

december | january 2012/3

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magazine

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The editorial group from left to right: Jo Stoves, Joan Grummant, Christine Atkinson and Diana Pearman.

From “ the editorial group

In the absence of any of you, our regular readers queuing up to take on the Editor's role, it looks as though my temporary position that I said was just for 2012, will continue into 2013!!

However the editorial team would welcome some extra members. It is not an onerous commitment, often members of the team report on activities they are already involved with. Additional people would mean we were able to report many of the other activities in the village that would not otherwise be included. The male perspective has been limited, but in this edition we have an article written by Alan Goswell and in previous publications by Mike Macleod, both of whom have added a dimension to our publication, as Tom Fort does always. Please be encouraged by their contributions and contact us if you might consider a future commitment to the editorial team or even a one off article.

This edition celebrates the achievements of the various generations in the village as well as the amazing photography of Jason Hawkes. There is the usual news and views and the Notice board and Diary are full of details of forthcoming events. It looks as though it will be an enjoyable and busy festive season!

Next year will be the 100th anniversary of the start of mass production of the Morris Oxford 'Bullnose' car. One of the features in the next magazine will focus on William Morris's home, Nuffield Place now owned by the National Trust. It would be good to hear from any readers who have anecdotes or stories of their experience of the early Morris Car industry.

Meanwhile the editorial team and myself, wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Diana

DIANA PEARMAN Editor 2012

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org

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 Geoffrey Adams. Email: chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org 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.

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International 'Gold Medal' for Chiltern Edge School

Chiltern Edge School in Sonning Common has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award is a badge of honour for schools that do outstanding work in international education, such as through links with partner schools overseas. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

Chiltern Edge School's international work has included celebrating European Day of Languages, cross curricular weeks on the theme of the Olympics and China, as well as maintaining its longstanding exchange programme with its partner school in Germany and highlighting career opportunities through the World of Work Conference at Reading University.

John Rolfe from the British Council, said: "Many congratulations on your well deserved success in being accredited with the British Council International School Award. The school's fantastic international work is not only giving the young people a better understanding of the world around them, but it's really making a difference to their future prospects too. Employers are telling us that international skills are just as important as exam results – so everything the school is doing is vital preparation for life in a global society and work in a global economy. 2012 is a big year for the UK on the world's stage, and the

school deserves a gold medal of its own for all its outstanding commitment to a range of fantastic international work"

On hearing the news that Chiltern Edge School had received the Award, Mary Lewis, the international co-ordinator said: Chiltern Edge is very proud to achieve this award - the staff and students are committed to promoting the international ethos of the school. 2012 has seen more than 700 schools receive International School Award accreditation nationwide. This includes a wide range of schools from a variety of different backgrounds and areas across the UK.

The Award is now available worldwide in countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Lebanon, Cyprus and Pakistan as part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme. Around 4000 International School Awards have been presented to successful schools in the UK since the scheme began in 1999.

The ISA encourages and supports schools to develop:

- An international ethos embedded throughout the school
- A majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work
- Collaborative curriculum-based work with a number of partner schools
- Curriculum-based work across a range of subjects
- Year-round international activity
- Involvement of the wider community



Sonning Common Primary celebrates its 100th birthday

On 6 January 1913 Sonning Common Primary, then known as Eye and Dunsden Sonning Common Council School, opened its doors to 67 children.

They are celebrating in many ways and hope to involve as many people as possible. These are some of the ways listed here.

- Alice Jones, ex-pupil, has designed a logo that will be used on posters and school letters for the whole year
- The children and staff have stood on the playing field in the shape of 100 while one of our dads flew over in his plane and took a photo.
- A small team of mums have planted some bulbs that will make a 100 display in the spring.
- All the children, with the help of Sue Tyldesley are making a mosaic that will be put on display outside the school office.
- Ex deputy head, Mel White, has spent hours researching and writing the history of our first one hundred years. Her book will be published in the New Year and available via school.
- The children will be learning about life during the past 100 years, adding various events to a timeline.
- We will have an Edwardian theme in school on the first day of term in January. No computers or interactive whiteboards that day!
- All, including staff, will be asked to dress as they would have 100 years ago.
- In June we will be holding open evenings when anyone with any connection to the school will be made very welcome.
- The year will end with our summer fair which we hope to make a village day on Saturday 29 June 2013.

If you have any memories or stories about Sonning Common Primary that you would like to share with us please send them to Chris Hirst email Head2506@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk

Chiltern Edge school rated good by Ofsted

Well done to our local secondary school and all the staff and students. The inspectors said: "Students enjoy school and the various opportunities offered. They feel valued and safe. They behave well and exclusions are falling. The school is happy and harmonious" ■





Plants make all the difference thanks to the work of the Village Gardeners

It has been a very busy two months for The Village Gardeners and I know from the many compliments that we receive that you are most appreciative of the team's efforts

Another 1600 bulbs have been planted as well as winter planting in all the tubs and two old wheelbarrows. By the spring, the telephone box from Blackmoor Lane will be refurbished, planted up and moved to a new site in the village.

The two cherry trees and planters erected with money from Nottakwire are looking good, withstanding some strong winds and a freak hail storm in September.

Saplings donated by the Woodland Trust have been planted down at the cross roads outside the off licence.

We are very grateful to Linden Homes for a donation of £1000 to redesign the triangle of ground at the Kennylands and Peppard Road junction. Gail Noble of Noble Intentions has drawn up a suitable plan for the site and James Sadler of Brook Landscaping has given us a most generous discount for the erection of a raised flower bed.

However, we have had to scale back our activities due to lack of 'hands-on' support. We meet on the first Sunday and the third Thursday of every month at 10am outside the Village Hall. It is always a lively and social event and you do not have to be an experienced gardener to take part. Please consider helping us even if you cannot make a regular commitment. ■

CHRISSIE PHILLIPS-TILBURY
phillipstilbury@gmail.com
0118 972 1058

Sadly, the end of the tea dances

Kidmore End branch was formed in 1946. Over the years, membership has varied from 40 members in the 1960's to 22 in the present day. Our aim in the Legion is to raise funds for the benevolent section and over the last 11 years we have held Tea dances in the village hall fortnightly from September through to May, realising £16,000 over the years. Sadly as the members have grown older, numbers attending have dropped to under 30. So we have now closed.

We meet once every month on the second Monday at 2pm and would love to have some new members. Although we are a small band we have gained several cups for the highest donations in Oxfordshire. Do you paint, knit, crochet, take stunning photos, make woolly toys, pottery or ceramics? We are a friendly group of people and I would love to hear from you. ■

Barbara Butler Secretary & Treasurer
0118 972 3279



Village Hall news

We have had the back wall re-painted a lighter shade of cream to match the others and to give a brighter and more pleasing aspect to the art works. The current one is wonderful, a take on Pollock from the Sonning Common Primary school.

