

SC SONNING COMMON MAGAZINE



IN THIS ISSUE



RECORD YOUR MEMORIES

Tell us about your
memories of the village
P13



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Naming your home
could add value
P14-15



VILLAGE CENTRE GRAND DESIGNS

Transforming the
Village Centre
P18-19



JUNE / JULY 2018

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After School Club sessions are 3.00pm - 6.00pm



FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

It is with relief that I write this editorial. On one count that the sun is shining at last and secondly there is no reference to the NDP or appeals against avaricious developers. **INSTEAD** we are into a new phase of the benefits of having the new builds in Sonning Common!

The first of these exciting plans is the transformation of the village centre. There is a taster for you to see in the In Focus pages and the Grand Designs can be seen in a display at the village hall on Saturday 16 June which will be open from 10 to 4pm.

The second exciting development is the recreation ground, Memorial Hall Field and plans for this will be revealed in the next issue of the magazine.

A number of successful events recently held and written up include David Jaggs guitar recital, SoCo spring clean, On Your Bike, Spring Serenade, lent lunches with many others to come. Such as the Big Bash, Matters of Memory, Going for a Song and the usual round of fun summer activities.

One item I would like to draw attention to is the Fire fighters of the 1940's. Memories such as these will be lost unless the senior residents of the village will record their interesting stories for the magazine. ●

PLEASE NOTE: the deadline for the August September issue of the magazine is the 20 June, due to holiday commitments.

Diana

Diana Pearman Editor

Email: editor@sonningcommonmagazine.org



HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 – 7 Community News
- 10-11 Noticeboard
- 13 Memories of the 1940's
- 14-15 What's in a name
- 18-19 Village Centre
- 20 So Co Spring Clean
- 22 Anthony Hitchens
- 23 Parish page
- 24 The Edge
- 25 OYB
- 27 Letters
- 28 Tom Fort/Cook's corner
- 31 Did you know?
- 32 Church news
- 34 Diary dates/Advertisers directory

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By Emma Lawrence

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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CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL NEWS

The school continues its journey towards officially joining the Maiden Erlegh Trust this August, and the students have been trying on the new blazers for size. The Trust is to provide one new blazer for every current student in years 7-10 for the start of the new year in September.

Some of the Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11) dancers recently went to London's ExCel centre for the annual Move-it! Convention. This was an opportunity for the students to speak to dozens of performing arts colleges about their courses, and there was also a chance to watch dozens of performances, including Flawless dance troupe. The students had a great time and were a credit to the school.

TABLE TENNIS AT BREAKTIME

The parent association (CESA) have recently purchased two new all-weather table tennis tables for the 'quad' which is an area within the school that the students can use at lunchtime.



DONATE YOUR COINS

CESA have also started a new fundraising initiative where they are collecting foreign coins and notes, and obsolete coinage.

SO.....all those old pound coins that are hanging around in little pots and drawers in your house can now be put to a good use! ●



IT COULDN'T BE EASIER TO DONATE. JUST COME INTO CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL RECEPTION & POP YOUR DONATION INTO OUR COLLECTION BOX. PUPILS CAN USE THE COLLECTION BOX IN PUPIL SERVICES.

SONNING COMMON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



On that VERY warm evening in the middle of April - you may remember the short spell of summer? - the PTA organised a fundraising evening testing the parents on their 80's and 90's trivia knowledge. They were pretty impressive it turns out! One round was a challenge to make a bust of Lionel Richie's head from clay! Any ideas to follow on from the Lionel clay round next year will be very welcome ...

ATHLETICS TEAM WIN SECOND PLACE

A year 5 and 6 combined team of well practiced athletes participated in the annual Oxfordshire Finals of Sportshall Athletics in April following wins in the earlier local rounds.

They came a well-deserved second place, with each participant bringing home a large silver medal and a huge smile! Well done to the whole team for their hard work, especially in attending early morning training at school through the cold winter months.



ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVENING

On a very hot evening in April (yes that week!) the annual Performance Evening was held in the school hall.

This year the focus was on storytelling, and the large audience of parents and friends witnessed 20 superb retellings of traditional tales by children from Key Stage 2 (who had been chosen from a wider field by their classmates). There were also performances of singing, music, dance and also from the school jazz band. The standard was very high, and the levels of preparation, props and practice were exceptional. In the end the judges' decision came down to a prize

for the best act in Years 3/4, and a trophy for the Years 5/6 winners, but all performers were winners in their own right and provided a very enjoyable evening. Many thanks to the teachers and parents who attended and helped to organise the children and the event.

ONE STOP MONEY FOR PLAY AREA

The PTA very kindly applied to One Stop's Carriers For Causes Scheme <https://www.onestop.co.uk/carriersforcauses.php> for a grant to pay for playground markings. They wanted to help the school enhance the children's playtime in a fun and educational way. The Key stage 1 (infants) playground now has a colourful alphabet dragon and Key Stage 2 (juniors) have six exercise stations to make up a fitness trail. There are also two new noughts and crosses grids on each playground which the contractors added at their own cost.



MATTERS OF MEMORY OPEN DAY

Sonning Common Health Centre's Dr Sue Ronay, PPG members Rika Adams and Sue Litchfield are planning an open day for anyone who wants to know more about Dementia and Alzheimer's at Sonning Common Village Hall on Friday 13 July from 10 am till 4 pm. It is free for everyone - there is no need to be registered with SCHC.

We have arranged for over 20 organisations to attend. They will provide information and advice covering a variety of subjects from what research is currently taking place, to what care options are available for those who suffer with dementia and what local support is

available for patients and their carers.

Short talks, with question time, given by knowledgeable speakers will cover topics like:

- **Safety implications and how you can become a Dementia Friend.**
- **Thames Valley Police talking about the Herbert Protocol.**
- **Dementia Oxfordshire on their role on guiding both sufferers and carers to meet their needs.**

Refreshments will be available throughout the day. You could join in with some activities to keep the brain active and the Notts choir group from Nottakwire will provide entertainment

at lunchtime.

A programme listing the participants and also the speakers with times will be available from mid June. You will be able to find it at Sonning Common Health Centre (both at reception and on its website), the Pharmacy, several shops and Sonning Common Library will have copies.

Please make a note in your diary to come along on 13 July 2018.

If you are unable to come to this event there will be information and leaflets about Dementia available at the SC Health Centre Topic Table (entrance lobby) towards the end of June and July.

BIG BASH 2

Last September a small group of friends from The Butchers Arms (including Rob Blues - who runs the pub), organised a great day and evening of music (with a few beers thrown in!) to raise money for Sue Ryder and Bowel Cancer UK following the sad passing of Rob's wife Ellie.

As it was so successful and such great fun, as well as raising funds, the team have organised The Big Bash 2 on 30 June 2018. It will be bigger and better with a great line-up of music including lots of local bands and talented new young musicians. ●



KEEPING INFORMED WITH HEALTH MATTERS

You may be healthy but would still like to hear about what is happening at Sonning Common Health Centre.

SCHC NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Did you know that you can receive a copy of our newsletter online, sent to your email address? To do this, you need to subscribe via our website. Click on www.sonningcommonhealthcentre.co.uk and scroll down to the bottom of the homepage and click on the button 'subscribe to our newsletters' and we will take care of the rest! If the surgery has your mobile phone number you can also have a reminder that the newsletter is available online. ●

SONNING COMMON VILLAGE CRICKET CLUB – OUR 30TH YEAR!



This season is a landmark for the cricket club. We are 30 years old.

Evidence suggests there was a team in the village in the early 1900s and again around 1930. However, our current club was formed in 1988 in the Red Lion at Peppard and we are still going strong 30 years later.

