moisture and friction, the strands tangle and lock together

and becomes firmer and stronger. An enormous variety of sheep wool is used ranging from Jacob, Manx Laughlin, and Blue face Leicester and Alpaca. This exciting craft has many sides and techniques, ranging from making hats, bags, slippers etc. to felt sculpture with fibre, painting, jewellery and design. The results can be vibrant and satisfying. Gwen really enjoys design and painting with fibre but feels there is an aspect to this craft that can appeal and satisfy a wide range of people. She would love people to come and learn more at IFA Exhibitions and then perhaps join some of the monthly get togethers. Contact Gwen on 07808 011887.

All newcomers to felting and experienced felters will be assured of a very warm welcome and can enjoy the benefits of Gwen's expertise. ●

Joan Grummant

## UKULELE MAGIC IN SONNING COMMON

**The sounds of laughter, strumming and singing emerged from Sonning Common Village Hall on Saturday 29 November. The Fabulous Ukulele Club were holding a concert to raise funds for our local Village Gardeners and it turned out to be a very lively, fun evening. The newly decorated (12 Days of Christmas) Village Hall looked beautiful and was the object of many admiring comments as well as providing a good background for some festive fun.**

The event was organised by June Fisher and about seventy people attended and raised about £400. As well as enjoying entertainment,

refreshments and a raffle, people were encouraged to join in with some favourite songs as well as listen to the music of the band. The band obviously enjoyed every moment and were compered and led by the vivacious and lively Sam Brown, who made sure the audience had an unforgettable evening. The sheer variety of items on the programme ensured that there was something for everyone and it was a very successful and enjoyable evening. So many thanks to Sam, the band and all helpers who contributed to making the evening such a great event. ●

Joan Grummant

## CLUB SC GOES FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

In terms of numbers attending and in the achievements of those young people. The club has continued to work hard to provide a variety of fun and stimulating activities.

### 2014 IN PICTURES ...



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...

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# THE RAINBOW CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The Rainbow Children's Centre in Sonning Common provides services for children up to five years of age and their families. The centre is run by Action for Children who also provide children's centre services across Oxfordshire.

## Free drop-in sessions include:

### RHYME TIME

on Mondays from 10-10.30am at Sonning Common Library – a singing session for under 5s on the first and third Mondays of the month.

### WOODCOTE STAY AND PLAY

from 10-11.30am on Tuesdays – an open play group for under 5s with a song and rhyme session at the end located in Woodcote Village Hall.

### STAY AND PLAY

from 10-11.30am on Thursdays at The Rainbow Children's Centre in Sonning Common – for under 5s.

### BABY CLINIC

runs on Thursdays from 1-2.30pm at The Rainbow Children's Centre for bumps

and babies. It provides an opportunity for parents to meet with Health Visitors and weigh their babies.

## Sessions coming soon:

- Managing behaviour session
- English course for parents
- First aid course

For further information please telephone the Children's Centre on 0118 9724024, pop into the centre on Reades Lane or email [RainbowCCSonning@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:RainbowCCSonning@actionforchildren.org.uk)



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# Parish news

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

## FOCUS ON FINANCE From Douglas Kedge, Chairman of the Parish Council

**We are acutely aware of our responsibility to use your money carefully. Over 95% of our income arrives through the parish precept that forms part of your total Council Tax Demand.**

After careful consideration the parish council has decided to hold our precept at the current rate of £99,000, which equates to £1.21 per week for a home in Council Tax Band D. This is in line with

the precepts set by other Oxfordshire villages of a similar size to Sonning Common and will allow the parish council to maintain and enhance village services and amenities in the four areas of cleanliness and tidiness, facilities, projects and administration - described below.

Thank you for all of your positive feedback on the improvements that have been made to the village

environment over the past financial year, and, with your continued support, we hope to make Sonning Common an even better place in which to live during 2015/16. To see the full budget behind this precept please go to our website: [www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk). A copy is available for viewing in the parish office. Details of the work and achievements of the parish council since 2011 are also available on the website. ●

### CLEANLINESS AND TIDINESS

Cleanliness and tidiness is the work of street cleaning, grass verge cutting, maintaining footpaths, hedges and fences, providing litter bins and dog bins as well as looking after bus shelters and seats. We also fund the work of our unique volunteer Snow Team. **Next year all this will cost £31,361.**

### COMPARISON

**This table shows how our precept compares with that of other large villages in south Oxfordshire.**

Village	Tax base (no. of properties)	Precept for 2014/15
Benson	1,692	118,376
Wheatley	1,694	107,000
Sonning Common	1,575	99,000
Cholsey	1,425	94,828
Goring	1,666	87,800

### FACILITIES

**Facilities describes what we do to provide and maintain our three children's play areas, the allotments, Widmore Pond, the maintenance and removal of trees and the CCTV around the village hall.**

We deal with the effects of the small amount of graffiti and vandalism that we experience. We support the excellent work of the Village Gardeners and also make small grants to other causes. We plan to continue with our re-furbishment of the village hall by upgrading the 1950s central heating system and have been successful in bidding for a grant towards this. We also have to hold a reserve fund to deal with the unexpected. **All this will cost £16,000.**