The furniture store has been thoroughly cleaned, including the chairs in an endeavour to keep infections down during the winter. Both the Risk and Fire Assessments have been done so we hope you will feel confident when you use the hall. Our hiring fees have been simplified and are set at very competitive rates. If you have any questions please get in touch. We are delighted to announce that we have a new treasurer for the Committee. ■


Thank you. SUE FRAYLING-CORK

'Bonjour' or 'hello' to our town twins from France

Sonning Common welcomed 11 visitors during their first visit on the weekend of 17 November. They came from our twin town of St Luc et Guichanville. Together with their hosts they had a tour of Sonning Common and Henley and enjoyed a typical evening of English fare and ice breaking games in the village hall. When our guests departed at lunchtime it was agreed that it had been a very successful visit.

If you are interested in making a return visit to France this year please contact me:
Joan Quinton – joquinton@gmail.com

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“O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree, your branches green, delight us!”

A few safety tips

1. Water your tree daily as dehydrated trees are much more likely to catch fire.
2. Place your tree away from a fireplace, heater or candles and doorways that are emergency exits
3. Breakable ornaments need to be on higher branches above children or animals
4. Light sets need to be approved for indoor use. Also check that there are no loose wires or frayed cables.
5. Turn all tree lights off before you go to bed or when you go out or put them on timers.
6. Once the tree starts turning brown or shedding needles it is time for it to go. Recycle if you can as they are not part of the normal rubbish collection unless you pay for a brown bin when you can leave your tree alongside to be collected.



Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

Housing survey results are very helpful and will inform the NDP

We have received our Housing Survey Report from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. 354 were returned to ORCC, a response rate of 24%. THANK YOU for making time to complete your survey questionnaire. The 36 page report gives a detailed breakdown to all 39 survey questions and in discussion we are deciding how best to factor it into our NDP.

Major concerns expressed in your returns were the lack of affordability of new homes, the need for social housing and the lack of suitable homes semis, terraced housing and semi-detached bungalows. 40 respondents said they needed a new home in Sonning Common. Types of ownership desired were – owner occupation, shared ownership and

affordable rented homes via a Housing Association.

Julia Whitelaw, Linda Collison, Helen Lewis and Carole Lewis have collated the 135 site survey reports and 100's of photos. A fantastic effort by them and all of you, and greatly appreciated by the NDP working party. THANK YOU everybody and also for the landscape and village character surveys. A total of 178 surveys have been returned to date.

FEEDBACK meetings to be held in February

A traffic task group has been set up, chaired by Craig Henderson and are assessing traffic and parking problems in the village. ■

CLLR. BARRIE GREENWOOD

Fishing for your Gold!

The FISH Volunteer Centre is seeking to purchase a new mini bus. Do you have any of the following that you no longer need?

Costume Jewellery, Gold and Silver Rings, Brooches, Necklaces, Pocket and Wrist Watches, old Silver Candle Sticks. In fact any precious metal items in any condition.

Donated items can be handed in to the FISH Office in the Village Hall between 9.30 – 11.30 a.m. Monday to Friday or call the FISH Office on 0118 972 3986 to arrange for collection.

FISH stands for **Friendship in Sickness and Health** and is a Registered Charity.



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Machu Picchu Charity Trek

I have always lived in Sonning Common, attending Sonning Common Primary, then Chiltern Edge followed by Henley College. I am currently in my second year at Bournemouth University studying Sports Management. Through my university next summer I have been given the challenge of going on a 10 day trek to the ancient lost Inca city of Machu Picchu in Peru. This is described as "a test of endurance with a stunning reward". While it is quite daunting I am looking forward to the challenge, not only of the trek but also raising money for the Association for International Cancer Research. AICR funds cutting edge research projects all over the world into the causes of cancer. One of the projects AICR supported was a team at Birmingham University who identified a gene linked to children's kidney cancer. While this form of cancer is rare the good news is that 9 out of 10 children diagnosed are now cured. If you are able to support me in my challenge please visit: www.justgiving.com/BenandMarnieTrekforCharity ■

BEN CONWAY



Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning

28 September 2012

Coffee mornings are held all over the country each year to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Care. The charity provides support to the sufferer and their family during the hard times of dealing with the disease.

This year's effort has raised a record £9 million so far, and one of the events was held at the home of Fiona Cooper in Sonning Common. Her very good friend Jo Kirby died this summer from cancer and she wanted to do something to help the charity which had helped Jo and her family so much, along with the local GP surgery.

Inspired by Jo's love of books and their book club, Fiona asked that everyone bring a book they no longer needed. These were displayed for others to take, for a donation to the charity fund, £275 was raised. A fine array of cakes and scones were brought along and lots of cups of tea and coffee were consumed. ■



10th anniversary of my coffee morning

In 2012 this was my 10th coffee morning. It started with a few friends having coffee and cake, a fiver donation while the kids caused havoc and slowly grew to what we have now. This year 50 came to shop; my Nirvana Spa products, Pheonix cards, Bells and whistles and JB jewellery, clothes and bags.

We had a cake stall – thanks to all the donations from all the bakers. Even those who couldn't make it dropped a donation or raffle prize to me. We had a raffle and a squares game and plenty of tea and coffee.

Penny Snowden was a great help. Last year my ceiling fell down in my lounge a few weeks before the Macmillan and so we had it at her house...she is an angel.

Although everyone thanks me each year for doing it...it wouldn't be a success without everyone supporting it...We live in such a lovely village where everyone pulls together. We raised £310.70 and considering money is tight for everyone at the moment, I think that is a great total for a few coffees and cake being sold!

Over the years we have probably raised £3,000 or more. ■

LEENA WISELY



Coffee morning held in the Village Hall

On Thursday 27 September a coffee morning was held for Macmillan Cancer Care. This is held every year, to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause.

We hired the village hall to hold this event, as it attracts more people, and as the day was a decent one it was very worthwhile. We set up at 8am and people started to arrive to help. Within an hour there were a few people wanting to come in, so in they came and the first stop was the raffle table. There were eighteen prizes which had all been donated, so it was worth a pound a strip to have a go. After that, most people had a wander and ended up with what they had come for, namely, tea or coffee and a piece of cake. We had several tables of goods for sale. The cake table was amazing, so many people made cakes for us, large sponges, small butterfly cakes, biscuits, sausage rolls, the list is endless. We also had a bric a brac table, which went down fairly well, and the inevitable browsers paradise, the book table. We also had an abundance of plants given for us to sell, trays of cyclamen, chrysanths and many others. As there were so many plants, another table was put up outside the hall, Business wasn't too brisk to start with but after an hour it was lovely to look around and see people sat at the small tables, which had been beautifully decorated, each one with a cloth and a vase of flowers, enjoying a chat and a cuppa.

We have held this event for four years now at various venues, but the last two at the hall have been the best.

This year we raised £466.37 which is wonderful.