The first game was played on August 21st 1988 at Park Place School near Henley. We lost by 4 wickets to the Five Horseshoes at Remenham Hill (no longer there). One game was played in 1989 against Great Haseley before a fuller set of fixtures appeared in 1990.

We have a number of events planned for this season, finishing with a 30th Anniversary Dinner and Disco to be held at the Caversham Heath Golf Club on 3rd November.

We don't play every week, we can't cope with it now as there are still quite a few people around now who were there 30 years ago! We play around a dozen games a season, one of the reasons we can still field a team for most of our fixtures when other local village teams are struggling.

Last season will be remembered for many things, not least the Highmoor match which was played in driving rain all afternoon. Also, the Sonning Common Village Cricket Club Male Voice Choir reappeared while we were on tour. During a sing song in the Brewhouse Pub in Dorchester (Dorset), some people in the pub came over and

asked which choir we were! Apparently we were the best they had heard! We have a new fixture this season as part of our celebrations, in Wales against Pontarddulais CC. The choir will have another outing there, and then..... who knows!

We don't have a home ground and playing again in the village in the near future is not looking so promising now. However, most of our games are against local sides and are a bit of an 'event' and we welcome anyone who wants to come and support us.

We love our cricket but that not the main reason we play. It's for the camaraderie, the friendships and the banter that make our club unique. For us, both before the game and 'afterwards' in the pub are as important as the match itself.

So this season promises to be one to remember, starting with a visit to Nettlebed. We have a great set of fixtures lined up and some of our legendary social events.

This is Village Cricket at its rawest, but also its best, so why not come and give us a try?

If you would like to get involved, as a player or supporter, please contact either

Keith Davies (Chairman)
01189 723313

Or Chris Pitson (Captain)
07775 604932

Or come to one of our games or social events. We try to meet on the first Friday evening of each month in the Butchers Arms. Commitment can be as much as you want it to be. ●



ANOTHER FIRST FOR SONNING COMMON

You could hear a pin drop An audience of 80+ sat spellbound listening to David Jaggs, Guitarist, entertain us with music from Italy and Spain. We were entranced by his finger work and his choice of music in the first half was very engaging and 'chilling'. In our frantic world such music would provide a perfect relaxation.

A Tapas plate meal, prepared by Sandy Onofrio, and served with a glass of wine was an appetizing break which allowed the audience to circulate and discuss the evening's entertainment

The second half showcased music from the musicals and the last set was from the movies during which he used recorded backing - of himself accompanying himself! He told us that this was the first time in a recital he had used backing but said "Now that you know I can play a bit, I think it's OK" which amused the audience. He finds that a number of the larger, public venues where he is asked to play can become rather noisy and the backing helps to penetrate the hubbub.

David was invited to Sonning Common by Margaret Moola, Director of Nottakwire who sponsored the event with the addition of a generous grant from the Chiltern Edge Community Association. David readily accepted Margaret's invitation to give a performance in the village hall as he really enjoys performing in small venues and unusual places.

Margaret managed the evening beautifully with some background information about the talented David Jaggs and reminded us that it was a charity event specifically organised to raise money for our local Sue Ryder Hospice. The charity will receive £1,800 as a result of the evening. In addition, the two beautiful flower arrangements of dark and light pink roses, gerberas and chrysanthemums, specially made for the evening by Sue Hedges, were gifted to the Sue Ryder Hospice for the Sanctuary - where they were much admired.

David graduated from the Guildhall School of Music, where he gained a distinction and was subsequently invited to study with the world-famous Manuel Barrueco in New Jersey, USA. David has his own record



label 'Timespan Recordings' and is best known for his highly successful range of eight easy listening albums which have sold in excess of 100,000 copies.

Many of the audience members purchased CD's from a wide variety that David brought with him - and he generously donated 20% of his sales money, plus a personal gift to the evening's donation.

I am sure the audience will be looking forward to the next musical evening sponsored by Nottakwire. ●

Nottakwire will be holding a whole day of music making on Saturday 23 June entitled "Going For A Song". 'All -day Passes' will be on sale in Occasions, Wood Lane at £5 (free for children 12years and under). More details can be found on the Noticeboard page of this magazine.

Diana Pearman

SONNING COMMON VILLAGE QUIZ 2018

In a hotly contested competition the winners of this year's quiz were Kelly's Heroes with a score of 110. The winning team comprised Martin and Gail Kelly, Eric and Angela Davison, Maddie and Jonathan Sharman who, as well as the trophy, took home a Winner's Gnome each. An incredibly close second, beaten only on a tie-break question were Two Hoots followed by Mongooses on 108. Next came Comets, Wishful Thinkers, BGs, On the Tiles, P and O, Fossils,

The Reading Group, The Jones family, Between the Covers, Green's Gremlins, Antipenultimates, Jam Busters, Knights who say ni and Desperate Housewives.

A fabulous £760 was raised for Primary School Funds which will go towards new interactive whiteboards.

Many, many thanks to everyone who took part and helped on the night and hope to see all of you next year. ●

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Matters of Memory

Friday 13th
 July
 10am – 4pm

Sonning Common Village Hall

Information Stalls and talks about Dementia and Alzheimer's
 Alzheimer Society, Dementia Oxfordshire, AGE UK, other National and Local organisations

Sonning Common Village Fixtures 2018

DATE	OPPONENTS	VENUE	
May 6	Nettlebed	A	
May 13	Ipsden	A	
June 2	Broadwindsor	Tour	
June 3	The Fox, Corscombe	Tour	
June 24	Fawley	A	14.00
July 1	Swyncombe	A	14.00
July 6 (Fri)	Highmoor T20	A	18.00
July 8	Aldermaston	A	14.00
July 22	BBC Caversham	A	13.30
Aug 5	Kidmore End	A	14.00
Aug 12	Hambleden	A	14.00
Aug 17 (Fri)	Pontarddulais CC	A	14.00
August 26	Peppard Maharajas	A	14.00
Sept 2	Highmoor	A	13.30
Sept 9	(R.Choules Memorial Match)	A	13.30
	Moulsford	A	13.30

AGM NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting of the magazine will be held on 22 June 2018 at 8 00 pm in the hall of Christ the King Church, Sedgewell Road, Sonning Common. All are welcome at the meeting but only residents of Sonning Common may vote in the AGM.

AGENDA

1 Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM

3. Matters arising

4. Chairman's Report; Chair to sign accounts
5. Treasurer's Report; Chair to sign accounts

6. Distribution Manager's Report
7. Editor's Report – Diana Pearman

8. Advertising Manager's Report
9. Election of Officers and Committee

10. Conversion to Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Resolution "This AGM authorises the Sonning Common Magazine Committee to convert the magazine to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation provided at least a majority of members of the committee agree".

Note. The constitution must be approved by the Charity Commission before the change can be made.

11. Date of next meeting
12. Any other business

If you have any questions about the meeting please contact Geoff Adams, Chairman.
 Tel 0118 972 2134. e-mail. chairman@sonningcommonmagazine.org



WE NEED YOU!

Save Kidmore End Pre-School

Due to the low birth rate in the area, numbers are down and our fantastic Pre-School is at risk of closing.

We need your support in three areas:

- By registering your interest for a place this September for your precious little ones (by 15th June)
- Spreading the word to the people you know
- Come along to our fund raisers (info to be announced via Facebook & flyers etc.)

JustGiving @kidmoreendpreschool

www.justgiving.com/kidmoreendpre-school

Please don't let our beautiful, local Pre-School close forever just because of a dip in numbers. Be part of this huge effort to keep it going!!!