### PROJECTS

Projects covers those areas where we make specific expenditures that benefit our residents and safeguard the future of the village. We will increase our grant from £8,000 to £10,000 to keep Club SC, the village youth club, going. We will be completing our Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan (SCNDP) to ensure that the 138 new homes that have been allocated to us are of the type needed and in the places that best suit our community. We will be supporting a new skatepark at Bishopswood this year together with a mini skatepark run for small children inside a play area - both of which will be largely grant-funded. **For all this we have budgeted £15,300.**

### ADMINISTRATION

**Administration is the cost of running the parish council and its committees as professionally as we can.** Our friendly Parish Office handles hundreds of phone calls, emails, enquiries and visits from residents as well as from all the other organisations every year. We receive and review every planning application made in the village and in some cases we have to support appeals about them. **All this will cost £55,193.**

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

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



# Church news

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Thank you to all of you who donated food, clothes or money, two car loads were taken to the Churches of Reading Drop-in Centre. [www.cirdic.org.uk](http://www.cirdic.org.uk)

**Cadbury's Crème Eggs and hot cross buns seem to be ever-present in our supermarkets: the perfect excuse to prepare early for Easter this year.**

**Wednesday 18 February 8pm**  
**Eucharist with imposition of ashes**  
All Saints' Church Peppard

This day took its name from the ancient custom of sprinkling ashes on the heads of public penitents, who were required to commence their penance on this day. In more recent times, the practice was replaced by a general penance by a congregation, symbolised by the imposition of ash [a cross] on the foreheads of clergy and people.

**Friday 6 March**  
**Women's World Day of Prayer**

**Sunday 15 March 9.30am**

**Mothering Sunday** Christ the King

Mums and dads are welcome. Posies of flowers will be distributed to the children for their mothers. This service is early enough to leave heaps of time to take Mum out to lunch or to visit Grandma! **Everybody welcome.**

**Friday 3 April Good Friday**

**The day of the Crucifixion** Christ the King

The Procession of Witness starts from Christ the King car park, at 10am. All are welcome. There will be hot cross buns and coffee afterwards.

**Good Friday afternoon**

**Our Service of Meditation**

St John's from 2pm till 3 pm. With music.

**Sunday 5 April Easter Sunday**

9.30am at Eucharist at Christ the King

11am at Sung Eucharist at St John's

The oldest and most important Feast Day in the Christian calendar: The Resurrection of Christ, and the day when all Christians attend church.

**Everybody welcome; we expect full churches.**

**DON'T FORGET**

**Third Thursday of the month 2pm**

Christ the King church hall

Contact Jenny McGregor: 947 2855

**Last Wednesday of the month 9.30am**

**Little Lambs service**

St John's Kidmore End

Contact Felicity Cooper: 947 7862 ●

## WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**'THE BAHAMAS - AN EXCITING DESTINATION!'**

**Friday 6 March 2pm**

**Annual interdenominational service**

Stoke Row Independent Chapel

Whilst we cannot guarantee sunshine there will be

- a warm welcome for men as well as women
- tea and cakes after the service (1 hr)



## PROPOSAL FOR A PRAYER GROUP

I am wondering if there could be a demand for a Prayer Group in the area. Just a simple one, say 20 minute session, with a cup of tea or coffee afterwards, once a month or more regularly. The purpose would be to spend a short time with others in prayer as part of one's prayer life and for the benefit of the community and those in need of support, as well supporting the work of the Church in this place and time of peacefulness.

If you are interested please phone me on **01189721435**, if I am out leave a message and a phone number. Give me some idea as to time of day, venues, regularity and so on, or any other ideas. This has not a denominational base, it is open to anyone who would feel any benefit from taking part. Please give this some thought.

**TED PLATT**

## A VILLAGE CHARACTER WILL BE MISSED

**David Dearlove was a well-known resident of Sonning Common. In the 1990s he served as a parish councillor and had a strong reputation for getting things done.**

He was a member of the then General Purposes Committee and had a particular interest in supporting the three play areas in the village. His approach was very much 'hands on'.

Until a short time before his death, he came to the parish office on a regular basis to report the increasing number of potholes in the village roads. Philip Collings says that he will miss these weekly visits. David was a 'character' in the best sense of the word. ●

# FEBRUARY 2015

MONDAY 2	Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects - Village Hall	10.30am - 12noon
MONDAY 9	Batten House	2pm - 3.30pm
TUESDAY 10	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - 'Roses for all Occasions', an illustrated talk by Alan Goold - Peppard Memorial Hall	7.30pm
MONDAY 16	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
THURSDAY 19	FISH - Pub lunch	11.30am
THURSDAY 19	Sonning Common Women's Institute - Social evening with indoor bowls. Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm

# MARCH 2015

WEDNESDAY 4	Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common Women's Institute. Open to all. Raising funds for local community projects - Village Hall	10.30am - 12noon
FRIDAY 6	Women's World Day of Prayer - Stoke Row Independent Chapel	2pm - 3pm
MONDAY 9	Batten House	2pm - 3.30pm
TUESDAY 10	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - 'Plant Paradise', an illustrated talk by Derek Leary - Peppard Memorial Hall	7.30pm
MONDAY 16	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
THURSDAY 19	FISH - Pub lunch	11.30am
THURSDAY 19	Sonning Common Women's Institute - AGM and Quiz. Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm
THURSDAY 26	FISH - Henley Farmers' Market	
Saturday 28	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society Spring Show - Village Hall	2.30pm - 4.30pm

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

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

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





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