Thank you to everyone who helped us to make this event so successful. ■

LINDA WEBB and JUNE FISHER

News from the library

Those of you who have visited the library recently may have noticed some new additions to our stock:

- 'Easy listening' music CDs available to borrow, for a small charge.
- Jigsaw exchange, come along & borrow one! Please donate any jigsaws in good condition, they would also be welcome.

There will be special Christmas story times for children, with seasonal activities, on Saturday 15 and 22 December, at 10 o'clock, so under 10s are welcome to join us then.

CLOSURE TIMES FOR HOLIDAY

Saturday 22 December at 12.30pm to Wednesday 2 January at 2pm.

We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. ■

ROSEMARY DUNSTAN
library manager



New self-service machine for the library

A new self-service machine for issuing and returning books is due to be installed at Sonning Common Library in February 2013.

Oxfordshire County Council is installing these machines across the county's library network as part of its restructuring of the service.

Last December councillors voted to cut its staffing budget in half for the village's library by April 2015. The county council hopes that local volunteers will make up for the shortfall in professional staff.

In October the Friends of Sonning Common Library met with Jillian Southwell, the county council's library service manager, to continue discussions on securing a sustainable future for Sonning Common Library. ■

'Have a go' at poetry

Write a poem about Sonning Common

Entry is FREE and any one, can enter up to three poems. There is no age limit.

It can be descriptive, historic, romantic, factual or personal so about anything so long as it has a local connection.

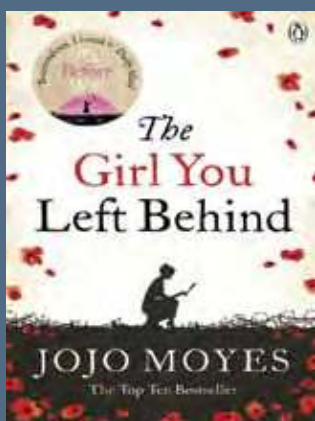
Poems need to be 25 lines and 160 words each - deadline 31 December 2012

Entry forms in library so collect before 22 December - First prize £1000 ■

BOOK REVIEW

THE GIRL YOU LEFT BEHIND

by Jojo Moyes



Having Read Jojo Moyes, "Me Before You" in the Summer, I was very keen to read her latest offering and can honestly say it did not disappoint.

Set in 1916, French artist Edouard LeFevre leaves his wife Sophie to go to war. Sophie's town falls into German hands and the new Kommandant becomes obsessed with Edouard's portrait of Sophie. It's a dangerous obsession, which leads Sophie to risk everything to be reunited with her husband.

Forward to nearly a century later and the portrait hangs on the wall of Liv's bedroom. A gift from her young husband, before his early and untimely death.

As the portrait's history is revealed, Liv's beliefs and newfound happiness are under threat.

This book ticked every box for me. Romance, heartbreak, history and intrigue.

The first part set in war torn France was harsh and unforgiving and you could almost feel the cold and taste the hunger that Sophie and her family endured.

In Liv's world, you could feel her pain in losing her husband and how her belief in the portrait led to her to discovering the truth behind it and ultimately her trust in love.

I read it at night before I went to sleep and in the morning before I got up which, with three children under the age of ten, means not only was it an excellent read, it was also a miracle! ■

By a VILLAGE MUM

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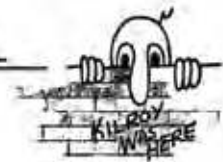
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Lindsay Bramley ~ mezzo-soprano
Stephen Holloway ~ bass

Sat 15th December 2012 at 7.30 pm
Sun 16th December 2012 at 2pm
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*Understanding teenagers! *Setting boundaries! *Enjoying life!
*Negotiation & consequences! *Handling conflict/anger

Part One				
November	7th	14th	21st	28th
December	5th	12th		
Part Two				
January	9th	16th	23rd	30th
February	6th			

Where: Chiltern Edge Secondary School (Meet in reception)
Times:

• Daytime course: 12.45–2.45pm

Contact: Salome Laschinger of Nomad on 07855795899 or contact the
Nomad office on 01491 635734 for more details.

Chiltern Edge school WIND IN THE WILLOWS 4, 5 and 6 December

PRIMARY CROSS COUNTRY
Saturday 8 December
9.30 for 10am start

Christmas Carol Concert

Sunday 16 December
2.30pm
Sonning Common Free Church,
Grove Road, Sonning Common.
All welcome.

Have your say, come and talk to you PCSO

3 December
10:00 – 10:30 ONE STOP, SONNING COMMON.

17 December
16:00 – 16:30 HEALTH CENTRE, SONNING
COMMON.

2 January 2013
10:00 – 10:30 ONE STOP, SONNING COMMON.

24 January 2013
16:00 – 16:30 HEALTH CENTRE, SONNING
COMMON.

PCSO Colin R. H. BOYES
Phone 07968 992 523

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The Sonning Common Magazine is delivered by a dedicated group of volunteers, each responsible for delivering to approximately 20-40 houses. Although we have enough folk for the task at present, it would be helpful to have a list of reserves, who can be called upon to take up a round as they become available. If you would be happy to be a reserve, or would like to talk about what is involved, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

**Helen Gavin – Distribution Manager for
the Sonning Common Magazine**
Tel 0118 972 4680 or email
distribution@sonningcommonmagazine.org

The Village Gardeners

Invite You

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third Thursday of every month.
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Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society

CEHS meets in the Peppard Memorial Hall
from 7:30pm to 9pm.
Guests are welcome free of charge for our
first two meetings in 2013.

JANUARY TALK - GROWING VEGETABLES MY WAY
8 January 2013

Graham Talbot, a well known horticulturist, growing and exhibiting vegetables for over 30 years. Come and select your seed varieties for the coming season.

FEBRUARY TALK - QUIZ NIGHT
12 February 2013

Les Cooper who will stretch our horticultural knowledge to the limit.

Always a fun evening.

Wednesday 5 December at 8pm Mystery drama

Led by Jill and Roger Kendall

Following the enthusiastic response to the monthly sessions, the play reading evenings will continue as a regular event in 2013. This is an exciting opportunity for all those who love drama to share their passion with like-minded people. Experience is not necessary and anybody is welcome to come along.

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Jason Hawkes

By **TOM FORT**

If ever you open a national newspaper and your eye is caught by a spectacular full-page colour photograph of London at night from the air – or indeed any other great city of the world – the chances are that the hands on the camera will have been those of Jason Hawkes. He is the country's leading aerial photographer, the top man in his field.

I have known Jason since his daughter Anouska – this magazine's starry junior editor – and my daughter Katie became friends at Kidmore End pre-school. I could not count the number of times he and I have stood in the playground at Kidmore End chewing the fat and addressing the problems of the world.

When Jason first told me about his work, I was, I confess, a trifle sceptical. It did not help that I am an ignoramus when it comes to the visual arts, and that he is by nature a very modest fellow, so when he talked about it, it didn't sound either glamorous or spectacular;

the way he put it, rather like being a plumber or jobbing gardener.