Contact us

If you are looking for a pre-school for your child and would like further information or to register for a place, please contact the Registrar Emma Hawker.
 Phone: 0118 972 2785 Email: enquiries@keps.co.uk
 Web: www.kidmoreendpreschool.co.uk
 Facebook: @kidmoreendpreschool



CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday 22nd July

11am till 1pm in SCPS Junior Playground, Grove Road

Please email pta@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk to book a space for £10 per car



GOING FOR A SONG
Nottakwire's Summer Fundraiser
Sonning Common Village Hall
Saturday 23rd June
10am ~ 5.30pm
"Raffle" £5 ALL DAY PASS
on sale in Occasions. Wood Lane from 14th May
(FREE for children 12yrs and under)
Different performances on each half hour from 10.30am ~ 4.30pm
Come and go as you please ~ stay as long as you like!
"Games" "White Elephant Stall"
"Jewellery" Refreshments will be on sale between performances throughout the day

ALL PROCEEDS TO VILLAGE GROUPS

Keep fit with Green Gym

There seems to be increasing evidence that regular physical activity is beneficial to us all in the prevention of many of the common illnesses and conditions which we may develop over time.

The Green Gym provides a variety of such activities within a friendly group of like minded people while making a real difference to the countryside around us.

See our website at <https://sonningcommon.tcv.org.uk> for details of our programme or phone our secretary on 0118 972 3528. Come and join us!

Brian Gardener

A TALK BY DR RALPH DRURY ENTITLED 'A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GP'



Wednesday 6 June 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, entrance free. Refreshments will be available.

This talk should be of interest to all. There will be time for questions.



SUMMER FARMER

at
Sonning Common Primary School

SATURDAY 23rd JUNE

12-3PM

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PTA
SONNING COMMON
PRE-SCHOOL

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SATURDAY 30th June
2PM - 1AM

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MEMORIES OF THE 1940'S

Roy Newall of Ashford Avenue Sonning Common has many happy memories of the Sonning Common Fire Brigade from stories told to him by his father, Albert Newell, who is on the right in the front row of our photograph. It shows eight very smart and dedicated volunteers anxious to protect the local community in any way they could.

During the Second World War as part of the National Fire Service, an Auxiliary Brigade started up in Grove Road in Mr Smith's bungalow near the footpath



PHOTOGRAPH OF B WATCH

Back Row - Bill White, Derek Haddock, Fred Holloway, Alf Osbourne, Stan Bedis
Front Row - Stan Seamark, Fred Callis(Skipper), Albert Newall

and was manned by local volunteers. They had a two-man Coventry Climax pump that was towed around behind a vehicle to wherever it was needed. The pump was kept in Mr Swann's Garage in Sedgewell Road and two men stayed with it overnight in special sleeping accommodation when it was their turn on duty.

The Brigade were also smartly turned out and took part in many competitions to keep its skills sharp. A Fete was held on Bank Holiday in the field opposite the Butcher's Arms and a timed pumping competition took place. Prizes were won by the team that pumped water the fastest from Widmore pond and as you can see from the photo, Sonning Common B Watch team were very proud of their achievements.

Mr Newall also mentioned the presence of a Sonning Common Home Guard where volunteers also showed great commitment to keeping our village as safe as possible. ●

Joan Grumman

HELP TO SHARE YOUR MEMORIES?

I thought it would be a good idea if the mature/long standing residents of this village would put their distant memories and thoughts down on paper so as to preserve them for future generations.

What do you think? Can you help?

For when we are gone, so are the memories and no one will know what went on in the village 70 - 80 years ago.

C.A. Pryke

Editor's comment: I would be delighted if some of the older residents would like to record their memories of how the village used to be. The Firefighter article is a very good start to this oral history suggestion and if you feel unable to write it yourself, then one of the editorial team will visit you and write it for you.

LIBRARY UPDATE



Our Librarian is on a spending spree – no not buying flights for another trek in far-away places – but trawling the lists of new books to see what might tempt the readers of Sonning Common. Thanks to the Friends' subscriptions and our fund-raising efforts last year we have been able to put £750 into a book fund which is at Rosemary's disposal. She's always open to suggestions regarding what to buy – particularly in the non-fiction section.

The primary school summer fair (Saturday 23 June) is fast approaching, when FoSCL will have a stall selling second hand books and a tombola. If you have any unwanted gifts which

might go well on the stall please speak to library staff or contact the Friends.

FOSCL has just bought a special interactive book for Bishopswood School – a gift which was made possible as a result of the kind sponsorship of last year's short story competition. Entries from 2017 can be read in a special soft-bound book which can be seen in the library. Any authors who haven't yet picked up their copy can do so at the library. This year's competition is already underway and is open to both adults and children in a number of different age groups. There's still plenty of time to enter

-- the closing date isn't until mid-September ...This year we're generously supported by TA Fisher and Stephen Anthony Developments. Full details of how to enter are available from the library and on the FoSCL website: www.friendsofsonningcommonlibrary.org.uk

As usual a big thank you to all our volunteers – particularly everyone who helped recover the noticeboard in the lobby of the library. We'd also like to say a special thanks to the WI for their very kind donation – which as always will go towards books. ●

Helen Morganwynne

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



As proud homeowners or tenants we strive to add value to our properties by making small improvements over time. Smartening up the garden, tearing down walls to open the floor plan, applying DIY skills. It all makes a difference, but even if we do the work ourselves it can cost thousands.

What if adding significant value to your home cost just £27 and a short brainstorming session? Now ask yourself, what's in a name? A house name. According to statistics, potentially a lot.

A study of London properties by Wetherell estate agents found

addresses containing 'Crescent' and 'Mews' boosted a home's price by as much as 40%.

What about outside the capital? Have you ever strolled the streets of Sonning Common admiring house names dotted here and there and considered adding an attractive alias to your own address, wondering what it could do for its kerb appeal?

My short list of sonically pleasing local property names include: High Banks, Morumbi, Alpen Rose, Winterburn and Songslow.

Starting to like the idea? If you live in the village and want to name or rename your house, you must go through South Oxfordshire District Council.

A £27 application fee covers the cost of naming up to 2 homes. Then SODC notifies all the relevant organisations of your address change for you. These include: Police, Fire, Ambulance, Electoral Registration, Council Tax, Royal Mail, Ordnance Survey, Land Charges and Land Registry.

Bargain! Especially if your new hand-picked house ID translates to your home seeming more valuable in the eyes of potential home buyers.

Now, if only there were a formula for picking the perfect house name. Enter OnTheMarket.com. A survey by the property website found addresses with regal titles, such as 'Crown Cottage' could inflate a home's value by up to £30,000.

As far as I know Sonning Common has no ties to royalty, so adding 'Crown' or 'Castle' to the address of my 30s semi on Reade's Lane would do less for its value and more for prospective buyer disappointment.

To get a local perspective I spoke to Julie Norman, senior office manager at Davis Tate estate agents in Sonning Common.

"The truth is naming a house doesn't actually add value, but what it might do is add to the marketability of the property," Norman said.

She referred to two new-build homes on Grove Road, Skylark and Fieldfare.

"If the developer hadn't given them names they would've been something like, 2a and 2b. Clearly, a nice name that is appropriate for a substantial property, rather than a number, is excellent from a marketability point of view."

Norman added: "Even with little terraced houses, if there's a reason for the name, people love it. Sometimes it can be something very personal to the original homeowner who chose it maybe 100 years ago. People like historical context."

Looking specifically at homes within the boundaries of South Oxfordshire District Council, records show that over the past five years, 105 owners

applied to attach a new name to their numbered property. The figure was more than double that (213) for those applying to change the name of their property to something else.

Zooming in on those figures, Sonning Commoners appear indifferent to house names. Over the past decade, according to the SODC data, four villagers have bothered to add a name to their numbered address, while just two have applied for a change of name.