I maintained my somewhat disdainful view of Jason's talents until a little after my sixtieth birthday. The occasion was celebrated at The Unicorn, where Jason spent his time prowling with his camera, leaving the social stuff to his extraordinarily sweet and gorgeous wife, Adele. A couple of weeks later they came round with a magnificent book made up of the best of the pictures he had taken that day. They were the most vivid and revealing and beautiful photographs I had ever seen, and they provoked a big lump in my throat and a rapid revising of my assessment of Jason.

He also did me an enormous favour by agreeing to take the pictures to illustrate my book about the A303 – an unprecedented assignment for him, as in his professional life he makes a point of limiting himself to photography from the air. As with everything he does, the quality was terrific.

Jason is something of a local lad, having been brought up in Burghfield and sent to school at Leighton Park in Reading (probably kinder to him to draw a discreet veil over his academic achievements.) He studied art and photography in London, and embarked up his career path by taking to the air in a micro-light. After a few months he exchanged this for a hired helicopter, and since then he has never looked back.

But it is impossible to keep him out of the sky for long – when I bumped into him in the pub last night, he had recently returned from a series of flights that had taken him over Malta, Lisbon, Budapest and Prague.

Earlier this summer he received an accolade that most photographers can only dream of – a front cover for the National Geographic magazine. It shows the Olympic Stadium at night, a dazzling visual symphony of blue, gold, silver, green and red, spilling a molten stream of light across the capital.

Jason's passions in life are his family – Adele, Anouska and sons Zac and Finn – and his camera. On the surface he and I have very little in common; yet oddly enough I'd be as happy to spend time in his company as with anyone around. And (but please don't tell him this) I am actually more than a little impressed by what he has achieved. ■



ACTIVE 80'S

Living life to the full ...

You're never too old to have fun and do interesting things. Sonning Common has plenty of active 80-year-olds, who refuse to let age get in the way of what they want to do, and good community organisations to support them. Ros Varnes went to meet some of our more active seniors to find out where they get their zest for life.

Playing a part

One of Elizabeth Foster's pleasures in life is to go to the pub once a month to do a play reading.

She meets with Chiltern Players at The Reformation in Gallowstree Common. They buy a drink at the bar and then go into the conservatory to read parts from plays including Agatha Christie murder mysteries and Noel Coward favourites.

Elizabeth, who is 87, and lives in Elm Close, says: "It's great fun. We try to pick play plays with plenty of parts so that everybody can have a go."

She also loves reading, especially autobiographies, and doing crossword puzzles. "I've still got my marbles so I need to use them," she says.

Elizabeth is involved with the Sonning Common Society and is on the Church Council for the parish churches of Christ the King in Sonning Common and St John the Baptist in Kidmore End.

She sings with Nottakwire and is busily preparing for Christmas concerts as one of the group's inner core. She also enjoys Sonning Common Luncheon Club meetings once a month and is a regular FISH bus passenger.

Elizabeth received a warm welcome when she moved to Sonning Common from Newbury in 1999. "Right from the start I found that people were very friendly and would always say, 'Hello', in the street.

"I think that what we have in this village is just amazing. We hardly need to go out of the village for our daily needs. There are also a lot of wonderful voluntary groups here like the luncheon club and the Village Gardeners."

Elizabeth has two sons, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, the youngest of whom lives in Emmer Green and is less than a year old. ■



Elizabeth Foster, who, at 87, is actively involved with village life

Those fruit and veg just keep on growing!

Never one to sit down, eighty-one-year-old Dennis Burchett finds he is busier now than he ever was when he was working.

A gardening enthusiast, Dennis, from Farm Close, is always at his allotment - up to three times a day in the summer. "I always want to be there, even on a wet day," he says.

There's plenty of digging, planting, pruning and harvesting to be done, of course. But, in between times, he enjoys nothing better than

getting together with a few of his gardening buddies at the allotments. They go into a shed, make a brew and sit around setting the world to rights and teasing one another.

"It is nice there to have a chat with different people. We have a laugh and pick the world apart," says Dennis.

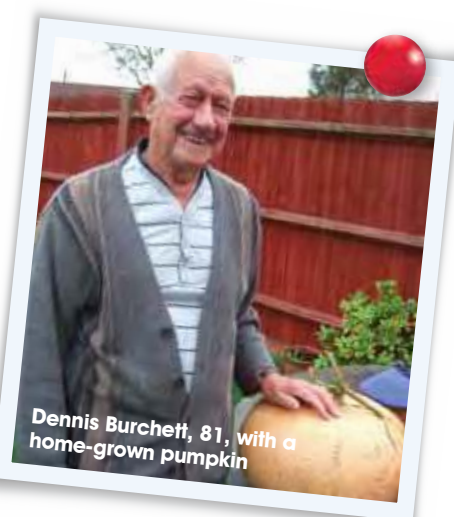
The former Reading bus driver has kept his allotment in Gallowstree Common, opposite The Reformation pub, for more than 35 years. Doing so has kept him remarkably fit and active.

Dennis recalls how he took part in a study conducted by Sonning Common Health Centre when he was in his mid-70s. His activity was monitored over a seven-day period. He was judged to have been one of the fittest people in the study with a physical age of more than 10 years less than his actual age.

Dennis, who retired at 65, was born on a farm in Sussex and his love of nature and the countryside has remained with him all his life.

When he isn't gardening he enjoys fishing and sometimes catches a bus to Windsor with a mate to have a doddle around and watch the world go by.

Dennis and his wife Carole have two sons and lived in Ashford Avenue for 37 years before moving to Farm Close three years ago. ■



Dennis Burchett, 81, with a home-grown pumpkin

Still going strong

As Michael Twyman approaches his eightieth birthday his career is still flourishing.

Michael, aged 78, is Professor emeritus of Typography & Graphic Communication at the University of Reading, where he teaches postgraduate students from all over the world.

He is also chair of the National Printing Heritage Trust, vice president of the Printing Historical Society, a council member of the Ephemera Society, and director of the Centre for Ephemera Studies at the University.

Already the author of over a dozen books, Michael's next - on the history of chromolithography (a kind of colour printing) - is to be published by the British Library in the Autumn. Writing it has been a 20-year labour of love, according to his wife, Pauline.

She says: "There is never a second when Mike is not thinking about lithography. We spend most of our summer holidays searching out pieces of printing of one kind or another. Luckily, it interests me too."

The couple met while students at the University of Reading where they both studied fine art. Pauline specialized in painting and Michael printmaking and design. The couple have lived in the same home in Grove Road for 53 years, where they brought up their three children.

An accomplished artist and art teacher, Pauline, aged 77, has recently had a solo exhibition of her paintings and drawings at the Old Fire Station gallery in Henley.

A former teacher, she retired from Sonning Common Primary School in 1999. For many

years she led art workshops at the centre for adult learning at Chiltern Edge School, but now runs her own classes for the same groups in Christ the King hall on Fridays. In addition, she has been running literature appreciation sessions in the village, on behalf of the WEA (Workers Educational Association), for about 40 years.

Pauline also organises occasional coach trips to art exhibitions in London, the next one being to the Manet exhibition at the Royal Academy in February.

Says Pauline: "We are very active and terribly lucky with our health. Mike has had a new hip but is as busy as ever."

As Michael puts it: "It gets harder and everything takes longer and I find I have to pace myself and plan more. But if you keep going, you keep going." ■

Getting involved with local life

At the age of 87 Duncan Ruegg prefers riding his bike to walking around the village.

He has a bad ankle, which can make walking painful, so it is easier for him to get around on his bike.

"I have been cycling all my life, since I was three," said Duncan. "I used to cycle to work every day and I still enjoy it."

Duncan and his wife Nora are firmly of the opinion that if you are well enough to get out and about, then you should.

The couple moved to Wood Lane from Norfolk two years ago to be closer to their daughter Alison Bishop, who lives in Baskerville Road, and their son who resides in West London.

Since then they have joined a range of local groups and have become immersed in village life.

A keen singer and former member of Ipswich Choral Society, Duncan now supports Nottakwire while Nora is a member of the local WI. They are both regular attendees of Sonning Common Luncheon Club and are full of praise for the volunteers who support it.

Said Duncan: "We were loathe to leave Norfolk because we were really very

happy there but we have been amazed at the welcome we have received in Sonning Common.

"The people here are so friendly and all of the organisations so welcoming that we are really very happy living in Sonning Common now."

Nora, who describes herself as, "Only 81", said that all of their neighbours had done a marvellous job of helping them to settle in.

The couple, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in September, met as members of the Territorial Army (TA) many years ago. Duncan joined the TA when his war-time service came to an end and Nora joined because she was looking for adventure.

During the Second World War, Duncan was conscripted into the mines under the Bevin scheme and worked there for three-and-a-half years between the ages of 18 and 21.

In later life he became a chemical engineer and worked with ICI for 34 years while Nora, who is good with numbers, had accounting roles throughout her working life.

She joked: "When I was 19 or 20 I saw a fortune-teller who said I would handle lots of money in my life. She didn't tell me that it would be other people's!" ■



Duncan and Nora Ruegg at home in Wood Lane

by ROS VARNES

Living life to the full ...

Yet another inspirational story from within our community

I spent a very enjoyable afternoon chatting to Hannah Rice who has lived in the village all her life. Hannah is now 21 and has just returned from her university graduation ceremony in Falmouth, Cornwall. Her ambition is to be a television presenter.

Sounds like just another ordinary girl?

Well, Hannah was born three months prematurely with cerebral palsy, and has been mainly in a wheelchair since she was about 10 years old. She learnt to swim at a young age and does this regularly for exercise. Hannah went to Valley Road Nursery in Henley from 2 ½ until starting school. This is part of Bishopswood Special School and they have expert help available for special needs children. Hannah then attended Sonning Common Primary School until her final primary year which was mostly spent at the Pet Institute in Hungary for rehabilitation following surgery on her hips. Hannah had to spend time in Hungary on and off until she was about 15.

Her secondary education was at Wallingford as it was more accessible than the local schools. It was not very easy for her as she had no friends who went to that school, and she suffered from some bullying while there. The school predicted her to get mainly D's in her GCSEs, but Hannah was made of stern stuff, and proved them all wrong by achieving B's and C's!

After auditioning at Henley College for a BTEC national diploma in Performing Arts Hannah was told that she could not do it there as the course modules involved lots

of dance.....so she went to TVU Reading where she was accepted on the same course and after two years of hard work passed with a Triple Distinction.

Initially, Hannah wanted her next step to be to find a course in a drama school. However, she had already found that there were few roles available to wheelchair users. She decided to try a different path and applied for a BA course in Digital Media at University College, Falmouth. The course leader was very encouraging and Hannah enrolled and moved south.

Hannah had to live in the University halls throughout her stay with the support of a Personal Assistant. Access around the campus was poor and meant she was less independent. Having been spoiled by the fantastic bus service to Reading where the floors drop for wheelchair access, Hannah was frustrated by the lack of access provision in Cornwall. She became involved in the local community radio and led a debate on BBC radio Cornwall on the county's transport and access issues, which led to the local bus company appearing on air and offering to try and help.

Hannah graduated from Falmouth with a First Class Degree in Digital Media. She is now temporarily living back at home in the village and contacting major broadcasting corporations, in an effort to promote disability in the media sector.

Now Hannah needs some inspiration on her next path and a role in media – maybe the new Digital Youtube age will bring some opportunities?

Good Luck Hannah ... Thank you for sharing your story and hopefully it will inspire others too. ■

by CHRISTINE ATKINSON



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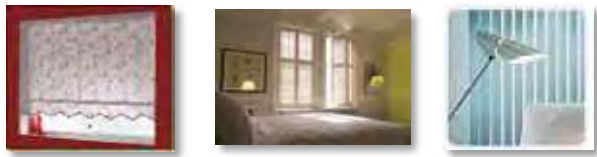
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ON YOUR DOORSTEP

By ALAN GOSWELL

Several years ago my doctor turned round from scrutinising his computer and said: "Yes, you've got type 2 diabetes - any questions?" It was a bolt from the blue!

Once I'd recovered from the shock, it dawned on me that exercise, along with getting rid of the excess weight that had slowly crept on over the years, was the key to better health. I hate exercise for the sake of it, so gyms, swimming pools and running are not for me. Exercise has to include another dimension; like admiring fine views, studying nature, and exploring new places.





Around this time an old pal in Scotland tentatively mentioned the possibility of cycle touring as a fun way to explore some Scottish islands. So, setting any procrastinations aside, I bought a new bike and committed myself to 'get fit' in three weeks so that our cycle tour could coincide with an island jazz festival.

I set myself a tough schedule with rides at least five times a week covering up to 35 miles on some days. My target was to climb the toughest hills on the Chiltern ridge. In doing so I rediscovered our local countryside and fell in love with it.

Living here in Sonning Common since 1978, I was aware of the Chilterns, but didn't understand their geography or realise how special they are. Ordnance Survey's Explorer sheet 171 defines the area as being roughly bounded by Goring, Wallingford, the M40 and Henley-on-Thames.

There are few main roads but hundreds of narrow, minor roads that we usually avoid in our cars. Communities are mostly hamlets, and much of the countryside is managed by large estates with tenant farmers. Woodland abounds, and the whole area is blessed with an abundance of bridlepaths and footpaths, many more than in most rural districts.

The area is crossed by the Ridgeway, the Swan's Way and the Icknield Way as well as more recent creations like the Chiltern Way, the Chilterns Cycleway, Sustrans Route 5 and the Oxfordshire Way.

I managed to get fit enough to enjoy my island tour of Arran, Islay, Jura and Bute. By the time I returned from holiday, I was a confirmed convert to cycling.