Jane Chaplin has lived in La Maison in a group of houses known as The Hamlet, on Peppard Road, for 35 years. She said the French moniker, chosen by the previous owners, is "okay".

"La Maison is the actual postal address, there isn't even a number," said Chaplin. "It's a bungalow and a bit small, so when I say it some people have a bit of a grin."

The council stresses that newly named houses must retain the number above the name, followed by the rest of the address to ensure that emergency services and utility companies can easily locate properties.

Some house names are obvious, reflecting an aspect of the home's appearance or situation. Blue Shutters, Prospect House or Kites

View are examples. Other names are more personal or emotional - and some are downright literary.

The two house names I covet most belong to residences outside the village: Cold Norton in Kidmore End and The Lamp, outside Watlington. I'm not a novelist but if I were I'd aim to write a cracking story set between Cold Norton and The Lamp.

A house name needn't be fancy, as long as it provides a pleasing emotional branding to your precious abode.

Davis Tate's Julie Norman furthers this point: "I've known couples who've built their own house and then named it using a mash up of both their first names."

The name of her own semi-detached home, Farleigh, is derived from the site's original larger house and she said, "makes it sound a lot posher than it actually is."

Anyway, sounds like it was worth at least £27. ●

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VILLAGE CENTRE - GRAND DESIGNS

We have a choice to make. Do we want our village – and in particular the village centre – to go on looking the way it does now? Or could we dare to dream of transforming it into a place that we could all share and take pride in?

Do we want to go on moaning about the parking and the potholes and the mess? Or do we want to get together and turn Sonning Common into a village that works for everyone and welcomes everyone.

The parish council commissioned a visionary designer, Ben Hamilton-Baillie, to draw up a visual representation of what that transformation could look

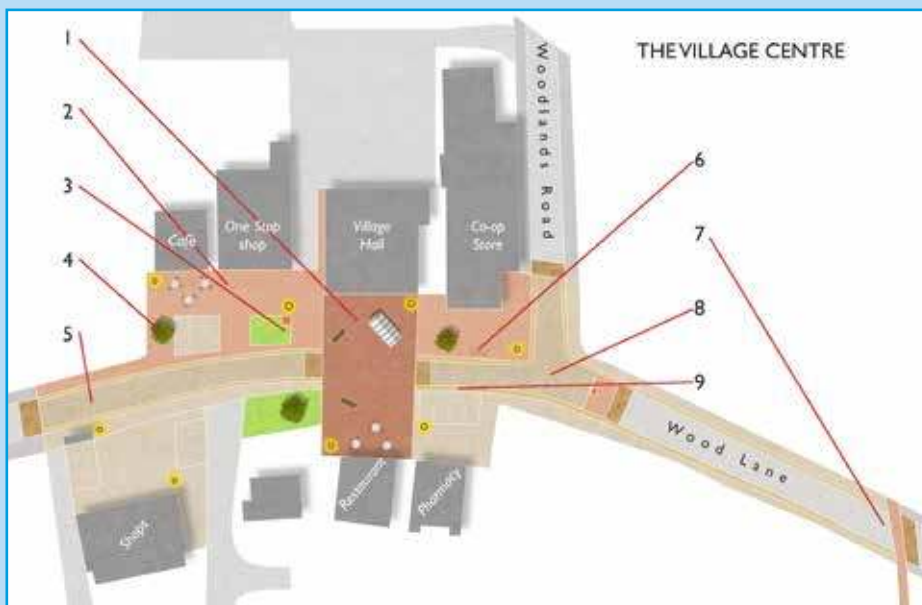
like. The challenge he faced was to imagine the village centre as a space where everyone – pedestrians, cyclists, passers-by, shop customers, motorists – can feel safe, at home, and respect and be aware of each other.

He then applied the same principles of sharing and respect to other key parts of the village. A sample of his work is presented on these pages, but to experience the whole vision you need to come to see the exhibition at the Village Hall being staged on Saturday 16th June from 10 till 4pm. Crucially, Ben Hamilton-Baillie himself will be in Sonning Common in September for an evening talk, again at the Village Hall, presenting his ideas and answer questions and concerns.

After that, it's up to us. ●

THE KEY MEASURES TO AIM FOR INCLUDE:

- 1. Spill-out activity encouraged outside café and post office in a car-free unified space.**
- 2. Red classic telephone box reinstalled. Other barriers and clutter removed.**
- 3. Trees (semi-mature) are carefully located in illuminated tree pits, extending along Wood Lane over time as resources allow**
- 4. Buses able to stop anywhere in the western third of the centre, to give maximum flexibility**
- 5. Remove barriers and protect forecourt with tree, light, bench and bicycle parking.**
- 6. Mouth of footpath highlighted to indicate approach of, and link to, the Centre**
- 7. Minor realignment to Woodlands Road junction to define entry to village centre**
- 8. Carriageway visually narrowed and undefined across main Village Hall square**



WOOD LANE



PEPPARD ROAD, APPROACHING FROM READING



JUNCTION OF WOOD LANE, KENNYLANDS ROAD AND READES LANE



We don't want to give too much information away before then, however if you really can't wait or attend the event, copies of Ben's report are available from the Parish Office. Alternatively download it here <http://hamilton-baillie.co.uk/projects/sonning-common/> and here <http://www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk/>. See you on the 16th.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

THE GREAT SONNING COMMON SPRING CLEAN



On a bright Sunday morning late in April (29th), 90 volunteers turned out to register in the village hall and join Sonning Common's first group litter pick; joining nearly 400,000 people in the UK who have already been inspired to get involved with the Keep Britain Tidy Spring Clean 2018.

The Great British Spring Clean is a campaign with a simple aim; to bring people together to clear up the litter that builds up in our towns, villages, countryside and beaches. Local residents Emma Lawrence and Geoff Davis were keen to help with an event, and with Parish Council support, set about organising the 'SoCo Springclean'.

The event started by acknowledging the hard work that our full-time litter picker Mark Weston already does. Mark and Tony Parisi work in the village, helping to keep it looking tidy and litter free. The aim of the event was to reach the areas that Mark and Tony don't get out to regularly, such as Kennylands Rd, Peppard Rd, Blounts Court Rd, Reade's Lane and The Old Copse at the end of Woodlands Road.

We also took a moment to recognise the volunteers, friends and neighbours who already litter pick around the village; quietly making a significant difference and helping to protect our local wildlife.

The SoCo Springclean not only welcomed seasoned pickers but had many volunteers who had never joined a litter pick before, and lots of young pickers from Sonning Common Primary School with bags of enthusiasm.

We collected everything from cigarette ends to car seats. We found discarded fire extinguishers, beds, sofas, a car exhaust, countless fast food containers and everything in between. All the fly tipping we came across has been reported to South Oxfordshire District Council so that it can be collected by them.

A team from Sonning Common WI led by the wonderful Jenny Ward ensured that everyone received a hot cup of tea or coffee after the event and put on a fantastic spread of cakes for all the volunteers.

If the pile of litter collected and the smiles on everyone's faces are anything to go by, it's probably fair to say that the event was a huge success.

Geoff and Emma are already making plans for the next SoCo Spring Clean. If you would like to get in touch please email soco.springclean@gmail.com or see the facebook page <https://en-gb.facebook.com/soco.springclean/> ●

EMMA LAWRENCE

Emma and Geoff would like to thank the following companies who helped support The SoCo Springclean 2018.