Local bridleways drew my interest, so I invested in a mountain bike to explore them properly. Since then I have travelled all over the area covered by sheet 171, marking off tracks and bridleways with a yellow highlighter as I ride or walk them. Over six months, hundreds of separate marks appeared on my map.

One grey day I rode 38 miles from our village, almost entirely off-road. I went up to Aston Rowant and back on bridlepaths and tracks. I was treated to stunning scenery, almost total peace and my only companions were deer, rabbits, birds and squirrels.

My route took me up through leafy Kingwood Common, skirting Stoke Row, via the cool green beech woods, then across the busy Nettlebed to Wallingford Road at Nuffield to Park Corner, then down through the woods to the Swans Way. I climbed on to the Ridgeway past Watlington and continued up the ridge to the Aston Rowant nature reserve.

My route home took me through Northend and forest and farmland to Pishill with many fine vistas to Turville on the way. I continued on through Russell's Water, the Warburg Nature Reserve and Catslip before finally emerging, via the Highmoor Estate woods, near Satwell. It was a long ride, taking nearly five hours, and I wouldn't recommend it to anyone who is not fit. But isn't it wonderful to have such a route on our doorstep?

At least once a week now, the boots go on and my wife and I also walk the footpaths. There are many nice walks around our village, but a few minutes in the car to a village car park such as those at Stoke Row, Bix or Hambleden opens up many

more scenic possibilities. There are 4,900 protected rights of way in the Chilterns.

Until I had a motive to get out there more, I didn't fully appreciate the wonderful Chiltern countryside that is on our doorstep. Do you? Have you really explored it? It's a veritable paradise for walking and particularly for cycling. It's safe, quiet, peaceful, very beautiful and great fun to explore in depth. It's not too challenging either, so it's a great 'back to fitness' training ground.

I have since cycle-toured the Outer Hebrides, Skye, Mull, Brittany and last year went cycle camping to Normandy with a tiny tent. The other good news is that I have lost weight and my blood pressure, cholesterol and resting pulse rate have all fallen, taking me out of the diabetes danger zone.

Without the care and attention of our excellent health centre, I would not be where I am now health wise, I wouldn't have discovered a new interest and had many attendant adventures. So, my sincere thanks to Dr Andrew Burnett and his team.

Hopefully this has whetted your appetite to get out there and discover more of the Chilterns. See you in the woods! ■



Tom Fort

DO IT

A wise man knows his limitations, and I am wise now in the matter of DIY.

Forty years ago I bought my first house, a Victorian terraced cottage in Windsor. I slapped white emulsion on every wall, but in a moment of madness I decided to paper the kitchen ceiling before painting it.

I slapped paste on a strip of lining paper, ascended my step-ladder and began by trying to stick the middle of the strip to the surface and work outwards. It fell down on top of me so I tried starting at one end and working back, but my arms were six feet too short. By the time I abandoned the exercise there was more glue on me than on the lining paper.

When we moved into our present house in Wood Lane there was a need for shelves. No problem, I cried. Leave it to me. A mistake, as it turned out.

I cut some MDF shelves to fit an alcove and set about screwing in the raw plugs to support the uprights. The plugs went in very easily, and there were some curious sounds from within the wall which I ignored. As I placed the last book in the last space on the last shelf, the whole lot came away from the wall, burying me in books and bringing down most of the rotten plaster as well.

It was a bad moment, but I was undaunted (or just stupid). The next project was my study. This time my blunder was



to put the two uprights ridiculously close together, so that when the shelves were loaded with books they drooped at either end so that the books fell off.

After that I gave up DIY in favour of destroying things – burning bonfires, cutting hedges and grass, chopping wood and so on. These days, instead of DIY, my mantra is GSI – Get Someone In. ■

Parish council

NEWS

- The Parish Council has appointed Linda Collison as deputy clerk. Her main role will be managing projects and activities approved by the Council, including the parish website.
- Leigh Rawlins has been co-opted onto the council and will specialise in planning issues.
- Both the parish clerk and the deputy are working towards their Certificate in Local Council Administration.
- A brainstorming session was held by councillors on 29 October to

consider future plans and projects and availability of grants.

- The parish council is supporting the French twinning association's first event on the 17 November.
- A grant of £150 was agreed for the erection of a live Christmas tree outside the village hall
- Work has finished on the new car park behind the Co-Op. The silver birches which were reaching the end of their life have been removed and 5 new spaces have been made.

- The clerk is still trying to make contact with the owners of the land behind One Stop for future consideration as additional parking spaces. It is noted that the tarmac recently laid at the front of the store is already breaking up.
- Cllrs Lewis, Stoves and Kedge are waiting for quotations from three contractors for the roller park.
- At the allotments, there will be a driveway, fencing and some relocation of plots to allow better access.

COUNCILLOR CHRISSIE PHILLIPS-TILBURY

Church news

CHRIST THE KING, SONNING COMMON

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END



We extend our thanks to all who supported our Christmas Fair, 24 November, the proceeds of which went to Kidmore End School and both churches.

And so our thoughts turn to Christmas itself, the commemoration of Christ's nativity.

Details of our services, to which everyone is welcome, are listed here.

The candlelit service of Carols and Readings at **St John's**, is always popular (with the congregation getting their chance to have a good sing!) and will be held, this year, at 7.30pm on **Friday 21 December**.



For many years now we have supported the Children's Society with our candlelit **Christingle services**. This celebration originated in the Moravian church, with a lighted candle set

in an orange, representing Christ as the Light of the World.

Our first Christingle service this year is at St John's Church on Sunday 9 December and the second is on Christmas Eve at Christ the King Church. Each child attending is presented with a Christingle which makes a tasteful table centre on Christmas Day. Both services commence at 4.30pm. It's a lovely way to start Christmas; you don't have to be a regular church-goer to attend, but be sure to come early for a good seat because this, too, is a popular service. The collection is donated to The Children's Society, the organisation which does so much to help homeless and other needy children and young adults.

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held between 18 and 25 January, each year. Look out for details of a local ecumenical service to mark this occasion.

Our clergy and church members wish the Editor and all readers a Happy Christmas.

Christmas Services

Friday 21 December

7.30pm

Service of Carols and Readings, at St John's

Monday 24 December

4.30pm

Christingle Service, at Christ the King

11.00pm

Midnight Mass, at St John's

Christmas Day

9.30am

Family Eucharist with Carols, at Christ the King

10.30am

Family Eucharist with Carols, at St John's

Sunday 30 December

10.30am

Benefice Eucharist at Christ the King

CHRISTMAS AT ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Peppard Road, Sonning Common

Monday 17 December 7pm

Special Service of Reconciliation, including a general blessing, Exposition and time for individual reconciliations. Additional priests to assist.

Monday 24 December Christmas Eve

6pm

Mass for families with children

8.30pm

Christmas Carols, Reading and Music followed by "Midnight Mass" at 9 pm

Christmas Day 10.30am

Morning Mass



THE WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 1 March 2013

All are invited

Groups of Christian churches, throughout the world, get together each year for a one hour service prepared by women of different countries. Sonning Common is in the Peppard and District group and the participating churches are the Stoke Row Chapel, Springwater Congregation Church, Christ the King, St John the Baptist and All Saints' CE Churches and St Michael's Catholic Church.