Davis Tate Henley - supplied 50 children's high-viz jackets

Peppard Building Supplies - supplied children's rigger gloves

FISH volunteer centre - gave us use of their mini bus and a driver to help transport pickers around the village

Waitrose Henley - donated refreshments

Henley Sign People Ltd - donated materials for signage

Sonning Common First Responders - Adam Negus and Sue Abbott were on hand during the event

South Oxfordshire District Council supplied bags, gloves, pickers and high-viz jackets

Biffa put on a special collection to deliver kit and pick up all the rubbish we collected





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Internal photography of Lea Meadow. Prices correct at time of print.

ANTHONY STUART HITCHINS

5TH APRIL 1943 - 4TH MARCH 2018

Stu was a Professional Boxer, with fights in England, Wales and Europe. He also trained youngsters in the art of boxing. He loved the sport but sadly lost his last fight on the 4th March this year, what a fight this had been. Stu was ill for some 35 years, battling cancer, in and out of many London hospitals and Townlands. He had over 30 operations, resulting in acute nerve pain, which was with him for the rest of his life. Few of us heard him ever complain.

Stu married Sue and they had a shop in Reading. Stu was following his second love which was building and he worked on the first stages of Caversham Park Village. Stu was much more at home doing intricate work such as mosaic patios and stone flint walls. Much of his work is local and amazing to see. No doubt at all Stu was a true craftsman. Of course, whilst Stu was following his passion Sue was left running the shop. One day whilst building the bungalow opposite the shop, he arrived home to say he had bought a shop in Wood Lane Sonning Common. Mr and Mrs Metcalf were wanting to sell. The business had potential but needed a lot of work. Right up Stu's street. Sue remembers the day they took over the shop and wondered what on earth they had done. Walking to the back of the shop she realised she could see daylight through the floorboards, and to her horror she then found the place plagued with bats hanging all over the place. However, Stu and his best mate Dave soon had the place extended left and right of the property.

It was a superb store with fresh veg, fruit and flowers which Sue and Stu collected from Covent Garden every morning in

the early hours, but also the place you could go if you had a problem, Sue and Stu would sort it out. Stu would walk your shopping home if you could not carry it, Sue many times sold shopping for no cash if you were struggling and their generosity in all manner of ways will never be forgotten. I am sure if we mention Christmas Trees a lot of you will think of Stu and Sue. Each year Stu would purchase about 400 Trees. These would be trimmed to the perfect shape and sold in the back of the house. Sold is a word used loosely as lots were just given away if the family couldn't afford but another large number would be donated to places such as The Health Centre, The Vets, The Church etc. The generosity was totally unimaginable. You may have seen the brass plaque in the Health Centre placed when the new extension was opened by Mr and Mrs Hitchins.

Stu had a wicked sense of humour, was always playing tricks on people and his brother David had lots of tales to tell of their younger days. Some such moments were read out at his funeral. That was an event in itself with the chapel full of bursting and people still standing outside.

After 22 years, Stu and Sue moved to Kidmore End and four years ago into Westleigh Drive. It was very soon after this last move that Stu showed signs of Dementia and this made life so difficult for Sue. Sue would tell you that looking after Stu for 30 years as she did during his cancer was much less difficult than looking after a person with Dementia. The last two years of Stu's life were very hard to bear. Stu went into hospital with an infection and was there for six weeks. He then came home, but he was just so ill and sadly he had a stroke. He never



really regained consciousness for the last ten days, and sadly Stu's last fight was lost. This precious time would not have been possible without Sue and Stu's close family and friends, and the care of Sue Ryder, the Gardeners Care Team, The Health Centre and Marie Curie. Sue would like a big thank you to go to them. And to the 97 well wishers who sent beautiful cards and letters. Sue is trying to get on with life – almost impossible after spending 40 odd years looking after and working with one person. There are good days and bad days, but one thing is sure, one can normally find something Stu has said or done that will make us smile. Out of that terrible pain Stu, the bell has rung for the last time, Rest in Peace. ●

RICHARD AND MAUREEN VIRGOE



Parish news

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

BEING A PARISH COUNCILLOR

It's make up

Sonning Common's Parish Council has 12 members.

It's officers

The Clerk is Philip Collings and the deputy Ros Varnes, who both work part time. They are available on Monday mornings from 9 to 12 noon in the Parish Office.

Meetings

Sonning Common holds monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month (except August) that usually last between 2 and 3 hours. There are two sub-committees composed of parish councillors, one for

finance and the other for planning. Public notice of meetings is given at least three clear days for Council Meetings.

Elections

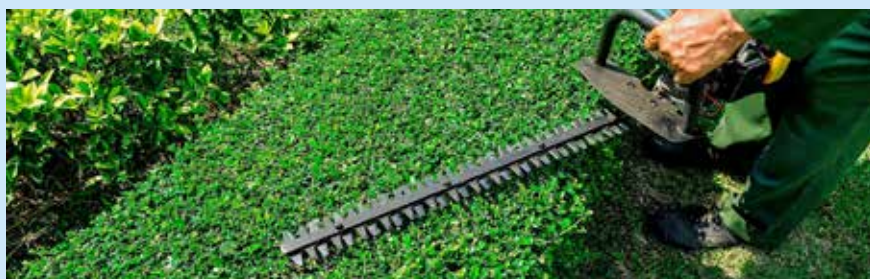
Parish councillors are elected for a term of four years. Elections are held on the first Thursday in May. The next ordinary elections are scheduled for 2019. Councillors serve for a maximum of 4 years but can be re-elected.

Are you interested in becoming a parish councillor?

The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to

someone who's doing it now. Go along to a parish council meeting, speak to one of the councillors and find out what they think of the job. Parish councils have an undeserved reputation for being boring talking shops without power, influence or responsibility. Sonning Common is fortunate in having an energetic, forward-looking council which has taken control of many of the important services in the village – the youth club, the allotments, litter collection to name a few. Being a member is a great way to make a significant contribution to your community. ●

PLEASE CUT BACK HEDGES



Hedges and trees overhanging footpaths are more than just a nuisance. They are dangerous too, if pedestrians are forced on to the road to avoid them.

The parish council is appealing to residents to keep the areas around their property boundaries tidy and free from obstructions – from foot to above head height.

Under the Highways Act 1980 it is illegal to allow hedges and trees to overhang pavements and roads up to a certain height. If residents do not adequately cut back their hedges and trees the

county council's Highways department can do the work itself and charge the cost to them.

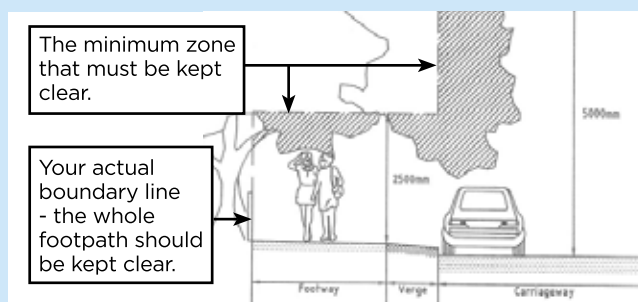
The legal requirement is that the whole footpath should be kept clear of vegetation to a height of at least 2.5m and roads to a minimum height of 5m.

Parish Clerk Philip Collings said: "We are asking people to be neighbourly and to keep

their hedges and trees inside their boundaries. If residents are unable to manage the work themselves and wish to avoid county council charges the Parish Office can put them in touch with a reliable contractor.

People may report overhanging hedges and trees to the Parish Office and, where appropriate, we will issue letters to residents requesting that vegetation be cut back." ●

Phone 0118 972 3616 or call at the Parish Office, Village Hall, Wood Lane.



The Edge

HIYA! 😎

And so, as the school year is coming to an end and it's now only the final long haul to the summer holidays, it can feel pretty 'full on' all the time; stuck in an endless cycle of routine. Sometimes we just need a break - right? So instead of sitting inside playing Fortnite, I present to you:

"MANY THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU WANT A BREAK FROM THAT ROUTINE"

THING 1: Go on a picnic! Wrap up your favourite food and your favourite people, then trek out to a field and relax in the sun!

THING 2: Make cookies! There are endless recipes online of cookies to make, plus they're really quick too! Be creative - you can freeze small spoon circles of Nutella, and then when you have your dough ready, place your frozen Nutella inside the cookie. Then bake it for a delicious Nutella-lava cookie.

THING 3: Have a water fight! Fill balloons and water pistols with water and fight to the death (or to the soaking wet)

THING 4: Try scrapbooking! All you need is an empty book, magazines and lots of ideas! Scrapbook anything from clothes and style, to animals and plants, it's up to you!

THING 5: Go fruit picking! There are so many places to go to pick fruit, it's really fun AND you can eat the fruit after!

THING 6: Try origami! Gather some paper and a YouTube tutorial and attempt origami to your heart's content! Here's a challenge: try to make an origami rabbit!

THING 7: Have a campfire! Go out to the forest and collect wood, light your fire (carefully!) then roast marshmallows, make s'mores and sing songs around the fire (have parent/adult supervision though)

THING 8: Make smoothies! After a long hot day, nothing is better than bathing in the sun, sand sipping a cool homemade smoothie... (perhaps made with the fruit you picked?)

THING 9: Build a fort! Inside or outside, collect sheets, blankets, cushions, games, toys and build a fort to spend the day in! You could eat your cookies in your fort too.

THING 10: Redecorate! Whether it's simply adding a design to a notebook or tie-dying a t-shirt, try finding something rather dull and, well, giving it a bit of dazzle! Although make sure you check with your parents first if it might end up being a bit messy.

THING 11: Make up a dance! Turn on your favourite song and create a dance to show all your friends and family.

THING 12: Create a treasure hunt for someone to complete, make a map of an area (your garden?) and hide your treasure at the end!

THING 13: Have a movie marathon! If going outside isn't quite your thing then grab a big bowl of popcorn, lots of snacks and blankets then watch your favourite movies!

THING 14: Learn a new skill: whether it's playing an instrument or learning how to do the cat's cradle, find something you've always wanted to try and just do it!

THING 15: Explore a new area! Perhaps you could even bring your picnic with you on an adventure to explore somewhere you haven't been before! Ask a parent / adult to take you somewhere new.

I hope these ideas help you move out of your routine slump, and that you try something new throughout the summer!

Enjoy the sun! ☀️



ON YOUR BIKE 2018



"The most important element of this day is the community spirit, friendships and unbelievable achievements of all who take part."

An enthusiastic 469 people took part in this year's On Your Bike, braving the chillier temperatures to support Sonning Common's good causes and have fun outdoors with family and friends.

Chiltern Edge pupil, Brooklyn Mackenzie-Black, 14, cycled the 12 mile route. "I found it much easier than last year" he said, relieved to have pedalled up the hills faster.

"The best bit was going down the hills." said Jack Hutchins, 10, who cycled 6 miles with his Mum Claire, Dad Paul and sister Lucy, 7. Paul said "It's really good for everyone to be doing something together, and it's the furthest Lucy's ever cycled, which is great."

"Completing On Your Bike is a huge achievement for many of the children here today." said On Your Bike Founder, Penny Snowden. "The youngest rider to cycle the full 20 mile route under his own pedal power, was 6 year old Oscar Nash, from Sonning Common Primary School. Remarkable!"

"I was overwhelmed to see so many children and teenagers from other schools take part today too." said Penny. "It's so important for kids to stay active and cycling is a wonderfully healthy and sociable activity. On your bike has raised over £50,000 since it began. Due to all our voluntary support we are able to pledge 100% of all entry fees and sponsor donations to our charities and Sonning Common Primary School."

Josh Saker, who's 15 and goes to Bishopswood school, has cerebral palsy

and was able to take part in the event for the first time this year, after multiple surgeries to rebuild his legs. He rode 6 miles on his trike, with his Mum Pam running alongside him, and his Dad Ian and brother Harry, 11, on scooters cheering them on. "It was good and I had only cycled 3 miles before this!" said Josh.

"I'm so proud of him." said Josh's Mum Pam. "He was brilliant and I didn't have to push him at all. He did it all by himself. Sometimes you feel as if you're never going to be able to take part in amazing events like this, so it's wonderful we've all done it."

At a time when being active has never been more important, the On Your Bike team, led by Tina Micallef, feels immensely proud to have facilitated another hugely successful ride.

"Our sponsors and supporters have done us proud yet again this year. Thank you in particular to our wonderful marshals who've helped keep everyone safe again this year and came to the rescue of a few riders who were unlucky enough to suffer punctures. Our cafe volunteers worked really hard too, fuelling up our riders with delicious freshly cooked hot food and snacks."

On Your Bike 2019 is on Sunday 31 March.

100% of all entry fees and monies raised from OYB 2018 will be shared between Sonning Common Primary School, Sonning Common FISH, Sonning Common First Responders and Sue Ryder. ●

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We'd like to recommend to Sonning Common residents the Stoke Row Store as a super place for a drive out for breakfast, morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea. We doubt you'll be disappointed !

We recently went there for a Saturday lunch. One of us had the most delicious warming hot pot with bread (vegetarian and meat options available), the other had a generously filled ham salad sandwich. It was

also really excellent value. The Store also has a great array of deli items, cheeses, cakes, drinks, crusty breads and fresh vegetables to buy and take away. We recommend it!

It's also a really nice walk from Sonning Common - we actually walked the 90 mins via Woodlands Road, New Copse and Wyfold to Stoke Row : it's easy walking. ●

JILL AND MIKE GRINSTED

THANKS TO COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Our village has good cause to be grateful to our County Councillor. David Bartholomew's strenuous efforts ensured the County Council's decision to improve and realign the drainage in Wood Lane. After many years, we no longer have to wade through huge puddles and be soaked by the tidal waves from passing vehicles. ●

DOUGLAS AND YVONNE KEDGE

FITCAMP



We wanted to commend to locals a great local fitness activity that gets the day off to a good start and can fit well pre work or pre the school run.

Fast Track Fitcamp (www.fasttrack-fitcamp.co.uk) is an interval training group that runs in Henley three times per week (Mon / Wed / Fri) at 0630hrs for 45 mins, whatever the weather and every week of the year. It's on the astroturf pitches opposite Henley Tesco - just 15 mins from Sonning Common via Harpsden Bottom - so you are back home for 0730 hrs.

It is run by qualified trainers who inject enthusiasm and humour into the sessions and it's attended by a small group of locals, from Sonning Common, Henley and villages around.

It's very sociable and great fun and as we are now addicts who have seen the benefits, we wanted to spread the word!

You can choose how many times per week to join, and anyone interested can also do some trial sessions to see if it's for them - all details on the web. Hope to see you there soon! ●

JILL AND MIKE GRINSTED

TED PLATT LIVED IN SC FOR 65 YEARS AND DIED 8 MARCH

Tim, Suzanne and family would like to express their sincere thanks to all who attended Ted's funeral.

We greatly appreciate the messages of sympathy and support given at this sad time. Special thanks for the donations received in Ted's memory.

Dad was determined to live independently, and he was only able to do this thanks to the support of those in the community of Sonning Common. We thank each, and every one of you, for all you did for dad." ●

TIM PLATT

A TREASURE TROVE

I would like to take the opportunity to "big up" our excellent hardware store in this village. My wife and I moved here in 2012, and Heath and Watkins have been of tremendous service to us.