This year, it is the turn of Christ the King CE Church, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common, to host

the local service on **Friday 1 March from 2-3 pm**. The women of France have prepared the service and their theme is "I was a stranger and you welcomed me". Over 3 million people world wide will be praying and worshipping together during the day, beginning when the first service is held in the Queen Salote Girls' School in Tonga and continuing around the world until the final service, some 35 hours later. By then the day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and more than 6,000 services will have been held in the British Isles alone.

Although organised by women, this is essentially a day of prayer for everybody, demonstrating our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in other countries and all are welcome to attend.

Do come along and join us. Refreshments will be available after the ceremony. **Shirley Rixon, Secretary, Peppard and District WWDP Committee**

FAREWELL TO FATHER BOB AND WELCOME TO FATHER PAUL

Our parish priest Father Bob Devaney left the parish on the 8 November to take up a chaplaincy visiting hospitals in the Warwick area. We have been very privileged to have had his services over the past few years and wish him all the best in for the future. On the 17 November we welcomed Father Paul Rowan, who is also a lecturer at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill.

Shirley Rixon, St Michael's Parish Pastoral Council ■

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JUST FOR KIDS

Hi Everyone,

I can't believe the first term of school has gone by so quickly and it's nearly Christmas. As I write, Halloween is coming up as well. I'd love to see some pictures of you in your Halloween costume. Send a picture of yourself and a small caption of what you're dressed as and I'll put you in the next issue.

Happy holidays!

ANOUSKA

STAINED GLASS WINDOW COOKIES

A perfect Christmas snack. Here is a recipe that will start to get you into the Christmas spirit!

INGREDIENTS:

125g butter
175g plain flour
50g caster sugar
½ small orange rind
10 max. clear coloured
boiled sweets

Makes 12

WHAT TO DO:

1. Set the oven to 180°/gas mark 4 and line two baking sheets with non-stick baking paper.
2. Cut the butter into small squares, then put into a mixing bowl with the flour and sugar. Rub the butter using your finger tips until it looks like fine crumbs. Grate the orange rind carefully then stir it into the bowl.
3. Squeeze the mixture together with your hands to make a ball. Roll out thinly on a surface dusted with flour. Use different shaped biscuit cutters to cut out large shapes and also to stamp out the middle, then put the shapes onto your baking tins.
4. Re-knead any trimmings left over, roll out and continue cutting until all the mixture is used.
5. Bake in the oven for 8-10 minutes until pale golden.
6. Meanwhile, unwrap the sweets and crush with a rolling pin.
7. Carefully remove the sheet of biscuits out of the oven. Add different coloured sweets to each hole – be careful, the biscuits will be hot.
8. Bake in the oven for 2-3 minutes, leave them to cool and then enjoy eating them!



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

There are so many things to do with Christmas I could put in this word search. Here's just a few of them!

j	f	s	c	a	r	d	s	s	e
e	s	s	x	s	a	n	t	a	v
s	d	m	t	m	e	o	h	m	i
u	a	u	o	a	c	e	g	t	t
s	r	h	f	k	r	l	i	s	s
g	i	v	i	n	g	s	l	i	e
s	t	n	e	s	e	r	p	r	f
s	g	n	i	k	e	e	r	h	t
s	e	g	n	a	r	o	g	c	g
i	a	s	n	g	r	s	h	e	r

christmas
presents
stockings
santa
oranges
noel
xmas
giving
cards
festive
stars
lights
jesus
three kings

Long distance family

I received a surprise email this month all the way from Canada! It was from a man called Tim Bigelow. He was looking for some relatives of his grandmother's who he thought might live in Sonning Common. His grandmother was orphaned at age 6, and went to Canada at age 9 in 1913 with Barnardo Homes. She spent most of her young life as a child labourer in farms in Ontario. My mum and I visited the address in Sonning Common Tim mentioned, and were pleased to find his relative living there. I hope they are now able to get in touch with each other very soon.



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Walking the local footpaths

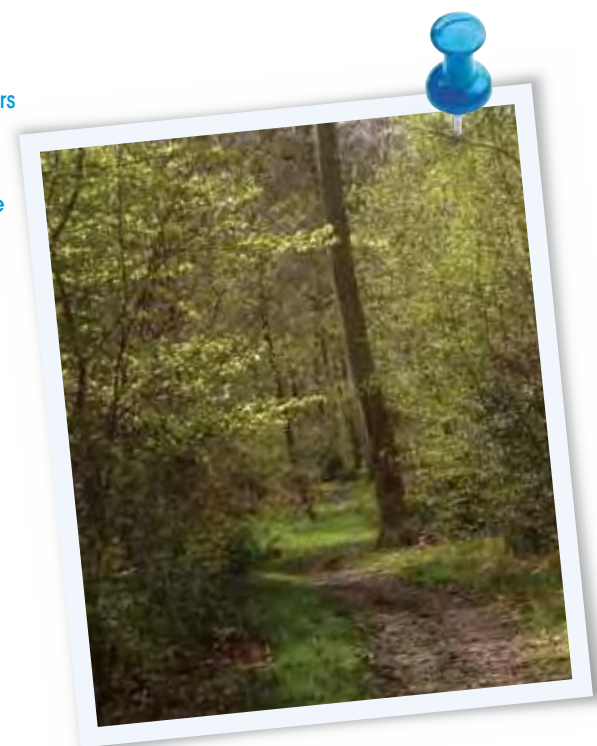
By **MARK RICHARDS**

The Sonning Common Society organises 4 walks on local footpaths each year - on Easter Monday, May Bank Holiday, August Bank Holiday and Boxing Day - and its purpose is to keep the footpaths clear and in regular use in accordance with the aims of the Society. They are intended to be leisurely walks, no longer than 2 miles, linking with footpaths in other parishes, and, if convenient, to take in a stop at a local hostelry. Walking the footpaths is a very pleasant way to exercise your dog, see the lovely countryside around our village, enjoy the changing seasons and the company of other walkers. Thanks to the Chiltern Society, all the Sonning Common footpaths now have kissing gates with the exception of SC12 and SC14.

BUT ... the Society does need volunteers to lead the walks and our appeals have so far been unsuccessful. We will provide directions for a walk or the leader can choose his/her own and a volunteer would not be asked to lead more than ONCE a year.

Offers to lead on weekend days apart from the above-mentioned Bank holidays would be welcomed. If you feel you could do this for just one morning in a year please contact Mark Richards on 9723939 or at mark.richards62@btinternet.com Sadly, this year's Boxing Day walk will have to be the LAST and no more will be organised unless we can recruit more leaders. ■

Please help!