I am hopeless at DIY, but along with your purchases you also get free advice. I made a terrible mess of a wall trying to drill holes to fit a mirror in our new upstairs en-suite. Fortunately the store had a tube of special adhesive which did the job perfectly, and I was able to cover up the holes. Then our

toilet was not flushing properly, and the gentleman in the shop diagnosed a worn diaphragm, which I was able to fit quite easily, saving a big plumber's bill. Another time the small front bumper skirt on my car got pulled off when I parked on a grass bank. A bodywork repairer quoted £78 + VAT to dismantle the bumper, plus extra for materials. Heath and Watkins supplied 8 nuts, bolts and washers for £2.80 and I was able to do the job myself in 20 minutes. Two weeks ago I found that supermarkets have stopped selling laundry starch. I visited the shop once

again, and they not only had starch in stock, but a choice of three brands. As far as I know they are the only local stockists of Vim as well. Those of you old enough to remember this cleaning product know it's the only effective cleaner for old-style baths - the "cream cleanser" stuff made for modern plastic baths just doesn't do the job. Finally, they have twice expertly sharpened my lawn mower blade for £5, very good value. I hope this amazingly useful shop stays in business for many years. ●

ADRIAN VANHEEMS



TOM FORT TOOTH

I had a tooth out last week – the latest casualty in my personal dental war that has been going on pretty much since I first became conscious of having gnashers at all.

My teeth look terrible: discoloured, crooked, gaps all over the place. When the dentist asked if I was concerned about the cosmetic effect of the latest extraction I laughed – without opening my mouth, needless to say.

My first dentist, well over half a century ago, was Mr Goadby, whose practice was somewhere along London Road in Reading. He used mercury for fillings and let my brothers and me mix the amalgam in a white bowl. His drill looked rather like an oil rig and it made a horrible grinding sound when the bit got

stuck into a tooth.

He probably should have been struck off for neglect, because when I got to my next dentist – who had a high-speed drill and used anaesthetic – he located 21 unfilled cavities in my mouth, which required three hours of drilling and filling and ten injections to put right.

I was then aged twelve or thirteen. I went to boarding school, where I rarely bothered to clean my teeth, and ate enormous quantities of sweets: wine gums a packet at a time, treacle toffees, Callard and Bowser butterscotch, barley sugar – you name it, I sucked and chewed it.

But I paid a heavy price for the years of excess and neglect. Visits to the dentist reduced me to a trembling funk. The whine of the drill, the searching of the anaesthetic needle, the smell of burning



enamel, the stab of pain as the probe found decay – aaaarrggghhhh!

These days life inside my mouth has improved considerably, thanks to that wonderful invention, the electric toothbrush, rigorous use of those little brushes for the gaps, and regular check-ups at our excellent dental surgery. But please don't say "root canal" to me – the words bring back memories I'd rather leave buried.. ●

COOK'S CORNER

By SANDY ONOFRIO

CREAMY SALMON FETTUCINE – SERVES 4

350g spinach fettuccine pasta / 1 (418g) tin canned salmon, drained, liquid reserved / 350ml milk / 4 tablespoons finely diced onion / 100g fresh mushrooms, sliced / 50g butter / 4 tablespoons plain flour / 4 tablespoons dry white wine / 4 tablespoons grated Parmesan / 2 tablespoons fresh parsley / pinch of snipped chives / salt & pepper, to taste

Cook pasta in boiling, salted water until al dente. Drain. Drain the can of salmon into a measuring jug. Add enough milk to make it up to 425ml. Meanwhile, prepare sauce. In a large frying pan, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and mushrooms; sauté until onion is tender. Reduce heat to low and stir in flour. Remove from heat, stir into cooked vegetables, the milk mixture and wine. Return pan to heat and bring to the boil, stirring frequently. Reduce heat and simmer for 2 minutes. Break salmon into chunks; stir into the sauce. Stir in Parmesan cheese, parsley and chives. Season with salt and pepper to taste and heat through. Serve over hot pasta with breadsticks and a crisp green salad. ●



HOMEMADE BREADSTICKS - MAKES 18

50g caster sugar, divided / 7g dried active baking yeast / 240ml warm water, divided / 280g plain flour, or more if needed / 3 tablespoons vegetable oil / 1 egg / 1/2 teaspoon salt / 110g butter, melted / 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt / 4 tablespoons grated Parmesan

Dissolve 2 teaspoons of the sugar with the yeast in 1/2 of the warm water in a bowl. Let stand until yeast begins to foam, about 5 minutes. Beat flour, oil, egg, salt, remaining sugar and remaining warm water into yeast mixture until smooth, adding more flour if needed to form a soft dough. Turn dough onto a floured work surface; knead until smooth and elastic, 6 to 8 minutes. Place dough in an oiled bowl, turning once to cover completely with oil. Cover bowl with a damp towel and place in a warm area until dough has doubled in size (about 40 minutes). Grease a baking tray. Punch dough down and turn onto a floured work surface. Divide dough into 18 pieces and shape each into a 15cm rope. Arrange dough pieces on the prepared baking tray about 5cm apart; cover with a towel or cling film and let rise until doubled in size, about 25 minutes. Preheat oven to 200 C / Gas 6. Remove cover from dough. Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, 10 to 12 minutes. Whisk butter and garlic salt together in a bowl; brush over each breadstick. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over each. Serve warm. ●



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I have a long-term health condition but I recently had my Personal Independence Payment (PIP) reduced after a reassessment. I want to challenge the decision - where do I start?

The first thing to try is the process known as "mandatory reconsideration", which involves asking the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to take a second look at your assessment decision.

You'll normally need to contact the DWP within a month of your assessment decision being issued, and it's best to do so in writing. (Under some circumstances, you can ask for mandatory reconsideration up to 13 months after the date of your assessment decision.)

Your letter should list all the reasons why you think your PIP award should not be reduced. Make sure that you provide

evidence to back up each point you make, such as practical examples, medical records and supporting letters from specialists who are treating you. If you don't have the required evidence yet, you can submit it separately at a later date.

Once the DWP has looked again at your assessment decision, you'll receive a Mandatory Reconsideration Notice, which states whether your request has been successful or not. If it is successful, your original award will be reinstated and your payments backdated.

If you are unsuccessful, you could appeal against your assessment reconsideration by taking your case to tribunal. For help filling in the tribunal form and preparing for your hearing, contact Citizens Advice.

Already in 2018 Citizens Advice South Oxfordshire and Vale has helped at

least two clients to win appeals against the reduction or cessation of their PIP benefits. In one case a Henley client won her case at tribunal and had her benefits reinstated with a backdated lump sum to cover the stoppage period. In another case a Didcot client had his award increased to the enhanced rate of mobility and standard living allowance.

For further information on subjects covered by Citizens Advice, visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk or telephone Adviceline on 03 444

111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

**citizens
advice**

HELP KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

The internet is a fantastic place for young people to learn, play and socialise but it's vital that they're aware of its dangers and how to stay safe.

Here's a few tips to help your child stay safe online:

- Make sure your child knows what personal information is and that they're share aware
- Ensure you understand the social media your child is using. If you don't know your Roblox from your Snapchat or are getting in a Twitch trying to keep on top of the social media networks your child is using, visit the Net Aware website
- Follow the NSPCC's TEAM approach:
 - Talk - to your child/children about staying safe online, what worries them and you about them being online, the emotional aspects of

social media (jealousy, self-esteem etc.)

- Explore their online world together
- Agree rules about what is ok and not
- Manage parental controls on all your family's devices.
- Repeat - make it part of everyday life

If you need help setting up parental controls, adjusting privacy settings or need advice on social networks call the free O2 & NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5002.

If you fall victim to cyber crime or experience an attempted scam report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit www.actionfraud.police.uk.