Ken Crush

By **JUDY PITSON**

On 13 October Ken died peacefully at home after a long illness, with his wife, Margaret, by his side. Ken came to live in Sonning Common in 1969 working as a biochemist at Blounts Court and then, later, teaching chemistry. He was always a keen gardener and a handyman, happy building go-karts or a tree house for his sons, doing home improvements and tending his large garden. Ken was one of our first eco-warriors - a familiar sight on his bicycle around the village, preferring to use public transport rather than his car to reduce carbon emissions. Climate change and the use

of world resources were his concerns. One of his friends described him as a "prophet before his time" - he foresaw the need for the care and conservation of the natural world before it became widely acknowledged. He was a man of principle and was respected for his passionate adherence to his beliefs even by those who did not agree with him.

Ken devoted his spare time to village projects, especially after his retirement, raising money for the Scouts and, as secretary of the Sonning Common Society for over 30 years, organising tree planting, footpath walks,

interesting talks and keeping us aware of planning developments. He always wanted the village to remain a village and was deeply concerned with the preservation of its trees and its rural environment. The purchase of Old Copse by the Woodland Trust, the formation of the Millennium Green Trust and raising money for the purchase of Kennylands Field all involved him. He regularly attended St. John the Baptist Church at Kidmore End until his illness prevented him.

Married to Margaret for over 62 years, he was a devoted husband and father,

deriving much joy from his great grand-daughter. A quotation read at his funeral summed up his life: *"Life is not counted by the years you live but by the love you gave and the things you did."* He will be greatly missed by the village, his family and all those who knew him. ■





One possible way to curb nuisance calls

Can I respond to the article on nuisance phone calls in the October/November issue? I registered with the telephone preference service some years ago, and I now receive far fewer phone calls from firms with a traceable telephone number on the UK mainland. However, the main problem comes from calls of a very dubious nature from call centres in the Indian sub-continent with no traceable number. I phoned the BT Nuisance Call Advisor and was told that there is a firm which can block such calls for a fee of £5.00 per month. However, I shall continue to deal with these calls either by putting the phone down immediately or tuning into Radio 3 as loudly as possible for as long as convenient. I hope that blocks the line and prevents further calls to other sufferers. ■

GRAHAM THOMAS

The importance of good neighbours and friends

I would like to thank all my family and friends who came to visit me after my major operation for an ankle replacement. The first three weeks were very hard as I couldn't put my foot on the floor, but without so many friends who came to visit me on week days and my daughters who looked after me at the weekends I don't know how I would have managed. I had no help from our local health centre but I suppose that is all due to the NHS cut backs. Hopefully it will not be long before I will be able to walk to the village again and back to singing with Nottakwire. Thank you all so much. ■

SHEILA HAYWOOD

Trees or cars, the eternal dilemma

In the last issue of the magazine there was a tribute to Miss Bonham-Carter which mentioned her donation to the village of part of her garden to provide a car park for the village hall. How sad then, to see the healthy trees which were part of that garden cut down with no prior warning to the village. When she transferred the land to the village she stipulated that the trees were not to be removed. Since then every parish council has respected her wishes. However, the present council has chosen to ignore them. This shows a complete lack of respect for a lady who gave so much to the village in both time and money. It is a very shabby way to treat her memory. ■

PAT HUGHES Essex Way

Dilemma resolved ...

Thank you Councillors for our nice new car park and thank goodness those damn trees have gone too. Whenever one parked beneath them the car was splattered with muck. Not anymore! ■

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December 2012

SUNDAY 2	Coffee and mince pies for Village Gardeners	10am
MONDAY 3	FISH - Garden Centre Visit	1.30pm
MONDAY 3	Have your say, come & talk to your PCSO - One Stop, Sonning Common	10 - 10.30am
TUESDAY 4	Wind in the Willows - Chiltern Edge School	7pm
WEDNESDAY 5	Nomad Youth & Community Project: Parent Talk - Chiltern Edge School	12.45 - 2.45pm
WEDNESDAY 5	Wind in the Willows - Chiltern Edge School	7pm
WEDNESDAY 5	Chiltern Players. Open play reading evening. Everybody welcome. Just turn up and enjoy the buzz - The Reformation, Gallowstree Common	8pm
THURSDAY 6	Wind in the Willows - Chiltern Edge School	7pm
FRIDAY 7	Nottakwire dress rehearsal day - Village Hall	9am
SATURDAY 8	Nottakwire Carols & Cake Christmas Concerts - Village Hall	10am & 2.30pm
SATURDAY 8	Primary Cross Country - Chiltern Edge School	9.30am
WEDNESDAY 12	Nomad Youth & Community Project: Parent Talk - Chiltern Edge School	12.45 - 2.45pm
THURSDAY 13	Butcher's Arms carols group practice	10am - 12 noon
THURSDAY 13	Sonning Common Women's Institute - Christmas party - Village Hall	7.30pm
FRIDAY 14	Nottakwire final session - Village Hall	9.45 - 12 noon
SATURDAY 15	South Chiltern Choral Society - "Hallelujah! It's Christmas" - Chiltern Edge School	7.30pm
SUNDAY 16	Christmas Carol Concert. All welcome - Sonning Common Free Church	2.30pm
SUNDAY 16	South Chiltern Choral Society - "Hallelujah! It's Christmas" - Chiltern Edge School	2pm
MONDAY 17	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
MONDAY 17	Have your say, come & talk to your PCSO - Sonning Common Health Centre	4 - 4.30pm
THURSDAY 20	FISH - Pub lunch	11.30am

January 2013

WEDNESDAY 2	Have your say, come & talk to your PCSO - One Stop, Sonning Common	10 - 10.30am
MONDAY 7	FISH - Garden Centre Visit	1.30pm
TUESDAY 8	Chiltern Edge Horticultural Society - "Growing Vegetables My Way" by Graham Talbot - Peppard War Memorial Hall	7.30 - 9pm
WEDNESDAY 9	Nomad Youth & Community Project: Parent Talk - Chiltern Edge School	12.45 - 2.45pm
FRIDAY 11	Nottakwire practice - Village Hall	9.45 - 11.30am
WEDNESDAY 16	Nomad Youth & Community Project: Parent Talk - Chiltern Edge School	12.45 - 2.45pm
THURSDAY 17	FISH - Pub lunch	11.30am
THURSDAY 17	Sonning Common Women's Institute - Pandemonium: songs to cheer us up post Christmas! Visitors welcome - Village Hall	7.30pm
FRIDAY 18	Notts group - Village Hall	10am - 12 noon
MONDAY 21	Sonning Common Parish Council - Village Hall	8pm
WEDNESDAY 23	Nomad Youth & Community Project: Parent Talk - Chiltern Edge School	12.45 - 2.45pm
THURSDAY 24	Have your say, come & talk to your PCSO - Sonning Common Health Centre	4 - 4.30pm
FRIDAY 25	Nottakwire practice - Village Hall	9.45 - 11.30am
WEDNESDAY 30	Nomad Youth & Community Project: Parent Talk - Chiltern Edge School	12.45 - 2.45pm



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