For more information and advice visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk/pyw



OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE GROWTH CORRIDOR & EXPRESSWAY - HOW TO GET OUR VOICES HEARD?

The Chancellor has backed the National Infrastructure Commission's concept of an Oxford to Cambridge 'Growth Corridor' of a million new houses, of which 300,000 would be in Oxfordshire. That would be equivalent to six new cities the size of Oxford; or to put it another way would more than double our present housing stock and population by 2050.

Part of the growth scheme is a new Expressway - a Motorway in all but name - from Oxford to Cambridge to "facilitate" the development.

At the moment this transformative change is being proposed without any public consultation.

CPRE Oxfordshire is demanding a full statutory public consultation followed by a Public Inquiry, at which the clear environmental and social costs of the Growth Corridor can be weighed against the potential economic benefits envisaged. This would also mean the need for and routing of any Oxfordshire Expressway would at least be decided in an open and transparent manner.

CPRE Oxfordshire is asking local residents to join its call for a Public Inquiry by contacting local councillors, MPs and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Find out more at www.cpreoxon.org.uk [Facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/CPREOxfordshire)

SPRING SERENADE

A proper spring day – our first day of real warmth and sunshine – accompanied this uplifting concert in St John the Baptist church in Kidmore End on 14 April.

A collection of duets for soprano and recorder beautifully presented by 20 year old Charlotte Broadbent and her mother, Karen, were accompanied by church organist and Director of Music at St John's, Frances Brewitt-Taylor. The pure clarity of Charlotte's voice blending with Karen's rich contralto delighted the 60 strong audience as they gave us music ranging from 13th century baroque to 20th century Flanders and Swann.

The theme running through the concert was hope: a movement from darkness

towards light, happiness and joy, this in itself poignant, given that Charlotte suffers from two rare and chronic conditions known as Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and PoTS (Postural Tachycardia Syndrome). The latter is an often-misdiagnosed condition causing dizziness, palpitations, nausea, fainting and an increased heart rate aggravated by heat, alcohol, caffeine and exercise.

Afterwards rector James Stickings thanked the performers and the audience were treated to tea and cakes at the back of the church (many baked by Charlotte herself) with the retiring collection amounting to a healthy £535. ●

ROSEMARY HOUSE



CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWS

St Michael's had the privilege of being the local hosts for this year's Women's World Day of Prayer. The service was put together by the women of Suriname, a country on the north coast of South America, with the theme "All God's Creation is Very Good." Although St Michael's hosted the service, it was the combined effort of many women from all the local churches that brought it to fruition.

One week later we were able to join with the other churches once again for the annual Good Friday walk of witness along Woodlands Road, Wood Land and Baskerville Road. The church was full for most of our Easter services and it was a great pleasure for the regular community to welcome old friends and visitors to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with us. As the summer draws on we look forward to some of our young people receiving Holy Communion for the first time or being Confirmed. An important part of our mission is to minister to Catholics who are housebound or in care homes. If you are aware of a Catholic that would like Holy Communion brought to them, please contact the parish office. ●

Contact details: phone 0118 972 3418, email stmichaels.rc@hotmail.co.uk, website www.saintmichaelsonningcommon.org.uk

STRAWBERRY TEAS

Christ The King Hall and Garden, Sedgewell Road Sonning Common. Saturday 18 August at 3-5pm

Join us for strawberries, cream, cakes and scones. Stalls selling bric a brac, books, plants and garden produce. Outside if fine, indoors if wet. Proceeds to the Parish and Home of Hope Orphanage in Malawi.

Sue Nickson 0118 972 4520

SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

We had an overwhelming response from local people who wanted to come to the bread and soup Lent lunch at Christ the King Hall in March and hear from Chris and Sue, our local First Responders.

53 people enjoyed their simple meal and listened to Chris Brook tell us how to make it easier for a first Responder to find someone's home in an emergency situation; by keeping hedges well-trimmed back from house names and numbers and putting all the lights on in the house after dialling 999.

Chris and Sue showed us the equipment they take to a call, often arriving quicker than the ambulance. The First Responder on duty is only alerted if the 999 call is to a situation which is life threatening such as a heart attack and can administer immediate treatment to help the patient.

First Responders are trained volunteers and the service is not financially supported by the NHS so they have to raise all the necessary funds themselves. This clearly surprised many of us who responded by donating a total of £442 for which the First Responders were extremely grateful.

Due to the popularity of this cause and to make sure this valuable service can continue we will be holding another lunchtime event on Wednesday 31 October in Sonning Common Village Hall for a repeat presentation from First Responders.

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DIARY DATES

JUNE 2018

Wednesday 6*10.30am - 12noon*

Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common WI. Open to all. Village Hall

7.30pm

A day in the life of a GP, a talk by Dr Drury. Village Hall

Monday 11*2.30pm*

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

Wednesday 13*7.45pm*

Henley Philatelic - Members of Maidenhead Society give displays. Bix Village Hall

Monday 18*8pm*

Sonning Common Parish Council. Village Hall

Thursday 21*11.30am*

FISH - Pub lunch

7.30pm

Sonning Common Women's Institute - "The Wartime Housewife", a talk by Biff Raven-Hill. Village Hall

Friday 22*8pm*

Sonning Common Magazine AGM. Christ The King

Saturday 23*10am - 5.30pm*

Nottakwire all day music event Village Hall

Sunday 24*2pm*

SC Village cricket vs Fawley

Wednesday 27*7.45pm*

Henley Philatelic - Members of Henley entertain, including a short session 'writing up your collection'. Bix Village Hall

Thursday 28

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

Saturday 30*2pm - 1am*

Big Bash 2. The Butcher's Arms

JULY 2018

Sunday 1*2pm*

SC Village cricket vs Swyncombe

Friday 6*6pm*

SC Village cricket vs Highmoor (T20)

Sunday 8*2pm*

SC Village cricket vs Aldermaston

Monday 9*2.30pm*

FISH - Tea party. Village Hall

Friday 13*10am - 4pm*

Matters of Memory' open day about Dementia and Alzheimer's. Village Hall

Monday 16*8pm*

Sonning Common Parish Council. Village Hall

Thursday 19*11.30am*

FISH - Pub lunch

7.30pm

Sonning Common Women's Institute - "Emergency Planning, Oxfordshire", a talk by Carol MacKay. Village Hall

Sunday 22*11am - 1pm*

Car boot sale. Sonning Common Primary School

2pm

SC Village cricket vs BBC Caversham

Wednesday 25*10.30am - 12noon*

Village Coffee Morning hosted by Sonning Common WI. Open to all. Village Hall

Thursday 26

FISH - Henley Farmers' Market

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Laurence Hansen	12		
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The FISH Volunteer Centre runs regular door-to-door shopping trips to Tesco in Henley every Monday morning and to Henley Waitrose, Henley Farmers Market, Morrisons in Reading and Reading Town Centre every month.

The programme of shopping and leisure trips for each month is published and distributed on 20th of the preceding month and bookings are taken from that date. Copies of the programme are available from the FISH Volunteer Centre, Sonning Common Library, the Christian Community Action shop, Pet Country Supplies and on request from Carson's Chemist. The monthly programme of trips is posted on noticeboards in both Peppard and Sonning Common and is also sent to individual email addresses. If you would like to receive a regular monthly copy, please email busmanager@fishvolunteercentre.co.uk with the message 'bus programme please' and your name.

Details of all minibus trips can also be found on the FISH website www.fishvolunteercentre.co.uk

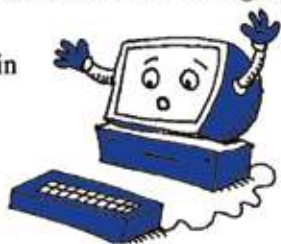
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